

Minute taker: Noel Kelly  
Location: The Conference Room  
Time: 9.30-11:30am

**SIPRI - Armament and Disarmament cluster meeting  
Solna, 19 September 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Participants**

Sibylle Bauer, Lora Saalman, Aude Fleurant, Shannon Kile, Marina Caparini, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman, Nan Tian, Alexandra Kuimova, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Noel Kelly

**Agenda**

- Report back on other recent and upcoming activities of cross-cluster relevance
- Update on on-going and future funding proposals and decisions
- Report back from SMT
- AOB
- Date of next meeting

**Lora reported -**

- Lora has been invited to give two talks in Madrid on how to engage China - organised by MERICS (Mercator Institute for China Studies). She has also been invited to the University of Copenhagen to address similar issues on China in the next two weeks.
- Vincent and Lora's Carnegie proposal bid for a project on emerging technologies and nuclear risk was successful. This should be beginning in October and will be a two-year project covering all of the nuclear weapons states, whether recognised or not. It will be a baseline set of research into states' technological capabilities and how it matches up to strategic doctrines. There will be specific focus on machine learning that will probably see spinoffs into cyberspace and then also autonomous weapons. This will be hybrid collaboration with

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Lora bringing nuclear expertise and Vincent on emerging technologies.

- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) would fund the maritime Silk Road study. They will cover salaries and transport/ accommodation.

**John Hart reported -**

- He is performing a Senior Consultancy contract for CTBTO on unmanned platform technologies to support onsite inspections (until the end of the year).
- On the research side he is working on
  - CRC book chapter on worldwide chemical weapons destruction since the Chemical Weapons entered into force,
  - Springer Verlag book chapter on unmanned platform technologies,
  - a methodology for assessing sarin exposure videos in cooperation with a Turkish forensic pathologist. Once the baseline study is submitted for peer review, spin offs include approaching the law school at Berkeley that has students looking at videos for evidence of war crimes. There are also some methodology comparisons that can be done with the people who have been supporting the OPCW fact-finding mission (FFM) and the joint investigative mechanism (JIM) on Syria.
  - a mUAV particulate modeling for chemical weapons verification purposes concept paper with his former South Korean intern.

**Pieter Wezeman reported -**

- Most of his work for the rest of the year will involve core AMEX work. In between there are some other tasks to be done including work for Clingendael, although exactly what they want delivered at this point in time remains unclear.
- In October (7-11), Pieter is joining Dan for a SIPRI research visit to Oman and Saudi Arabia (Muscat and Riyadh) for meetings at the King Faisal Center, the Gulf Research Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oman. Pieter will present the work the SIPRI AMEX Programme does during the visit.

**Nan Tian reported –**

- Nan reported on his trip to Washington D.C to attend a NATO Building Integrity Conference (11-13 September) and then meetings at the National Defense University on 14 September. Marina is leading the Building Integrity project in SIPRI during the coming months. AMEX will help out where they can.
- Nan had meetings with various members of the ACSS (Africa Centre for Strategic Studies) academic/research staff and suggested there are possibilities for future collaboration. They receive non-conditional funding from the US government and would like to expand the type of work they do. They are mostly known for their programmes in Africa where they educate good governance and management practices in military sectors but their dean of research and director has wanted to move towards more "academic and research" type of output. They use both our milex and arms transfer data a lot and are doing work on state building and SSR.
- The milex project is still waiting to hear back from Swedish mission in NY to know if we can organise a side event during First Committee in October. The plan is to present the findings of our Sub-Saharan African military spending report.
- The rest of the year will mainly be finishing the transparency paper and collecting data for core work.
- Nan will be working with the World Economic Forum on the visualization of military spending and arms transfers database (using CREATE Lab). They are having a meeting in Davos at the beginning of January and the theme is about peace and security where they want to have a session on armaments and disarmament. They would like to use our data to create infographics or big displays at the event. Dan may go to present at Davos but final details are yet to be decided.
- Potentially these are visualizations we can use at SIPRI as well and the plan is they should be easily updatable.

A discussion was held on the milex database – where are we? The SMT have authorised that the process to fix the database get underway. Meetings are due to be held between AMEX and IT on what is needed and should be forthcoming. AMEX needs to drive this forward together with IT and Nan

will be the project manager for this process. Realistically it won't be ready in time for the next data release so the target would be to have it up and running for our data release in 2019. This will include having it ready for data input by the fall of 2018.

**Giovanna reported -**

Giovanna is working with Noel on EUNPC conference 20017 logistics. This work continues and Giovanna is travelling to Brussels with Sibylle for meetings with the consortium on 26 September.

**Alexandra reported -**

Alexandra mentioned the continuing work with Siemon on the UD Black Sea project. They nearly finished their first background paper on Bulgaria and will then move on to preparing further Black Sea regional country papers.

**Kolja reported -**

- Kolja is working on completing a paper before the end of September for the MTCR about the relevance of 3D printing.
- Kolja also reported for Mark, who attended the ATT 3rd Conference of States Parties. Mark presented work about the ATT database at a side event. They are trying to get the word out about expanding the work to include South and East Asia. Currently, they are finishing up some changes on the website and hope to have the first proper upload of data soon.
- On the ITT project being done for EXBS: the workshop will now be at the beginning of February 2018.

**Marina reported -**

Marina reminded everyone about the 2018 Peace and Development forum. The deadline for internal proposals was 22 September **but has since been extended**. The theme this year is: 'the politics of sustaining peace'.

**Siemon reported -**

Siemon will be in Korea during October (17-20) to attend a conference on the arms market with the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET). The core work and UD work continues.

**Shannon reported -**

Core work activities continue.

**Aude reported -**

- Aude has been in touch with IPB about the Global Campaign on Military Spending and will help prepare a short presentation on challenges of military spending. For the past number of years around the period of our milex data launch we have had some collaboration with them.
- A proposal for an arms industry workshop has been written and being submitted to RJ. The hope is to hold a workshop on the 22/23 March 2018.

**Noel reported -**

On working together with Giovanna on EUNPC conference 2017 logistics. Noel assisted Aude with her RJ arms industry workshop proposal by preparing a budget. This week he will be working at the SIPRI Article 36 conference in Stockholm.

**Sibylle reported -**

- General EUNPC updates – hopefully there will be a new 3-year contract from January with the Consortium. At the moment, there are 4 Institutes within the Consortium (FRS, IISS, PRIF and SIPRI) but now two others want to join, the Italian Institute of International Affairs IAI and the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-proliferation VCDNP. There is no decision yet because it has to be approved by all 28 member states. If it is to be 6 members it will mean projects being divided up differently. All 6 institutes are meeting in Brussels on 26 September to see if a tentative agreement can be presented to EU member states in early October. The question was raised on what would be interesting for SIPRI? Previously, the assumption was SIPRI would continue to do the publication series and the helpdesk. We are organising the conference this year but the default option is it goes back to IISS but in the light of Brexit they may have to hand it over, and the Italians have volunteered to step in. However, the division of tasks is yet to be decided. The question was raised and discussed on should we continue

to do the managing of the publications and the helpdesks? Joey responded that on the editorial end it is fine.

- On the Dutch MFA grant – they want to publish on their website. Feedback has been asked for by COB today.
- On the UD funding – ideas to be discussed at SMT with a drafting for the next proposal for 2 years.
- UD – SIPRI have put in some bids for end of the year money but nothing is known yet as the process has been delayed.

**Next meeting A&D cluster meeting - 10 October.**