

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 7 June 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Lora Saalman, Andrea Varisco, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, Keith Preble, 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

Agenda

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

- Presentation - Lena Kappelin and Nikos Politis - 'the project planning tool'

- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
- Report from other Cluster colleagues
- Discussion - 'Tour de table' with all teams and catching up before the summer break (no cluster meeting in July). What are immediate priorities? What are the team plans for the rest of this year ahead?
- AOB

Updates from Outreach – Steph

- The continuous work on the A&D webpages is appreciated with the nuclear pages now prepared and to be updated before the summer. Staff are advised to let Communications know if any commentaries or pieces are on the agenda before summer. There will be no proactive dissemination in July or the first week of August. Outreach will be in a reactive mode if needed. More information will come on this. The Outreach team are now looking forward to the nuclear forces data launch on June 14.

Updates from Editorial – John

- The Yearbook chapters have been typeset for the indexer and these will be sent out to various authors over the next few days. Look out for these and as always deadlines will be tight.

Updates from Operations – Lena

- A reminder that summer vacation time is approaching, and staff availability will be limited. Lena will be off from July 2. Any concepts notes or applications beforehand then let Lena know as soon as possible.

Presentation - Lena and Nikos - ‘Project Planning’

- In 2020 Operations developed a ‘Planning Management Tool’ using Excel and introduced this tool to all teams. It was to help guide project managers to think about all the different components that go into planning and implementing a project and monitoring the progress. One does not have to use this tool specifically, but one must plan and have a plan for carrying out project work. There are Gantt charts or web-based tools such as Trello but whatever is used a structured plan must exist. What are the deliverables? When are the deliverables? Who is doing what and when? A kick-off planning meeting is a must for all new projects and making sure all constituents involved in a project are represented is most important. Potential upcoming work must be flagged well in advance before submitting a proposal. Please be realistic when planning – do not over promise but plan accordingly. If doing a proposal for the first time, there are many colleagues to ask for advice including the Grants Manager.

‘Planning Management Tool’ - Nikos

‘Failure to plan, is planning to fail’

- Operations tried to develop the way we operate since we do work with projects in many ways doing not only research work but working with finances and reporting. The rationale behind the tool was based on some of the most recognised methodologies in international project management. Planning is not a one-time process with a planning meeting but is a constant process that goes on until the project is finished. Planning a project is not just to do with time but it has a scope, it has a cost, and a schedule and a project plan puts all these components together. Decomposing a project and breaking down the detail is essential in designing a good plan. Creating a project schedule is essential because this helps communicate what should be done, mobilizes resources, helps identify deviations from the plan and is used for progress reporting.

- Nikos went over the Excel based PMT tool once again which a lot of technical assistance from Operations went into during the initial setup. Operations wanted to make it as simple and user friendly a tool as possible where nothing is more complicated than putting in an entry date and end date of the actual effort. Operations are also available to offer any technical support that is needed. We are not obliged to use this tool as long as we plan, and we can handle the information needed. However, experience shows it is advantageous to have a common tool. It is not enough to plan and monitor projects, but we need to go some levels deeper and be able to aggregate not only at the project level and programme level but at the cluster level and even the institute or staff level. To manage our projects correctly and improve operationally it would be important to be able to aggregate the same information and therefore using a common tool based on a sound and tested methodology.

EUNPDC

- FRS (Foundation for Strategic Research) are starting an activity that was included during the recent extension of the contract on creating an interactive website and platform for members of the Network. The idea is to share information and sources in a more effective way. A survey has been circulated to all Network members requesting inputs on what this platform could look like and will also be circulated to A&D colleagues.
- The reporting period about the 3rd year of the project is almost done with the financial report and narrative being finalized this week.
- Work on publications remain ongoing including papers forthcoming before the summer break on *Effective and comprehensive CBRN security risk management in the 21st century* authored by Tatyana Novossiолова and Maurizio Martellini - and *Comparison of national reviews of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon* by Michal Onderco and Andrea Farres.
- Under the umbrella of the EUNPDC an upcoming event organised by SIPRI about non-proliferation and disarmament and arms control education is taking place on 28 June. This follows up on a similar event SIPRI organised last year. The aim is to gather those Network members who have an affiliation with a university and the focus first will take stock of distance teaching during the pandemic. A more substantive session will be looking at curricula and whether what is being taught on arms control is up to date. Those interested in joining should let Sibylle and Luke know.

SMT/Sibylle

- SIPRI will co-host the 2021 Odessa summer school on Nonproliferation happening from 25-29 August. The application call has been circulated.
- The SMT have started to discuss ideas for the SIPRI 2022 lecture and staff are invited to give suggestions.
- On TIV seminars there are plans for further sessions about submarines and combat aircraft. It was reported the seminar on submarines will happen during week 24.

- Covid planning – The latest information about the NPT Review Conference is it is postponed again until 2022. This gives a good indication of what is likely to happen with other big conferences and meetings.
- There will be an A&D SSC planning meeting on Wednesday 9 June at 3:00PM.

Clusters

- Nothing further to report from the Conflict, Peace and Security cluster or from the Peace & Development cluster today.

Presentation to A&D

- Discussion - 'Tour de table' with all teams and catching up before the summer break (no cluster meeting in July). What are immediate priorities? What are the team plans for the rest of this year ahead?

DUAT

- In terms of priorities, members of the DUAT team are in the process of undertaking interviews and drafting a policy paper related to their ATT project, with a deadline for a draft to be ready by 18 June.
- On 23 June, Giovanna will be involved in a [Project Divert](#) webinar organized by FPI (Flemish Peace Institute), a project to which DUAT contributed during 2019/20.
- On 1 May, DUAT officially started two new projects, one on 'Transfer of military equipment through a European Peace Facility: preventing diversion and misuse' that will end in April 2022, and one on 'Reducing the illicit small arms trade in sub-Saharan Africa: identifying gaps in assistance and investigating the main sources and challenges of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW)' that will end in December 2022. Both project are at the very early stages. The team are currently examining sources and looking at a literature review. DUAT plan to speak with the AT team during this week about it and will reach out to other colleagues in-house working on similar issues including Timo and Jair and colleagues in the West Africa/Sahel team.
- The DUAT project about the humanitarian impact of sanctions on Iran will see output shortly. Kolja and Keith are building on the work done last year on the DPRK by Kolja.
- The MTCR project started on 1 May and is running until December 2022. This 20-month project aims to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current situation of the MTCR as a cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime for missiles and other WMD delivery systems

MILAP

- Over the course of the next couple of months MILAP have two key projects that are being prioritized. Diego is leading a project funded by UD about understanding milex spending in post-conflict societies. A draft of a report must be completed by October 2021 with final publishing due in January 2022.
- The UNSCAR project 2021-22 work started in week 22 and will continue over the summer. The goal of this project will be to promote and support the operation and further development of the UN Report on Military Expenditures (UNMILEX).

- On the 23 June, Nan will be presenting at an event organised with SIPRI, PRIO, and the East West Center during the Jeju Forum. The session title is given as ‘Understanding, promoting and achieving peace’.
- The database working group will meet before the summer and discuss further similarities and issues for programmes and projects working with databases. The plan is to then report back to SMT.
- On 1 September Lucie will return to work with MILAP.
- The AT team are trying to move ahead with their development of the database but are waiting on IT to get the database prototype received from the developers working during this week (w.23). Once it is ready the team will start running through it and testing. This week will also be the last opportunity before summer leave for an input of new data.
- Week 24 is the last week the team are all together over the summer as leave gets underway.

Nuclear team

- The nuclear team plans include Petr and Lora will be completing the South Asia project during the autumn. They are also considering a follow-on project based on their previous work.
- Tytti plans to draft a proposal for the Hiroshima Prefecture and next year’s report.
- Tytti is also trying to identify funders for a larger research proposal based on the topic of missile defence and outer space.
- Tarja’s immediate plans include working on two articles related to her book recently published on ‘Renegotiating the Nuclear Order: A Sociological Approach’.

Emerging military and security technologies

- During this month Laura and Vincent are finalising their report on autonomous weapons systems and IHL. The report is scheduled to be published on 16 June. There will be an invitation only on-line briefing event on the 29 June. They hope to do an in-house seminar for SIPRI as just before or just after the summer leave period.
- Luke is working on blog post related to the topic of AI. Luke is also helping Sibylle with the EUNPDC non-proliferation and disarmament education seminar.
- The team are also working on three proposals for SSC 2021 sessions, including on;
 - 1) How to ensure IHL compliance in future conflicts?
 - 2) Urban warfare, military doctrine, and technologies
 - 3) The human mind as a battlefield.
- A concept note, for a follow up report on autonomous weapons systems focusing on individual and state responsibilities is in circulation. The team expect to hear from donors within the next month.

Next cluster meetings

- Monday 16 August @ 2:30PM – A&D cluster meeting.