

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 4 October 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Lora Saalman, Andrea Varisco, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, Shannon Kile, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Marksteiner, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman, Alexandra Kuimova, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Nivedita Raju, Nikos Politis, Alexandra Manolache, Nils Erik Danielsson

Agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

- Including a report on recent Twitter results – Shannen Young

- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
- SSC 2021
- Report from A&D Programmes/Team (by PD or nominated team member)
- Updates from P&D and CP&S Clusters (Martina, and welcome Johanna!!!)
- Presentation - Alexandra Kuimova and Siemon Wezeman will present about a recent topical backgrounder ' Transfers of major arms to Afghanistan between 2001 and 2020'
- AOB

Updates from Operations

We are fast approaching the end of 2021 and Operations wanted to reach out and help in preparations for December 31.

1. Please make sure that any suppliers/consultants that are under contract for *this year* are aware that they *must* submit their invoices - dated in 2021 - no later than December 31, 2021. All invoices must be submitted as *one* pdf-file (incl. any and all supporting documents) to invoices@sipri.org.
2. If you have any publications that will be edited and peer reviewed in 2021 *but not printed until 2022*, please contact Emma for a quote for the printing and forward that to me and Jenny (in cc).
3. If you have any suppliers with contracts extending beyond 2021 that will do part of the work in 2021 *but will not be able to send an invoice this year* (this is a worst case scenario, with the best case scenario being that they submit an invoice for work done this year), please contact me or Jenny as soon as possible.
4. If you have funding for a project under the *MFA Strategic grant* for this year that you know you will not be able to absorb (either as salary cover or direct costs), please let me or Jenny know as soon as possible, as any savings may be used elsewhere in the institute (the money cannot be saved until next year so any unspent funds this year will have to be repaid to the Swedish MFA beginning of next year).

Please feel free to get back to Lena or Jenny if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above or any other end-of-year financial matters.

Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

- Alex and Stephanie plan to meet with those teams remaining in A&D about updating pages and this is forthcoming.
- On the subject of Ad hoc commentary pieces a brief information guide on how this process happens is forthcoming.

Shannen Young gave a report on Twitter impressions from the past year with results showing impressive figures for teams from A&D including, nuclear armed forces, milex data, arms transfers and arm industry top 25.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

- EUNPDC – reminder – the annual conference will be on 6-7 December in a hybrid format and the team are just awaiting updates on where it will be.
- Confirmation has been received about the Network meeting and this will be on 26 November in the morning.
- The Next Generation meeting attached to the annual conference will be online but dates to confirmed but will be in mid-December.
- During week 39 board members of the consortium meet to discuss the preparation of a proposal for a 4th Council Decision in support of the EUNPDC project.
- It was again flagged that it is possible to organize another Ad hoc seminar for SIPRI until the end of this contract (mid-May 2022)

- In terms of upcoming events, Sibylle will attend a UNODA fellows visit in Brussels organized by the VCDNP (Vienna Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation) on Friday 8 October.
- FRS on 13 October will host the second part of an Ad hoc seminar on outer space and more specifically towards a common understanding of the risks and threats to safety security and sustainability in outer space.

SMT/Updates - Sibylle

- NIS visit was TBC at the time of meeting, but we learnt this will be held on Tuesday 30 November from 12-4 (starting with lunch).
- The Governing Board meeting usually has an all staff meeting component but TBC in what format this year (meeting are 15-16 November).
- Sibylle will need to report under the broad heading of cyber at the GB meeting. Information about anything cyber related being worked on in this cluster should be shared with Sibylle.
- Information on PADs, covid restrictions and a planned return to the office has been shared but let Sibylle know if any questions.

SSC 2021 – Noel

- The Stockholm Security Conference ‘Battlefields of the Future’ will be held on from 8-11 November, and registration is open. Information was shared about the programme with the cluster and colleagues invited to share among your networks and register for sessions. <<https://www.sipri.org/events/2021/2021-stockholm-security-conference>>

Report on current activity from each Programme/Team (by PD or nominated team member)

Arms Transfers – Andrea Varisco

- The core work remains the priority and the team are working towards collecting data and preparing for the next database update in 2022. Some members also have external project commitments.
- Another webinar on TIVs will be forthcoming by the end of the month and look out for information about this
- New funding applications have been prepared, including one for the Australian Department of Defense focusing on the Asian arms industry (with MILAP/Lucie) and discussed in the cluster meeting last month. A couple more applications were prepared for the UD grant.
- Interest in a recent call from UNSCAR has been express by AT and others should get in touch. <<https://www.un.org/disarmament/unscar/>>

DUAT – Mark

- The team are busy implement various projects but wanted to flag upcoming events they are involved with and due to speak.
- Saferworld got in touch with Andrea about an event they are organizing with CACDA (*China Arms Control and Disarmament Association*) on the arms trade treaty and invited someone from the DUAT team to speak. Giovanna will give a presentation about the SIPRI ATT database and Mark will attend the workshop on 20 October.
- On 17 November, Mark will speak at a workshop: ‘Facial Recognition Technology: Challenges for International Collaboration & Governance’ hosted by Utrecht University. The session Mark

will participate in specifically is about ‘The EU’s ethical and regulatory approaches concerning international collaboration on FR technology’.

- On the 28 October, SIPRI will host a webinar on ‘3D Printing Missiles on Demand? Additive Manufacturing as a Challenge to the Missile Technology Control Regime’ and Kolja will moderate the discussion with Sibylle giving some introductory remarks.
- On 2/3 December, Kolja and Mark were invited to present about a paper recently published on dual-use regulation at ‘The Swedish Update’ it’s where the Swedish companies and licensing authorities come together to discuss export controls. Mark intends to go.

Emerging Military and Security Technologies – Laura

- Vincent and Laura were in Geneva last week (w.39) to attend the GGE meeting on LAWS. It was a nice opportunity to meet with project funders, especially the Swiss and Dutch delegations. The mandate ends in December and the final review will be held during that month.

Nuclear – Shannon

- A concluding webinar on the German Federal Foreign Office funded nuclear risks and challenges in South Asia (China, India, Pakistan) project took place on 29 September, co-hosted by Lora and Petr. It was mainly a discussion about the main findings of this project now concluded.
- Petr will be speaking next week (W.41) on Pakistan national security opportunities and challenges at the National Defense University. He will be talking about emerging technologies and strategic stability.
- On 5 October, Petr will be a special guest for India Forum for Global Studies podcast on the changing contours in India Russia relations beyond the defense realm.
- The team have heard back from the Hiroshima Prefecture who have now formally approved Tytti’s concept note on minimal nuclear deterrence as a basis for multi-lateral nuclear disarmament.
- Tytti has published a new background paper co-authored with Matt Korda titled ‘[Time to factor missile defence into nuclear arms control talks](#)’.
- Tytti is also working on preparing a session for SSC 2021 – ‘*Offence-defence race in space: Missile defence, anti-satellite weapons and nuclear arms control*’.

MILAP – Nan

- Currently in the data input stage as preparations for the arms industry 2019/20 top 100 data release on 6 Dec 2021 continues.
- The project led by Diego about milex spending in post-conflict societies will see a draft Insights paper ‘*Costly legacies: military spending in post-civil conflict settings*’ shortly be circulated by editorial for review. Publication is being planned for early 2022.
- UNSCAR contract should be signed this week for a project titled: ‘Revitalizing the UN Report on Military Expenditures: Leveraging public national government reporting’.
- A new Research Assistant named Xiao Liang will join the MILAP Programme on 1 November.
- MILAP have submitted two project proposals for the UD grant, and these include a project about ‘*milex and government priorities*’ and another about ‘*milex as an early warning mechanism*’. MILAP are happy to discuss these projects further if anyone is interested.

P&D Cluster – Martina

- Travel is beginning again slowly to external meetings and events and some field work is again possible.
- A new report has come out <[*The World Food Programme's Contribution to Improving the Prospects for Peace in Lebanon*](#)> in cooperation with the World Food Programme that looks at WFP's contribution to improving the prospects for peace in Lebanon. It specifically looks at where and how WFP cash-based transfer interventions make potential peace contributions and how this could be further developed.
- The Forum Team are awaiting some feedback and updates from the Swedish MFA about the theme of the 2022 P&D Forum.
- External assessors have completed the assessment of the first eight years of the Stockholm P&D Forum. The findings will be presented to SMT first and then to members of the Swedish MFA. It remains to be seen what impact this process has on new editions of the Forum.

C, P&S Cluster – Johanna

- This meeting was Johanna first cluster meeting attending as a Coordinator on behalf of C, P&S. Nothing further to report today

Presentation – Alexandra Kuimova and Siemon Wezeman

Presentation - Alexandra Kuimova and Siemon Wezeman will present about a recent topical backgrounder [*'Transfers of major arms to Afghanistan between 2001 and 2020'*](#).

- Twenty years of United States-led international military presence in Afghanistan ended on 30 August 2021, with the withdrawal of the last foreign forces. Since 2001, significant numbers of major arms had been delivered to bolster the Afghan military and security forces, in the expectation that they would eventually be able to maintain security and suppress the Taliban insurgency without international support. This was a false expectation as the Afghanistan Government quickly collapsed following United States-led international military withdrawal. Since then, many questions arose in terms of the situation in the country but also with regards to the availability and use of arms left behind by the U.S. and other arms exporters in Afghanistan. Therefore, it was decided to publish this SIPRI backgrounder to provide an overview of the data in the SIPRI arms transfers database. The objective was to give journalists, policymakers, researchers, and the interested public a further awareness of this data for analysis. The backgrounder has been much cited as a reference since publication.

AOB

Next Cluster meeting is on 1 November @14:30pm