

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-15:45PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 11 January 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Alexandra Manolache, John Batho, Elin Elmgren, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Andrea Eduardo Varisco, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, 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, Nikos Politis, Elin Elmgren

Agenda

A&D cluster meeting agenda 11 January 2021

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC (including any updates on the forthcoming NIS meeting, the strategic grant - what has been decided?)
- Reports from other Clusters
- Discussion - 'Tour de table' from all teams this time and catch up on the immediate plans for the year ahead? What are immediate priorities?
- AOB

Updates from Operations – Nikos

- Nothing to report for this meeting.

Updates from Editorial – John

- Nothing to report for this meeting.

Updates from Communications – Stephanie

Alexandra Manolache has been receiving edits and new content for the emerging technologies section of the SIPRI website, and updates are being carried out. Other programme website pages within A&D need to be updated and the nuclear pages in particular are highlighted for attention. Alexandra Manolache can advise and help carry out the work but input on the content must come from the programme staff. Staff are invited to review their relevant website pages and to cooperate with Communications in order to update those pages now as we begin a new year.

Publications are being issued once again following the holiday period and the publication calendar is being strictly followed. With regard to the scheduling there can be room for flexibility once communicated in time. If you have a paper that is going to be late please inform in good time and it may be possible to rearrange and find another slot.

Upcoming highlights from this cluster in the pipeline include the arms transfers data launch (21/03/15). Communication would also like to do more interviews for the South Asia project with Petr and Lora.

EUNPDC – report from Giovanna and Sibylle

On publications there were no further updates from those mentioned in the December cluster meeting (see notes now on intranet). An e-mail was also circulated in November with upcoming publications. Meantime, three papers have arrived and have been reviewed or are being reviewed:

1. 'The Nuclear Cyber Nexus: Intangible Proliferation and Arms Control' by Dr. Alexi Drew.
2. 'Global nuclear order in flux? Five emerging and disruptive technology challenges for Europe' by Prof. Andrew Futter.
3. 'Policy Intervention in ASAT Testing' by Nivedita Raju.
4. 'Holistic CBRN approach' by Tatyana Novossiolova and Maurizio Martellini.

This leaves us with four papers to assign before the end of the current contract, but these could be papers completed during the extension of the contract.

We are in the process of asking the funders to extend the current contract that officially expires in May 2021 for 6 months. This is to complete work delayed by the pandemic or to propose new activities. If there is interest and a need for funding at SIPRI, we could use this extension to arrange another ad hoc seminar. If an interesting topic is proposed the EEAS may agree to this. A request is made to anybody from the cluster to propose ideas within the scope of this project. It is more likely that any event falling within the extension period will be on-line, but

this allows more funding for preparation and research. A lot of money was set aside for travel in the original budget including for representation and participation of individuals at international conferences. We assume now there will be almost no travel during the extension period, and into late autumn, so one could instead request to put aside salary time to organize side events, e.g. If one is thinking of organizing side events in connection to the ATT, the PoA, the NPT, the GGE on LAWS etc., such activity could possibly be organised as a consortium event. We would need to know about interest soon so that we can set aside some budget.

EUNPDC – Interns

If an intern comes through the EUNPDC project, then the host institute is entitled to a payment of up to €3,000 euros for supervision/mentoring time.

EUNPDC – ad hoc seminars

The salary budget is divided between 3 roles, i.e., the project manager, the researcher and administrative staff. The minimum is €25,000 euros but we can go further than this if we decide to do it virtually, but we would need to justify the amount of time for managing or researching. We are now forming ideas and plans for the contract extension so we should know soon if there is a preliminary interest, in this case, staff are advised to confirm with Sibylle after the meeting.

SMT

The topic of a possible away day in 2021 was brought up and realistically if we are to meet physically this would be later in the year. The Conflict, Peace and Security cluster are having short online meeting spread out by teams over a week. We are asked to give this some thought and we could either do this in person (later in the year) or have it more informally online and discuss at the next cluster meeting.

NIS/UD

Sibylle reported back on the informal meeting with NIS. There will be a more regular exchange going forward with monthly meetings. The January visit will be discussed at the next SMT but if there are issues of particular interest from this cluster one would like raised with NIS then let Sibylle know. Many topics were mentioned as relevant including the New START extension, and the INF treaty that expired in 2019, new technologies and weapons and systems related to nuclear deterrence capabilities, including systems in outer space.

SIPRI Internships

We can host virtual interns. AMEX is planning to do so, and other teams are encouraged to also think about it.

Strategic Grant

The strategic grant for the next two years has been officially signed. Some projects have already been provisionally approved and budgets need to be reviewed to make space for other projects submitted. If there are questions get in touch with Sibylle.

OSCE

SIPRI have had discussions on doing activities while Sweden is Chair of the OSCE. The feedback is that the interest is more for issues within the other clusters. We don't expect any money from the OSCE budget line to come our way for now.

SSC 2021

The focus will be on the topic of urban warfare and this means a further opportunity to examine means and methods of warfare. This will be done in close cooperation with ICRC. Sibylle and Luc have been tasked to come up with a concept note and will be in touch with all in due course about ideas and making it happen.

Event highlight!

The Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference will be a virtual event in 2021 and taking place on 22-24 June. The next in-person event will take place on 27-28 October 2022 in Washington. This is an interesting indication towards current thinking in planning for large international events.

On the topic of the Swedish Government initiative on developing a nuclear disarmament center of excellence, SIPRI along with Stockholm University and the Physics department at Uppsala did make a bid in but it has gone to Uppsala University. Although SIPRI are not part of the formal structure we will work with Uppsala University going forward and also in the context of EUNPDC and associated Network.

'Tour de table' from all teams this time and catch up on the immediate plans for the year ahead? What are immediate priorities?

Nuclear Team

The South Asia project is in the final half year and has a busy agenda including publications and a launch event. The first backgrounder has just been returned from the reviewers including external and will be forwarded to the Editors. This is also the SIPRI Yearbook period and all the team are busy towards fulfilling the requirements. Outside Yearbook activity, Tytti is also focusing on completing a publication funded by Hiroshima Prefecture. There is also a space related proposal underway.

AMEX

The immediate priorities are dealing with the Yearbook cycle. The coming weeks and months will be about finalizing and closing the databases and preparing for data launches. In terms of further priorities, the AMEX team are looking to upgrade the two main databases. Some project funding proposals have been sent at the end of 2020 and one more on the way and results are awaited.

AMEX sent a session proposal for the 2021 Peace and Development Forum, on the issue of addressing arms flows to conflict - lessons from the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Emerging Technologies

The SIPRI Yearbook section has been submitted. The priorities now are to secure funding for 2021-2022. They would like to follow up on the work done on autonomous weapons with a strong legal focus. Another topic they want to explore further is the governance of AI and a possible project is in discussion in collaboration with UNODA. Session ideas have been submitted to the Peace and Development Forum.

DUAT

First priority of the year is the SIPRI Yearbook. There are some outputs for the project 'Taking stock of the ATT' running across two years, including producing some preparatory papers between spring and summer 2021. The expert workshop due to happen in the first half of 2021 needs to be postponed or hosted virtually but this need to be discussed with the funder. The work on post-shipment controls is also hoped to be continued. DUAT have been in contact with the German MFA to fund a phase two of the project and the idea is to have a longer period of more than one year. DUAT are waiting for approval of the work funded by the UD grant on SALW and development issues related to sub-Saharan Africa. It is also hoped to expand Kolja's work on sanctions and humanitarian consequences for the DPRK to Iran. Further work on AI and export controls (MFA Germany) during 2021 is hoped for and also to work on the MTCR (funded by Switzerland) in 2021-22.

Reports from other Clusters

Peace& Development - Martina and Simone are looking through all the proposals this week and will get back to everyone with next steps shortly.

<https://www.sipri.org/events/2021/2021-stockholm-forum-peace-and-development>

Conflict, Peace & Security – Louise Edgren will be replacing Katia as Programme Coordinator for the next six months.

Vitaly reported on a project recently finished with KINAC (The Korean Institute for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control) about small module reactors. Further collaboration with KINAC on projects covering nonproliferation issues is a possibility but needs to be discussed first. The IAEA (The International Atomic Energy Agency) partnership has been developing very nicely and is all in the nuclear forensics area. One clear trend there that might be relevant to this cluster is that a lot of nuclear security and CBRN developments are going to be quite clearly regionalized in the future.

AOB

Sepideh highlighted discussions with the ICRC and reported on their interest in the topic on the humanitarian impact of sanctions. The Swedish MFA also mentioned it as a topic of interest in their discussion with the ICRC.

Next cluster meeting

1 February @ 2:30PM