

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 9:00- 10:00AM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Wednesday 20 May 2020

Participants: 29

Sibylle Bauer, Dylan O'Driscoll, Mark Bromley, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Giacomo Cassano, Shannon Kile, Tarja Cronberg, Vitaly Fedchenko, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Pieter Wezeman, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Kuimova, Lena Kappelin, Vincent Boulanin, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Lena Kappelin, Stephanie Blenckner, Joey Fox, John Batho, Emma Zetterström, Ekaterina Klimenko, Nikos Politis, Lena Kappelin,

Agenda

- Updates from Operations/Grants Management – Lena
- Communications and Editorial – Stephanie and Joey
- A&D Cluster meeting - project presentation - 'SIPRI MENA Programme' Dylan O'Driscoll
- SSC 2020 - Update
- Report from other Clusters?
- Updates from Sibylle/EUNPDC/SMT

AOB

Updates from Operations/Grants Management – Lena

- Lena is working on re-submitting the DUAT proposal to the German MFA for a project on ‘Evaluating the first six years of the ATT’ this is to be sent in on this date. Also working on a budget for Vincent’s project following up on the LAWs project.

Communications and Editorial – Stephanie and Joey

- The Cluster was informed that given our current situation Communications and Editorial will be more rigorous in planning for the autumn season. A calendar is being created with slots allocated for work to be dealt with and prioritised. The earlier Comms and Editorial hear about upcoming project output the better chance a project will have of securing a slot of support for this calendar year. The priority will be given to those that are funder driven as well as the normal core activity. Those doing UD project work are asked to reflect on activity now given the Covid crisis and plan accordingly. The main message is researchers are reminded to communicate and communicate as soon as possible about any forthcoming work that will need assistance this year.
- The SIPRI Yearbook has been sent to the indexer today. In reality this means there is one month left to work on this and finalise the PDF proofs. Editorial will be in touch with researchers for any issues that need to be checked and clarified.

A&D Cluster meeting - project presentation - 'SIPRI MENA Programme' Dylan O'Driscoll

- SIPRI now has a MENA Programme but it is well understood there are people working on issues related to MENA across the entire institute. The presentation today was an opportunity for Dylan to brief the A&D Cluster and for A&D Programme Directors to exchange information about their work and research teams’ interests in relation to the MENA region. The MENA Programme is in development but at its core will seek to understand the drivers of conflict, examining social, political, economic, and environmental factors and pathways to peace. It involves a mix of both regional and in-depth analysis of certain case studies. Further feedback and areas of collaboration are most welcome.
- Some of the work at the moment the MENA Programme is involved with includes:
 - A USAid funded project that seeks to identify key cultural practices of persecuted minority groups in Northern Iraq and reinstate those.
 - Working on a paper about social contracts across the MENA region looking at protesting and non-protesting movements as a lens to examine this issue. The idea again is to look at international actors and the role they play in the MENA region.
 - The MENA team are working with the Sahel team looking at North Africa and the role in the Sahel region by examining peacebuilding efforts as well as activities in the social, political, and economic sphere.

- The MENA team are also collaborating with the Climate Programme looking at water policies and exploring other policy impact areas.
- The MENA Programme have been hosting on-line fikas for those interested or working on the MENA region, and if interested to join then contact Dylan. There is a Swedish/MENA network being established and Dylan is the SIPRI contact point and if one is interested to know more then get in touch with Dylan.
- Dylan took this opportunity to highlight about a Climate group looking at introducing climate and environmental policies for SIPRI and Mark was a representative from the A&D Cluster but with Mark going on parental leave there is an opportunity for someone else from this Cluster to join.

Stockholm Security Conference 2020

- The SSC 2020 was discussed at SMT and a decision taken to plan the event in a virtual format this year. Following the P&D Forum we plan to have a briefing on lessons learnt with Martina and Johanna about hosting a virtual event. How to arrange it considering different time zones? How long should a session be? Over how many days will it be spread? These are some of the questions to be considered and the organisation will need a lot of thought.

Report from other Clusters

- Nothing further to report back from the other Clusters as both Coordinators are busy with P&D Forum activities.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

SMT

- The Cluster were reminded once again about the forthcoming Governing Board meeting and to be prepared for the discussions. The agenda has been circulated.
- Finance issues were discussed and how we need to adjust as an institute in light of the pandemic crisis. More planning and flexibility will be needed as we move forward. The funding landscape will change, and we need to diversify a bit more and be aware of new opportunities. This will be standing item for the SMT.

EUNPDC

- The EUNPDC Disarmament Education seminar will be held on 23-24 in a virtual format. The seminar sessions will be held in the morning and anyone interested in participating from this Cluster should send an email to Sibylle. Moreover, we may need moderators for breakout sessions and more information will be forthcoming.
- On EUNPDC publication papers, no new paper was officially assigned recently but if future papers will address topics of interest for people in the Cluster, Giovanna will let them know in advance.

AOB

- Lucie will present about a recent book publication '*French Arms Exports - The Business of Sovereignty*' at our next Cluster meeting.

Next cluster meeting

The next A&D Cluster virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 June @14:30PM.