



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:00-15:00PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Wednesday 17 June 2020

Participants: 26

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

Agenda

- Updates from Operations/Grants Management – Lena
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Report from Martina on lessons learnt from the P&D Forum.
- A&D Cluster meeting - project presentation - *'French Arms Exports: The Business of Sovereignty'* by Lucie Béraud-Sudreau
- SSC 2020 - Update
- Updates from Sibylle/EUNPDC/SMT

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Staff announcement

- It was announced that Dr. Nan Tian was promoted to Senior Researcher with the AMEX Programme. Congratulations Nan!

Updates from Operations/Grants Management – Lena

- Lena reported that another funding application from DUAT was submitted to the German foreign ministry. This is a short project aiming to run between July and December 2020 and is about mapping approaches to post-shipment controls.
- Please be mindful of the information sent out from Dan on behalf of management and operations. The summer vacation period is nearly upon us so anything that needs to be approved or signed by management could possibly take longer over the summer period.

Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial) – Alexandra

- On the 15 June 2020, SIPRI launched the findings of *SIPRI Yearbook 2020*, which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security. A key finding is that despite an overall decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2019, all nuclear weapon-possessing states continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals. The launch is received a lot of media coverage and attention (1,500 media articles to this date) and Outreach thanks Shannon and Hans for their work. As regards the YB as a whole: congratulations to everyone who has contributed. Those who have contributed to chapters have had this information linked to their biographical on-line pages.
- On 18 June Mark and Giovanna's blog will be published [Using official development assistance to strengthen small arms and light weapons controls: Opportunities and risks](#).
- A new multi-author SIPRI report led by Vincent will be issued on 22 June on [Recent advances in artificial intelligence contribute to nuclear risk](#).
- On 24 June Nan's blog will be published [A cautionary tale of military expenditure transparency during the great lockdown](#).
- As reported in the RSC and starting on the 18 June, Outreach will follow up with SIPRI staff hosting seminar meetings for Q&A sessions about Communications work in SIPRI, and Alexandra is up first, and will speak about engaging with the media.
- Staff are once again reminded to look at their individual programme pages and please send information that needs updating ASAP to Communications (contact: <alexandra.manolache@sipri.org> for the website).
- Most of Outreach will be out on vacation during July but work will resume as normal in August.

- Editorial mentioned that all other work in the publication schedule is moving along as it should. Contact Joey if there are any changes from the research end. The final edited YB chapters are to go to Oxford publishers at the end of week 26 so final chances to look and update is now upon us. Most of you have seen final drafts.

Report from P&D Cluster on lessons learnt from the P&D Forum – Martina

- Report from P&D Cluster – brief update – there is a Cluster meeting today, following the A&D Cluster meeting. They are welcoming the full team of EP2022 and this is first meeting in which all will participate. The Climate Change and Risk has in particular started working with EP2022 to see how to complement their work.
- It was report that P&D have been awarded a grant from <EBA - Expert Group for Aid studies> for a project on '*Evaluation of Sweden's application of internationally agreed principles for Engagement in Fragile States*'. This project will start after the summer.
- On 17 August, Jannie Lilja, the new Director of Studies for the Peace and Development will start officially but it is not sure yet when Jannie will physically be in the office.

Lessons Learnt from the virtual P&D Forum 2020

- Jago and Martina have already briefed SMT but of course there are lessons learnt from this experience at many different levels. At SMT it was more about the strategic level in terms of forum identity, the branding, the partners, and what we're looking to do in 2021.
- In this format the report was about practicalities and lessons learnt for organizing to use both for the SSC 2020 and in general when hosting virtual meetings. What was realised with the Forum organization was the important difference between a virtual event and a live physical event. For example, participants can log off and switch to another task at any time. The idea and goal is to give participants a strong reason to stay connected and engaged with the agenda.
- The Forum event was spread over 10 working days and this was a challenge. In some cases, people were registering only for one specific session. At the same time such participants would occupy a space on the registration list and so the challenge was to try and bring them for other events. One way to do this was through creating a proper narrative for the event. People need to see they're participating in one coherent event even if there are many different sessions.
- For the Forum they tried to do this with the sequencing of the sessions. Day 1 was focused on what one can do and should do, and this started with geo-politics. Day 2 was about prevention. Day 3 brought these two topics together. The remaining days of week one they moved to how we should do things. The second week continued focusing on how but rather than looking at traditional instruments they looked more closely at new actors and approaches. The goal was to make sure this narrative shone through. Important to ask moderators they remind their audience of the sessions coming up after them or the following day. Also make sure the moderator at the start of each day states what day of the event it actually is and emphasising the coherence of your event.

- In general, virtual sessions should be much shorter than live sessions to avoid the danger of losing participants to multi-tasking. Most of the sessions at the P&D Forum were not more than one hour. “Something new should happen every 4 minutes in an on-line space” has been suggested by experts externally but of course difficult to do in practice. However, the professional studio helped, just changing a camera angle after speaker has been engaged for some time can help, using videos, slides and images also help. The visual production is important.
- Moderating in the virtual space is more difficult than a life in-person event and entails a different set of skills. Ideally the moderator needs to be supported by a technical moderator. Someone who can monitor incoming questions, reminding presenters or facilitators to address them, mute or unmute participants who forget to do. It’s too much to place on just one moderator.
- The more information, especially with technical requirements, you can give with regards instructions to panellists and moderators the better. It’s important to run test beforehand testing both the staging and technology. Little things like lighting, camera angle, background can be as important as audio quality.
- The quantity of reminders about an on-line event before and during an event is never regretted. And always appreciated.
- It’s important to nurture a sense of an on-line community and networking experience if possible.
- Participants at the P&D Forum were asked in advance if sessions could be recorded. Some were and some were not at the request of partners who wanted Chatham House rules.

SSC 2020

- The concept note was discussed at SMT and there is broad agreement on the topics and way forward. A version was shared with Programme Directors in advance and also at this meeting for discussion within teams. The idea is to have six breakout sessions and there will be only one studio day. As sequencing is quite different for an on-line event there is no need for an opening or closing plenary. The dates and schedule are currently being worked out but there will be no more than two sessions per day. There won’t be parallel sessions but rather one thematic and one regional session consecutively. Timing may need to be adjusted depending on the region of focus and to allow for greater regional participation. The format on open or closed session is under review and will be considered for each session individually.

A&D Cluster meeting - Presentation - *'French Arms Exports: The Business of Sovereignty'* presentation by Lucie Béraud-Sudrea.

- This book considers how France has responded to changing political and market circumstances in the way that it promotes and controls the export of weapons. It examines the rationale for considering a liberal arms-export policy as essential to

French independence, and the institutional arrangements that underpinned this. It tracks the dramatic changes in the global arms market since 1990, in terms of demand and market competition, and charts the response of the French government to these changes. The book underlines how the French machinery of government, as a directing force behind the defence industry, has been resistant to the notion of export restraint – even in the case of sales to authoritarian regimes. However, it argues that France now faces a dilemma over whether to continue with a long-successful course, or to moderate its independence through greater collaboration to bolster European integration and better compete globally.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

SMT

- Each Programme Director will get back to their teams about how check-in will be handled over the summer period and especially during July, with those still working.
- If you want to come to the office over July one needs to inform Helena Berger in advance.
- SMT have discussed a possible gradual return of staff to the office during August but nothing is determined yet.
- On further GB members we are requested to give some thought to this and are welcome to forward suggestions.

EUNPDC

- There is still much thinking and discussion on what events will take place virtually and which events may be possible in person. Those mentioned include: in September, the Consultative meeting, and in November, the Annual Conference. Planned ad hoc seminars, some of which we were to be involved with, like for i.e. '*Diversion of Arms in Peace Keeping Operations*' will now be at the end of the year and some of the events mentioned may now be virtual despite hoping these would be in-person.
- Highlighted also were further plans for an ad hoc seminar on space and this was mentioned of particular interest to some staff from the SIPRI nuclear team. The first ad hoc seminar on this topic took place last December and a follow-up has been requested by the EEAS. The assumption was it would go to FRS (The Foundation for Strategic Research) but if SIPRI wants to be involved we can be.
- There was a UN Disarmament Fellows visit planned to be organised in the context of the Consortium but this has been postponed until next year.
- Clearly more and more events that were planned for this year are being cancelled or postponed. It is uncertain for example, if and how the UN General Assembly First Committee will now go ahead? A lot our work is and will continue to be impacted.
- Our EUNPDC ad hoc disarmament education virtual event organised by SIPRI is going ahead on 23/24 June. It is hoped to have physical live event sometime in the autumn but this remains to be seen.

Progress on the EUNPDC paper series was reported including an updated list of forthcoming publications.

- Elisabeth Suh (SWP), 'Mapping non-proliferation and disarmament education efforts in Europe' (attached).

- Nicolas Florquin and Benjamin Jongleux (Small Arms Survey), 'Monitoring the response to firearms conversion in Europe': first draft is expected by 30 June.
- Federica Dall'Arche (IAI): 'The case for Gender Balance in Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Arms Control Negotiations': first draft expected on [22 June 2020](#).
- Maurizio Martellini (LNFV) and Tatyana Novossiolo (CSD), 'Holistic CBRN Security in the Twentieth-First Century': first draft expected on [31 December 2020](#).

As usual, don't hesitate to get back to Giovanna or Sibylle for questions on the papers and if you would like to review or anything related to the Consortium.

- There will be a meeting with all Consortium members on this but it looks already that there will be a request for an extension of the EU contract that normally runs out in May to be extended until November 2021.

AOB

- There was some further general discussion on virtual meetings. On this topic if your audience is only European then try to host them during mornings as afternoon meetings are popular for events involving presenters or participants in the US.
- The topic of gender and diversity was flagged up for further consideration. We need to give more thought to the areas of gender and diversity in a more strategic way going forward be it for next generation efforts, as we hire and recruit, as we organise events and who we invite and who we ask to be moderators or speakers. This should be agenda item for a discussion in the autumn.

Next cluster meeting

The next A&D Cluster virtual meeting will be organised during August and doodle set up to find a date.