



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 16 August 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Mark Bromley, Andrea Varisco, Kolja Brockmann, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Marksteiner, Siemon Wezeman, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Nivedita Raju, Nikos Politis, Alexandra Manolache, Martina Selmi, John Batho

Agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
- Anything to report from A&D teams to the cluster?
- Report from other Cluster colleagues
- Presentation - Tytti Erästö - will speak about a recent report on the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons).
- Exchange on virtual/physical/hybrid events going forward: lessons learned, things to keep in mind, what's the current state of play
- AOB

Update from Operations

- The cluster were reminded about the recent call from the Australian DoD – strategic policy grants 2022 with a deadline for applications being 22 August (Sunday) meaning a deadline of 20 August (Friday) in SIPRI. Get in touch with Lena if applying or planning to ASAP.

Update from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

- Editorial reminded the cluster to get in touch before you start planning for future publications with SIPRI.
- Outreach have reminded the A&D cluster to keep them informed of any changes needed for the website involving projects and that research is still valid. There are plans to give further media training during the fall.

Update from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

- SMT will have a longer meeting this week spread over two days on 17/18 August, and Sibylle will brief the team leaders meeting on Thursday 19 August, and again at the next cluster meeting on 6 September.
- For EUNPDC there is not much to report as it has been quite over the summer. There has been contact with IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali) as planning towards the annual conference in December continues. Currently it is being planning as a hybrid meeting.

Staff updates

- Mark has returned from leave as Programme Director of DUAT.
- Andrea Varisco will take over as the Programme Director for the Arms Transfers Programme (provisional name).
- Current SIPRI Associate Researcher Nivedita (Nivi) Raju will join us in a fulltime capacity from 1 October here in Stockholm as an outer space expert researcher.
- Lucy returns from leave as Programme Director of MILAP in early September while acting Director Elisabteh Sköns is with us for another 3 weeks.
- The recruitment for a Research Assistant to MILAP is ongoing.
- Vitaly Fedchenko is now formally part of the A&D cluster. Vitaly is the expert responsible for nuclear security issues and the political, technological, and educational dimensions of nuclear arms control and non-proliferation.

Report from A&D teams to the cluster

- AT – Siemon – the AT database redevelopment process is ongoing with programmers working on it. This is supposed to be ready by end of 2021. Andrea will consult with Siemon on an idea for putting in a proposal responding to the recent call from the Australian DoD – strategic policy grants 2022.
- MILAP – There are plans to have a brainstorming session with the Belgian Strategic Goods unit. They reached out to have a conversation about how SIPRI defines the arms industry. What are the boundaries? This fits well with current work as the team are now in the phase of data collection.
- Diego is preparing talking points for Jan Eliasson taking part in a meeting about military expenditure reductions soon.

Emerging Technologies – The team are in between projects now and waiting to hear back. Laura will present at the next cluster meeting about recent report published in June on the subject of autonomous weapons and IHL.

<<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/other-publications/autonomous-weapon-systems-and-international-humanitarian-law-identifying-limits-and-required-type>>.

- DUAT – The most recent publication from team was Kolja writing on EU sanctions and Iran. Koja is also working on a project about the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime). The team have paper deliverables due from the end of August until the end of December related to a project on the Arms Trade treaty (ATT). This includes the publication of five papers coming in August and involving external authors. DUAT are further working project related to post-shipment controls and taken a survey that will lead to a publication by the end of the year. Projects linked to the ATT database are in progress for which data is being collected and will be further reported on by the end of the year. A project on the European Peace Facility has been undertaken by Giovanna. A paper on the EU dual-use regulation by Kolja and Mark will be coming out in September under the EUNPDC desk paper series. Mark and Kolja are considering put a proposal together on China's export controls responding to the recent call from the Australian DoD – strategic policy grants 2022.
- Nuclear team -Tytti – Before the summer holiday period the team had a meeting with FAS about potential project collaboration on missile defence issues and space issues. Tytti is working on this next and further planning to work with Matt Korda on a paper related to the topic and process for organising is underway.

A new project with the Hiroshima Prefecture is currently undergoing planning.

Petr reported on the South Asia project activities. It has entered the final period with briefs being sent to the editors. At the end of September there are plans to have a presentation event. Petr wanted to draw attention to an event being organised by UNIDIR in the next week '2021 Innovations Dialogue: Deepfakes, Trust and International Security', and Petr will have a presentation based on previous project related to AI and strategic stability.

Report from other Cluster colleagues

- Peace and Development – Martina – Two new colleagues have arrived within this past week. Kyungmee Kim will be working as a Researcher with SIPRI's Climate change & risk programme (CCR). Jonathan Hall has arrived as a Senior Researcher on Peacebuilding within the SIPRI Peace and Development research area. Furthermore, the process for hiring a senior researcher within CCR is underway.

The Environment of Peace team are prepping for the visit of Per Bolund, a Swedish politician for the Green Party. He has served as Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and as Minister for the Environment since February 2021, and has been co-spokesperson of the Green Party since May 2019.

On the 2022 Stockholm Forum for P&D, some dates during next May are currently under discussion but this should be decided soon.

Presentation

Tytti Erästö - presented about a recent report on the TPNW and discussed the recommendations within. To find out more read the report (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons).

https://europeecologie.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Nuclear-Disarmament_A-Fresh-Breeze.pdf

Exchange on virtual/physical/hybrid events going forward: lessons learned, things to keep in mind, what's the current state of play?

- It will be interesting to note when people are getting invitations to physical meetings again or in which form? Are they hybrid or just completely virtual? On hybrid events this is process that is still developing but we will probably be expected to organise such events going forward.

Staff are reminded to keep others informed as to the type of meeting invitations now being received.

On future budget planning for meetings – what must one now consider? Does one budget now for physical meetings or for hybrid? What costs are involved?

The situation remains in flux and is changing rapidly. Some staff have received invitations to possible physical meetings, but these meetings are either being put back or cancelled. Other events are very limited to the number of representatives an organisation can send.

In terms of hybrid, we have not had much internal experience to date. Nothing is completely physical yet in the international sphere.

Large conferences with states have been mostly virtual with some examples of hybrid events.

AOB

The next cluster meeting is on Monday 6 September