



Minute taker: Noel Kelly
Time: 14:30-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 15 March 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Lena Kappelin, Nikos Politis, John Batho, Andrea Eduardo Varisco, Mark Bromley, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, Keith Preble, Vitaly Fedchenko, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes Da Silva, Alexandra Marksteiner, Aloxandra Kuimova, Jordan Smith, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Louise Edgren, Elin Elmgren, José Alvarado,

Agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
- Reports from other Clusters
- Presentation - Giovanna Maletta and Lucile Robin (DUAT) - The use of ODA (*official development assistance*) to support SALW (*Small arms and light weapons*) assistance.
- AOB

Staff Introductions

- Keith Preble has joined the DUAT team as a guest researcher working remotely from U.S. until June.
- Jordan Smiths has joined SIPRI doing an internship with the AMEX programme and more specifically with the AT project.

Updates from Operations – Lena

- If one is planning to go on leave during Easter please remember to finalise timesheets and claims in Maconomy beforehand.
- Lena will speak about the Project Management Tool at the next A&D cluster meeting on Monday 12 April.

Updates from Communications – Stephanie

- The arms transfers data launched on this day is receiving globally wide media coverage and going very well.
- On 15 April, as part of a target arms control initiative, A&D staff are requested to reserve the date. Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN Under-Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs has agreed to participate in a SIPRI event. Communications report that more information will be forthcoming shortly.
- On 16 March, Sibylle along with Andrea and Kolja from the DUAT team will participate and provide evidence in a virtual hearing at the UK Parliament Committees on Arms Export Controls. The organisers are the UK House of Commons, and Committees on Arms Export Controls (CAEC). The main topic of the session is: Enforcement and compliance matters in respect of export controls; Post-shipment verification, including end-use assurances and 'on-site' inspections. Stephanie has highlighted this activity as an example of SIPRI policy impact at its best. Communications will follow up with some after branding about this activity.

Updates from Editorial – Joey

- Nothing to report from Editorial at the moment and communication with the department is good.

Clusters

Peace and Development – Martina

- In terms of the Forum, the number of sessions has been finalised at 61, with a record number of 54 partners for this year. In addition, the agenda is being finalised this week. Behind the scenes the platform is being worked on and this will be open along with registration from 6 April. This time there is a package that allows for more registrations than last year and the organisers are happy for you to share this information with your networks once available.
- On recruitment there is a couple of processes ongoing in P&D, including for a Research Assistant to replace Gulzhan and they are also seeking a Senior Researcher in a peacebuilding position. Information on candidate presentations have been circulated.

- The Cluster Coordinators continue to work together on producing the SIPRI in-house seminar series with more forthcoming during March and April. On Friday 19 March, from the C, P, & S cluster, Timo will present on: *"Strengthening the civilian component of the European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy"*.
- On 16 March, P&D will organise a presentation from the Environment of peace project.

SMT/Sibylle

- A concept note for the Stockholm Security Conference 2021 has been shared with teams - *Battlefield of the Future - Trends of conflict and warfare in the 21st century*. The event will be hosted during week 45 (8Nov-12Nov) so please reserve this time period in your calendars. Luc and Sibylle are working through ideas and want to attach a research agenda in conjunction with this activity. The teams are encouraged to get involved and feedback ideas for sessions to be organised.
- On 23 March, SMT will have another virtual away day meeting to cover a number of issues. One of the issues to be discussed is on diversity and any suggestions on how we should continue to improve in this area are welcome.
- SMT have made a decision to setup a database group and this will be convened by Nan to discuss common challenges faced by those working with databases in SIPRI from the various projects across all clusters. A report will be feedback to SMT.
- The &Frankly survey results were discussed at the A&D team leaders meeting on Thursday 11 March. The results should now be taken forward and discussed among teams and a dedicated A&D cluster discussion will be held on Wednesday 24 March, at 2:30PM.

EUNPDC – report from Giovanna

- Some events were flagged that will be organised in the next months, but we won't lead on them. One such event on 12/13 April is part of an initiative led by IAI/VDNP, targeting young women and students interested in having a career or pursuing research in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. FRS will organise an ad hoc seminar between May/June on BWC and lessons learnt from the pandemic and this will be by invitation only. The dates and more information will come in due course.

Presentation to A&D

The research presentation to the A&D cluster this month was given by Lucile Robin and Giovanna Maletta from the DUAT Programme. This was about the use of ODA (*official development assistance*) to support SALW (*Small arms and light weapons*) assistance and DUAT's related research work and recent report (<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/other-publications/supporting-small-arms-and-light-weapons-controls-through-development-assistance-case-sub-saharan>) published by SIPRI in February. To find out more read the report or contact Giovanna and Lucile for further questions.

AOB

- A dedicated session on blog writing concerning what is involved and why one should think about writing a blog will be organised with Caspar for the A&D cluster.

Next cluster meetings

Wednesday 24 March – &Franky survey discussion with A&D cluster

Monday 12 April @ 2:30PM – General A&D cluster meeting

Blog writing session - TBC