

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

SIPRI - Armament and Disarmament cluster meeting
Solna, 23 August 2017

MINUTES

Participants

Sibylle Bauer, Aude Felurant, Mark Bromley, Vincent Boulanin, Maaike Verbruggen, Vitaly Fedchenko, Shannon Kile, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman, Nan Tian, Alexandra Kuimova, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, , Young Ju Yun, Juyoung Lee, Noel Kelly

Agenda

- Report back from SMT
- Update on on-going and future funding proposals and decisions
- Report back on recent and upcoming activities of cross-cluster relevance
- Stockholm Security Conference 2017 (13-15 Sep)
- EUNPC Conference 2017 (12-13 Dec) - Brussels
- Contribution to MTCT compendium for 30th anniversary at October plenary in Dublin.
- Date of next meeting

SMT – report back from Sibylle

The Africa proposal is going to be taken forward by representatives from different clusters. Nan is representing the A&D cluster and Gregory and Marina the other two. This is based on a proposal put together by Gregory some time ago and anyone who wants to know more in our cluster should contact.

The recruitment process for a nuclear weapons senior researcher is on going. The candidates are: Nobuo Hyashi, Nikita Perfiliev, Tytti Erasto and Petr Topychkanov. Those attending the seminars by the candidates are encouraged to ask broader questions.

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Job descriptions were discussed again by SMT and Dan will circulate a document to all staff for guidance. (This has been done)

The implementation of the UD grant and current progress was discussed by SMT. Sibylle will convey back to SMT updates from the A&D cluster staff working on this.

UD Black Sea project – main outcome: publications and workshop. Siemon reported - they are working on the first of six country papers – these are 8-12 page SIPRI backgrounders. Bulgaria is first (working on now with draft due the end of August), Georgia, Russia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine are the rest. A small workshop meeting will be planned for the beginning of December.

South East Asia - main outcome: A policy paper. This has been started with and is mostly data orientated - draft at the end of October to the editors.

Sub-Saharan Africa - main outcome: A policy paper (maybe Jan 2018). SIPRI have been asked to present findings at UN General Assembly, sometime in October. Nan and Young JU are working on this project and looking at country specific cases.

Twin track initiatives - Shannon – reported on two track 1.5 dialogue initiatives, one with Iran and one with DPRK. Meeting with Iran coming up in the autumn and there is funding from the Norwegian MFA. Meeting with DPRK coming up too, in either Oct/Nov.

Milex spending on nuclear arsenal – Aude reported, this will be in the YB and needs to be done by December. Aude is writing on the U.S. case, Ian Davis is looking at the UK and Julian Cooper at Russia. France is difficult to find data for and more so for China, India, Pakistan and Israel. The plan is to group countries together with substantial information and group those countries where there is little.

Further funding: We don't know yet what UD is willing to fund for an additional grant next year. Sibylle requested the A&D cluster to first think

about ideas that we could propose to UD next year, or even be used for other funding opportunities.

Ian Anthony

Informed the cluster about a current proposal with UD. It was mentioned that a separate discussion is going on with the European security department and the foreign ministry about an intermediate step in the discussion of confidence and security building measures. In Vienna, there is a continuing discussion on how to review the Vienna document. Looking at the principle military security threats over the next 10 years. Ian and Siemon have agreed to exchange information on where they might be overlaps with the Black Sea project.

Ian explained more about the project as follows:

The project proposal currently with UD mentions the current set of confidence security building measures that are on the table in Vienna but the proposals for modification will only make relatively minor but important changes.

- A reduction, in threshold notification about exercises.
- A stronger mechanism for discussing military activities which one country considers being a concern.

Even if they succeed they're not really changing the basic nature of the discussion about a countries security. It was explained, Russia does not engage because there is no incentive in the current process. From Moscow, these proposals all look very one-sided, they produce more information and more obligations for Russia without any reciprocity. The process is really stuck and has been since 2011. If you are going to have progress, you need to change the parameters of the discussion.

The question you would be trying to answer is - what would future CSBM look like? To understand that you need to understand what people are worried about? The intention would be to begin with an analysis of threat perception and move from that to look at what kind of systems, programs, and projects are coming down the line where you might see places of intervention. Over the coming years, as a result of decisions already taken, there are going to be significant new resources available for defence. Spending is going to increase, so the question is what are people going to do with those funds?

Taking a 15-year perspective as NATO is doing, one can see that everything being done now is a preparatory exercise. If you think about NATO's process of adaptation, one is going to see over the next 15 years the introduction into service of technology that is now in development.

Over the next 10-15 years because of the adaption process - are we going to see continuity? Will we see increased use of networking or are we going to see more radical changes due to the introduction of new technologies? If the adaption process moves in this direction what does it mean for CSBMs?

Not just focusing on technology but broader structures already referenced in the original Vienna document. There is basket of issues and we need to see whether you can design CSBM or not?

Ian has been asked to send around the proposal and to maybe have seminar (mentioned again in, AOB).

Black Sea and nuclear project (15 month project from July 2017)

Ian and Vitaly

Vital informed the cluster that this project has started. For many years this area has been considered one of most problematic in the world in terms of illicit trafficking of nuclear material. After the Crimea situation - the security threats changed and the nuclear security regime has changed. This project aims to try and understand what is actually going on with the infrastructure and threats of illicit trafficking? Moreover, the idea is to compare what is going on in that region in terms of nuclear threats 2013-17.

Phase 1: Is risk assessment – until the end of October is desktop research. From November to February, it is interviews. They will write in March and then at the end of April (24-25th) 2018, the plan to hold a conference in Bucharest, Romania. At the conference they will present a draft of study with most of the stakeholders from the region and outside of the region in attendance. They will use the feedback to update their draft and publish the outcome as a SIPRI policy paper. In the fall of 2018, they should brief the key stakeholders on this. In the final stages, the intention is - if they have identified any gaps or risks not covered to promote a dialogue about how to close those gaps – or find new stakeholders, if any? This is an 18-month project and Ian, Vitaly and Juyong Lee are working on this.

Around the table - funding issues anything else up coming?

Tarja - reported

Has been working for SIPRI with Clingendael on a policy brief about how to make the NPT 2020 a success. It's ready and being edited at Clingendael and should be coming out soon.

Tarja is working on the Iran case, especially on the U.S. administration and what they are planning in October, when the deal has to be recertified once more. Tarja has written a historical paper on the 12 years of negotiations and how one should see this.

Tarja is travelling to Mongolia (Ulan Bator) in a week's time. They are worried about developments in North Korea. Furthermore, there are some proposals on Far East nuclear weapons free zones. Tarja will speak about lessons learnt from the Iran deal.

Vincent - reported

Has a proposal together with Lora currently with Carnegie (proposal about - the impact of the development area of autonomy and machine learning on nuclear stability – to what extent are nuclear armed countries investing in the development of autonomy?). They are in the final round for assessment and should get an answer during the second week of September. Should it go through, it would be a 2 year project and provide work and funding for Vincent, Lora and a couple of research assistants.

Events:

Working on an international conference on Article 36 reviews and emerging technologies, being held during 20th-21th September 2017 in Stockholm. The purpose of the conference is to help relevant practitioners to identify, discuss and prepare for the spectrum of challenges associated with the reviews of weapons, means and methods of warfare that build on three key emerging fields of technology, namely:

- Cyber Technologies
- Artificial intelligence and robotics
- Human enhancement technologies

Vincent announced he would be going on parental leave in December.

Vitaly - reported

Apart from the Black Sea nuclear project work he is involved with contributing to a nuclear forensics newsletter – which the U.S. Government and IAEA are keen to continue. There is a good chance it will continue but he needs to discuss with Joey, as there is lot of editorial work.

Shannon – reported

Is busy with dialogue activities coming up in the next few months. On the 4th September, SIPRI has a visiting delegation from the Institute of International Studies in Tehran, including the President who is also the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran. Shannon will discuss details with Dan.

Alexandra – reported

Is continuing to work with Siemon on the UD Black Sea project. Participating in a SIPRI hosted meeting with Swedish students along with Jakob, Siemon and Nan to talk about military security, SIPRI and our work.

Kolja - reported

Continuing the work with Mark. Mentioned proposals in the pipeline to Australia and UNSCAR. Still pursuing the Australia International Development Fund for funding to do some further work on ATT assistance. This and UNSCAR is discussed further by Mark later in this meeting (see further down).

Pieter W - reported

AMEX core work continues and preparations for data launches are underway. There is also external project work that needs to be done, including various UD projects and Clingendael work and possible UNIDIR work coming up.

Nan – reported

Apart from the general core work, it was reported that work is being done to substantially revising the South American milex data. Off budget and extra budgetary funding has been found and this will increase the level of general South American milex spending reported. From there, the hope is to write a policy paper, regarding the sources and where the information came from? How this was this funded? What it was spent on and the impact? This

potentially could be part of project proposal – maybe for next years UD fundind.

Travel: Nan will be representing SIPRI at a NATO building integrity conference in D.C. during September (11th-13th). This conference will be looking at transparency and accountability in defence institutions and how NATO tries to support this. This will be linked to the project that Marina is looking to possibly get SIPRI to participate in.

Aude further reported about this project idea to the cluster that Gary and Marina have been circulating. The NATO led project is interesting and about transparency but the deliverables are in December and includes having to make interviews with 19 countries, either by phone or travelling, and also the total funding is small. Time and capacity constraints currently make participation difficult.

Maaike – reported

Is working on the Article 36 conference with Vincent and also working on preparing for September's Stockholm Security Conference.

Maaike announced - she is to leave SIPRI and move to Brussels in November to undertake a PhD. The topic will be similar to what Maaike has worked on here in at SIPRI, looking at autonomy in a broad perspective, especially European interest in it.

Aude - reported

Outside of the UD work, Clingendael and core work already mentioned we are committed to write a paper on the Japanese arms industry with KIET and they will write a paper about the Korean arms industry in return. On October 18th, Siemon will travel to Seoul and present at a conference the developments in industry and how government-to-government deals work.

SIPRI Arms Industry Workshop – 22-23rd March 2018

The invitations are being sent but we need to prepare a budget and plan content. What to do with our data? We are hoping to get this funded by RJ.

Siemon - reported

We are also committed to working on a corruption project with Sam but currently no funding yet.

December 6-8th, there will be Black Sea workshop in SIPRI. Once there is a draft agenda it be sent around the cluster.

Mark - reported

Fundraising – Kolja mentioned the applications to Australia and UNSCAR. They're both additional work on the ATT assistance-mapping database. For Australia, it's to further expand the mapping of Asia to include the pacific region and to produce a background paper. For UNSCAR, it's to expand it to include the Middle East and North Africa. They hope to hear back about both of these in October. UNIDIR approached SIPRI requesting we bid for work they want commissioned on overlaps between the UN register and ATT reporting instrument and also PoA and firearms protocol recording instrument. A bid has been submitted and it would be a mix of work for the DUAT and AMEX programmes and also Lina who has previously done work on the firearms protocol.

Activities –

September 11-15th, **Third Conference of States Parties (CSP3)**

Mark and Sibylle are attending a side event with the Swedish government being organised looking at ATT implementation in Asia. They will be speakers from Japan and hopefully Malaysia and Kazakhstan.

Other project work is continuing, including the UNIDIR funded project to expand the assistance-mapping database to cover South East Asia and East Asia (working with Kolja and Giovanna).

The work for EXBS on intangible technology transfers - the plan is to do do a seminar for this but with current workload this will be pushed back to late January and early February.

Sibylle – reported

Sibylle represented SIPRI on visit to Hiroshima in early August. UNIDIR and PRIO were also there. For those interested, Sibylle can send documentation and papers from the event. Sibylle also gave a presentation that Shannon and Tarja helped prepare on bridging the gap between nuclear states and non-nuclear states. There were follow up discussions with the Governor. If the Governor is re-elected then a possibility of continuing future collaboration with SIPRI is hoped for.

Meeting with Dr Hans Atzpodien about German defence industry. It was good discussion but noted the German defence industry is weary of SIPRI but wants to do some bridge building. Atzpodien has a genuine research interest so worth keeping up the contact for now.

The Dutch Project – The report has been sent and we have received positive feedback since this cluster meeting.

Stockholm Security Conference

Mark – has organised a panel together with UNLYRIC on urban violence in Latin America. All panellists are confirmed.

Alfredo Malaret and Manuel Martinez are the two people coming from UNLYRIC. It has been suggested to others from within the cluster and especially AMEX to meet with Alfredo and Manuel when they are here at the conference.

Maaike – reported for their session ‘artificial intelligence for law enforcement’ all panellists are confirmed.

Ian Antony - will be involved in three sessions with all panellist confirmed for Urban warfare, Protection of civilians, and European approaches to reduction of radicalisation leading to violent extremism

Pieter - will be participating in a panel on Middle East but not sure of the exact title or panel just yet.

Vincent - requested that following the Stockholm Security Conference – we provide some feedback on lessons learnt from the event. It will be an agenda item at our next A&D cluster meeting.

EUNPC Conference

Giovanna and Sibylle reported - information to the cluster about developments towards organising the next EUNPC conference. In July, there was an extension of the Council Decision to finance the conference, in August the contract was signed, and SIPRI is tasked with the organisation of this conference. The conference will be held in Brussels on 12-13th December at the Egmont Palace. We have booked accommodation for guests and now content needs to be organised, with participants and agenda. Since funding has been cut, and the process is late, the expected number of participants is around 150. Feedback from this group on sessions would be welcome but we need to wait until after the EU meeting and their determination of the agenda.

MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime)

The German PoC for the MTCR has approached Sibylle regarding a SIPRI contribution to the MTCR compendium, at the occasion of the 30th MTCR anniversary at the October plenary in Dublin. If people have specific suggestions for contributions please inform Sibylle. Kolja from DUAT programme has offered to prepare something. Contributions will be by research institutes of participating states, not governments. Deadline is 30 September.

AOB

Ian Anthony has been asked to organise a seminar to talk more about his UD proposal discussed in this cluster meeting, as there is an interest to learn more.

Next meeting: September 19th at 9.30am in conference room.