

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:15-15:15PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 12 April 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Stephanie Blenckner, Nikos Politis, Joey Fox, Andrea Varisco, Mark Bromley, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, Keith Preble, Vitaly Fedchenko, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes Da Silva, Alexandra Marksteiner, Alexandra Kuimova, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Louise Edgren, Elin Elmgren,

Agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
- Reports from other Cluster colleagues
- Presentation - Vitaly Fedchenko - Social construction of nuclear technologies
- AOB

Updates from Operations – Nikos

- Nothing to report this month.

Updates from Communications – Stephanie

- The work being done by various teams within the A&D cluster to improve and update the project pages is much appreciated by Outreach/Communications. The SIPRI website has over 2,700 on average views per day, so the continual effort to promote the work on-line is well worth it.

Updates from Editorial – Joey

- For A&D the Editorial team are working on material towards the milex launch on April 26.
- Editors are working on finishing up a new paper by Tytti '[The Arms Control – Regional Nexus in the Middle East](#)' being published in April.
- Going into May the major task will be sending the Yearbook to the indexer. Work is being typeset right now and proofs sent to the authors in due course. Look out for messages.
- Editors will also be working in May on a big report from Vincent and team about autonomous weapons systems and IHL.
- It was noted by Joey and Stephanie that the A&D staff are doing a good job with getting in touch with regards outlines for work being planned for various projects.

Clusters

- Nothing further to report at the moment from the Conflict, Peace and Security cluster.
- From Peace & Development - most of the energy is now focussed on delivering the Forum happening from 4-7 May. Check your e-mail for information sent by the organisers and please register in good time and share information with your networks.

SMT/Sibylle

- Due to the Forum, we will push our May cluster meeting back a week to May 10. Moreover, we hope to have presentation from SIPRI Associate Researcher Nivedita Raju on her outer space work.
- We have a lot of activities coming up and key dates are in the armament & disarmament Zimbra calendar. The link was circulated once again, and staff were reminded to accept the calendar share.
- Key dates further highlighted was the upcoming event on April 14 @ 3:00PM on 'Perspectives on the arms control agenda in 2021' with:
 - **HE Izumi Nakamitsu**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
 - **Major General (Retd) Yao Yunzhu**, Academic Committee Member, Center for International Security and Strategy (CISS), Tsinghua University
 - **Dr Andrey Kortunov**, Director General, Russian International Affairs Council. Watch the discussion live here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaenti3lwDI>

- On Thursday April 15, there will be a brown bag seminar @12:00noon from the milex project team previewing the findings for the upcoming data launch.
- On Friday April 16, the SIPRI in-house seminar will be a presentation from the Environment of Peace project.
- On Thursday April 22, the Arms transfers team will host a UAV/TIV seminar session. This seminar will be the first of several where to present and discuss modern conventional arms, their roles in the modern battlespace and how to 'fix' their value for our statistical purposes.
- On Friday April 23, A&D will host an in-house seminar with Tarja on her recent new book '*Renegotiating the Nuclear Order – A Sociological Approach*'.

Keep an eye on the A&D Zimbra calendar for future key event dates.

EUNPDC

- Although not confirmed by the date of this meeting there are plans for an ad hoc seminar on issues related to biological weapons split into two parts. FRS are organising it, with the first part planned for Monday May 3, and the second part possibly on June 7(TBC). Other future ad hoc seminars referenced include, one on outer space issues with the first part in July and the second in October. SIPRI are responsible for organising the second part of the disarmament education seminar with a time to be confirmed in June. If interested let Sibylle know, and she will confirm the dates.

&Frankly

- Following up from what Joakim reported at the MMM. It was decided the best way forward was those action points one has noted down but didn't covey you send to Noel who will compile for everybody else and then share them. The three categories:
 1. For oneself (if you want to share).
 2. For the Cluster.
 3. More broadly for the institute.

Presentation to A&D

- Presentation - Vitaly Fedchenko - Social construction of nuclear technologies. The presentation began with an overview of how SIPRI used to cover technologies and not just nuclear but the general impact of technologies on the IR field. The important point made was this used to be considered a one-way street, with a black box of technology having an impact on the international system. This was not just SIPRI of course but the consensus for many years of how technologies impacted IR in general. During the 1980s we saw sociologists consider the question of, do artifacts have politics? This discussion led to the realization that it is not a one-way street and the conversation developed into what later became known as the social construction of technology. Artifacts and technology impact the social but at the same time the social interactions around them shape the artifacts and technologies as well. The realization set up a large sub-field STS (science and technology studies) within the study of sociology. Vitaly

went over the different schools of thought and has shared his slides from this presentation attached with these notes.

Next cluster meetings

Monday 10 May @ 2:30PM – General A&D cluster meeting