

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-15:45PM

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

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 5 October 2020

#### **Participants:**

Sibylle Bauer, Joakim Vaverka, Elena Haapaniemi, Sepideh Soltaninia, Lena Kappelin, John Batho, Elin Elmgren, 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

#### **Agenda**

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Presentations with Q&A:
  - SIPRI Safeguarding Policy (attached) - Elena Haapaniemi
  - SIPRI Partnerships - Sepideh Soltaninia
  - Introductory briefing - Joakim Vaverka
    - Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
    - Opportunity for programmes to raise issues of Cluster-relevance
    - Reports from other Clusters
    - AOB

## **Updates from Operations.**

- Nothing to report this time.

## **Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)**

- Alexandrea Kuimova's paper on military expenditure in Egypt is due out during this week.  
[<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2020/sipri-background-papers/understanding-egyptian-military-expenditure>](https://www.sipri.org/publications/2020/sipri-background-papers/understanding-egyptian-military-expenditure),
- The SIPR insights paper [\*<Transparency in Arms Procurement: Limitations and Opportunities for Assessing Global Armament Development>\*](#) by Pieter Wezeman, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau and Siemon Wezeman is also due out this month.
- The Comms team (Steph and Alexandra M) are working on editing a film that is part of a German MFA funded project about military AI and artificial or real challenges for arms control. As part of that work SIPRI and other partners were asked to contribute to the film. This will be used in a conference (GFFO 'Rethinking Arms Control' Virtual Conference 2020) to be held on 5/6 November. If you would like to attend this event, contact Sibylle or anyone working on this project.
- Thanks to all who have already been giving us input with their website updates, remember there are over 80, 000 visitors per month. In addition, Noel has sent around a bio template for SIPRI staff to request information for the EUNPDC website and staff are reminded to respond.

## **SIPRI Safeguard Policy – Briefing from Elena Haapaniemi.**

- The SIPRI Safeguard policy has been developed as a requirement by one of the donors. In the nutshell, the objective of this policy and its guiding framework is twofold: To raise awareness among SIPRI staff about safeguarding; and to ensure that a safeguarding dimension is an integral part of all research activities and proposals. The main principle is as researchers we should avoid the inflicting harm to people and to the environment. SIPRI expects all its staff to apply this principle when planning, implementing, concluding and following up on any research initiative. The policy is available on SIPRI Intranet:  
[<https://intranet.sipri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Safeguarding-Policy-Final.pdf>](https://intranet.sipri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Safeguarding-Policy-Final.pdf)

## **Introductory briefing from Joakim Vaverka.**

- Joakim gave an introduction about himself and his work as a Swedish foreign service official and reiterated how the work we do at SIPRI (and specifically in the Armament and Disarmament cluster) is well respected and relevant to the debate in areas he has worked, including the UN (where he was posted before joining the Institute).

- He also spoke about his role at SIPRI, including how his expected to be reaching out and interacting with the Swedish audience, and to maintain good relationships with the MFA, parties in Parliament, the think tank community here and the media. He has already received very positive feedback in this role: our work is appreciated, there is a demand for what we do and there is an interest in interacting with us.
- A function Joakim really wants to make known to us is his role as a liaison officer between SIPRI and the Swedish community and not least the MFA. Joakim has already been busy interacting with colleagues in the MFA but also currently engaging with foreign policy spokespersons with the other political parties in parliament. Joakim is a member of 'The international Law and Disarmament Delegation' which is an advisory body to the Swedish Government in this area. Some of the work undertaken there has already involved staff from this cluster including Vincent's LAWs project work. There are plenty of other topics being discussed there that are relevant to SIPRI, including such topics as the NPT and other issues. Before attending other meetings of interest to our research area in the future Joakim intends to solicit information from us and will report back afterward.
- Joakim reiterated the importance to forge individual relationships with colleagues at the MFA as well. There is an expectation on their side for us to be responsive and engaged (while of course remaining an independent institute). It is important for us to think about these opportunities both strategically and tactically, tailoring our own presentations and messages to our audience, their needs and their constraints. Joakim highlighted that UD-NIS enjoyed very much the briefing received from the A&D cluster in January 2020 and look forward to repeating this process again, and it is hoped possibly in January 2021. Joakim will shortly be meeting Carl Magnus Eriksson at UD to discuss this possible future visit among other issues and of course will be in touch with Sibylle.
- Joakim also highlighted the need for increasing cross-cluster collaboration at SIPRI and becoming more effective going into the geographic departments of the MFA and presenting work that shows geographical relevance more than just the thematic.
- As Chief of Staff at SIPRI another role for Joakim includes monitoring that we keep following the objectives and activities of the SIPRI strategy. This is something we will do together and in close collaboration.
- Finally, Joakim is expected to be the liaison with the Governing Board and the Chairman and this is an important conduit for us to be aware of. Preparations are already underway for the GB meeting on 16/17 November and many of us will be involved.

### **Brief from Sepideh on SIPRI partnerships-**

- At SIPRI we use the word "partnership" to describe a lot of different types of relationship (partnerships revolving around events, around databases, with institutions with geographical expertise, with donors that we consider partners and so on).
- Sepideh works on partnerships that are institutional, strategic and not short-term (e.g. WFP, ICRC, UNHCR)
- Why do we partner? For audience, access, network, reputation, and wider relationship strengthening.
- These types of partnerships are not normally content-specific, mostly because we are dealing with very large organisations, spread across the entire world, and they are reluctant (especially at the top level) to make content-specific promises in e.g. a Memorandum of Understanding.
- We are in the process of expanding our partnerships, and this will hopefully mean increased resources and, consequently, increased capacity within SIPRI.
- Internal discussions on who should be involved in each partnership, and what kind of research these individuals want to do are always happening in parallel with the partnership process.
- The Annual Consultative Meeting organised by FRS was held virtually on 10/11 September. All who contributed from SIPRI by being speakers or chairs were thanked.

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

#### **EUNPDC briefing from Giovanna and Sibylle**

- On the 29 September, an EUNPDC paper by Elisabeth Suh (SWP), '*Mapping non-proliferation and disarmament education efforts in Europe*' was published. On the 2 October, the EUNPDC paper by Nicolas Florquin and Benjamin Jongleux (Small Arms Survey), '*Monitoring the response to firearms conversion in Europe*' was published. The EUNPDC paper by Federica Dall'Arche (IAI) on '*The case for Gender Balance in Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Arms Control Negotiations*' is in the final stages and will soon be published. Another paper highlighted to be coming soon in mid-October is from Dr. Laura Considine, from the University of Leeds, and titled; '*Between cornerstone and crises: The role of dominant narratives in the NPT regime*'. A paper titled '*The Nuclear Cyber Nexus: Intangible Proliferation and Arms Control*' is coming in mid-November and authored by Dr. Alexi Drew at the Kings College in London. The first draft of a paper titled '*Holistic CBRN Security in the Twentieth-First Century*' by Prof. Maurizio Martellini (Landau Network-Centro Volta - LNFV) and Dr. Tatyana Novossiolova (Center for the Study of Democracy - CSD) is expected on [31 December 2020](#). The commission of another helpdesk paper on the subject of emerging technologies and the impact of the nuclear order is being

negotiated. Further details will be circulated in due course. A request has been received by EEAS for a helpdesk paper on the impact of Covid-19 on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. Nobody was available from this cluster but an author from PRIF has been identified. The paper is due on 6 November and some cluster staff have agreed to give comments on the first draft due on the 27 October.

- The major upcoming event is the Annual Conference being organized by IAI and held online during 12-13 November. The platform used is still to be decided and we will be informed in due course about the final agenda and possible participation. Normally the Next Generation workshop and the Network annual meeting are held a day before but this year is more flexible. The Next Generation workshop will now be held on 25 November and the Network annual meeting will be held on 9 November (TBC). It is clarified that there are no restriction numbers wise from SIPRI in participating in the Next Generation workshop. SIPRI NextGen staff is also eligible to send applications to be selected as speakers. It is hoped to broaden the audience and cluster staff are encouraged to participate.
- Staff are encouraged to subscribe to the monthly EUNPDC newsletter as it is not only an interesting read but another avenue to promote interesting events or publications from our work.
- On bios for the EUNPDC website if your information is out of date or not on it please do get in touch with Noel who sent around a template and requested bio information.

### **Cluster discussion going forward**

- Building on the idea of the helpdesk paper request on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament and impact of Covid-19, it was suggested this is something we should think about internally and good discussion for a future cluster meeting. How have processes been impacted in positive and negative way? We all have gathered different knowledge from working groups, Conference of States Parties, UN General Assembly and how organizations are adapting to the pandemic or not but putting this puzzle together and doing some analysis would be interesting. The helpdesk paper will be helpful, but we should try to assemble our own knowledge. This is a suggestion for discussion at one of the next cluster meetings.
- We had a brainstorming session at an A&D Team Leaders meeting some of the suggestions was on how to write SIPRI style? Joey has been asked and in January has been suggested.
- How to plan and budget for projects? We have discussed this previously, but as new people have joined, and lessons have been learnt overtime it would be useful to discuss again.
- How to write a good blog? (Caspar could be asked to do a training session).

## Expertise Mapping Exercise

- The exercise on mapping expertise across the institute has been carried out within the A&D cluster. The master document is currently with Martina and once shared back please use this as a reference for reaching out and consulting colleagues in reviewing your work.

## Side Events

- It would be good to think about side events at the UN General Assembly First Committee. If you have any ideas and thoughts, please flag them! It would be good for SIPRI to be involved.

## UD Strategic Grant

- Many of you already had some ideas and submitted proposals first time around that extended into next year. Those who did so are advised to go back over these proposals and see if these ideas are still relevant and update them. We don't have a timeline yet and only have the informal information but once confirmed in writing it is a fast-moving process so be prepared.
- Please note the SIPRI strategy document is available on the intranet; <https://intranet.sipri.org/2019/12/17/institute-strategy-2019-2024/>.

## Reports from other Clusters

### Conflict, Peace and Security

- Katia report that in cooperation with A&D the work on SSC 2020 is moving ahead. The speakers have been contacted and sessions are being organised.
- The next Conflict, Peace & Security cluster meeting is on 6 October at 11:00AM.

### Peace and Development

- As a part of the recruitment of a Content Manager/Researcher for the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Security we have as usual invited two candidates to give a presentation to which staff are welcome to attend. The first presentation will be held on **Tuesday 6 October at 10.30-11.30** and the second will be held on **Wednesday 7 October at 11.00-12.00**, check your e-mail for details and information sent out by Helena Berger on 4 October.

## AOB

Please remember to continue using the cluster calendar!

[https://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://clusterswiki.sipri.org/index.php/Main_Page)

- **The next A&D cluster meeting is on Monday, 2 November @2:30PM.**