



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:00- 15:15PM

## **SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting**

Zoom virtual meeting, Wednesday 2 September 2020

### **Participants:**

Sibylle Bauer, Andrea Eduardo Varisco, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, Shannon Kile, Tarja Cronberg, Vitaly Fedchenko, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Nan Tian, Pieter Wezeman, Siemon Wezeman, Diego Lopes Da Silva, Alexandra Kuimova, Alexandra Marksteiner, Vincent Boulanin, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Stephanie Blenckner, Joey Fox, John Batho, Maria Kaemmerle, Lena Kappelin, Nikos Politis

### **Agenda**

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- A&D Cluster meeting - presentations – organisers from this Cluster will present their planned topics for the breakout sessions at SSC 2020.
- SSC 2020
- Updates from Sibylle/SMT
- Updates from the other Clusters
- AOB

## House keeping

New staff were welcomed to their first Cluster meeting: Andrea Varisco, Lucile Robin and Alexandra Marksteiner.

\*Going forward it has been decided to try and host all future A&D Cluster meetings on the first working **Monday** of each month. Therefore, all remaining meetings are now planned for Monday @2:30PM on the following dates:

- 5 October 2020
- 2 November 2020
- 7 December 2020

Please block these dates and times in your calendar.

## Updates from Operations/Grants Management – Maria, Lena, Nikos

- Maria Kaemmerle joined our Cluster meeting and hopes to participate more in these meetings going forward. The training for our new system Maconomy has now begun and all information has been sent out about this. Nikos reminded staff about the project planning tool and following implementation this should now be of utility for project work within the cluster. If more follow up is needed just contact Nikos.

## Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

- All forthcoming publications and plans from September through to January 2021 have been circulated to Cluster staff during this meeting. All research staff are requested to look at the document, and if information is unclear, missing, or if amendments are needed, then get in touch with Joey as soon as possible.
- Forthcoming this month should be a blog from Lora ‘*China’s detachment from the South Asian nuclear triangle*’, an essay from Lucie called ‘Covid-19: A new wave of European arms industry consolidation?’, a publication by Alexandra Kuimova on Egypt’s military expenditure and the MSB paper on cyber. (Full details coming in October’s notes following publication).
- The SIPRI and UNODA webinar event held on 27 August was reported on, and information about this event is now on the website.  
<<https://www.sipri.org/news/2020/sipri-and-unoda-co-host-webinar-effective-measures-nuclear-disarmament>>.
- Former SIPRI Editor Caspar Trimmer is re-joining SIPRI this month to work with the Communications team.
- The Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs is visiting SIPRI as part of a small delegation on 9 September.
- The issue of updating the website was raised again and staff are advised to look at their webpages together at their next team Programme meetings. Individually we are all

asked to look at our bio pages and contact communications if updates are needed.

## **Stockholm Security Conference 2020**

- The six breakout sessions will be split between A&D and C, P&S as decided by SMT. Lead organisers from this Cluster presented on the topics currently being planned for the breakout sessions at SSC 2020 – all titles to be finalised:
  - Session 1: Responsible innovation and use of new technologies such as AI, Vincent Boulanin.
  - Session 2: Unlocking nuclear arms control and disarmament after the COVID-19 crisis: change and continuity, Petr Topychkanov.
  - Session 3: International cooperation in a new era of techno-nationalism, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau.
- Katia and Luc are working on a single package of documents about the SSC that will include the draft agenda, a short concept note for the whole conference and description of the open/studio day, this should be ready in the near future. This material can be sent to the potential speakers as part of the invitation letter.
- Following discussion and feedback on the concept notes presented at this meeting there are some amendments to be done and a deadline for [Friday](#) 11/9 to deliver back.

## **Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC**

### **SMT**

- The SMT will have a strategy day on 22 September and Sibylle plans to be in Stockholm on this date and also on 23/24 September. If staff would like to have an in-person meeting, then contact Sibylle in advance.
- On partnerships as we are aware SIPRI have been setting up many but mostly in different Clusters. The one that concerned us the most was the Munich Security Conference but also there is one with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that is developing further. Because there are more partnerships in future that are relevant for our Cluster we will invite SIPRI Partnerships Manager Sepideh Soltaninia, to brief at the next Cluster meeting.

### **EUNPDC**

- The Annual Consultative Meeting organised by FRS will be held virtually on 10/11 September. This event is by invitation only and under Chatham House rules. The agenda will be circulated to the Cluster after this meeting and whom to contact at FRS if you would like to participate. Prior to this a EUNPDC Steering Committee meeting consisting of the EUNPD Consortium partners and representatives from the European External Action Service and European Commission will be held on Monday 7 September. The meeting will include an introduction by Marjolijn van Deelen, the new

EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation at the European External Action Service who took up this position on 1 September. The future of the contract will also be flagged at this meeting. The ambition at this stage is to make the Annual Conference a hybrid event but a decision on this will be taken in the coming weeks. However, it is already decided that the Next Generation event held prior to the Annual Conference will be in a fully virtual format.

- There are remaining ad hoc seminars to be organized including one by SIPRI on non-proliferation disarmament and arms control education which we hope to be in-person, but it will be early 2021 at this stage. The other outstanding ad hoc meetings include one on arms diversion and peacekeeping operations and there is supposed to be a second meeting on space issues. All dates are remaining TBC but more than likely in 2021 at this stage.
- The Odessa Summer School on NPD Education 2020 was successfully held between 24-27 August as a hybrid event, organised in partnership with SIPRI.
- Regarding SIPRI led activities and the publication series since the last Cluster meeting (see the August Cluster notes for the most recent list) only one more additional paper has been added and is being written by Laura Considine from the University of Leeds and will be on the subject of the NPT and more specifically 'The role of dominant narratives in the NPT regime'.

## **AOB**

- Vitaly Fedchenko was contacted by Cindy Vestergard from the Stimson Center; (<https://www.stimson.org/ppl/vestergaard/>). There was a request to SIPRI inquiring if there was an interest for her to present on her work to colleagues here in A&D. Vitaly has been advised to liaise with Kolja and Vincent are recommended as possible persons of interest to contact and follow up.
- In relation to the SIPRI Middle East initiative Tarja Cronberg reported on spending six months interviewing people working in this area and other think tanks about the topic. This internal SIPRI study will be discussed internally on Friday, 4 September. The idea is to provide a background for SIPRI's strategy in this area going forward. It is suggested to have a brown bag lunch meeting discussion as part of a cross cluster initiative in the near future.
- The P&D Cluster will soon organize a brown bag lunch meeting discussion about how to conduct field research during the pandemic crisis. Invitations will be sent around so be on the lookout for those. While most in this Cluster conduct desk research primarily but for some the constraints on travel and conducting field research has impacted the work.

## **Next Cluster Meeting**

The next A&D Cluster virtual meeting will be held on Monday 5 October @14:30PM.