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

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 6 September 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, Pranav Satyanath

Agenda

A&D cluster meeting agenda

- Updates from Operations

- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

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

- Updates from P&D and CP&S Clusters

- Presentation - Laura Bruun - will speak about a recent report on 'Autonomous Weapon Systems and International Humanitarian Law: Identifying Limits and the Required Type and Degree of Human – Machine Interaction'

- AOB

Updates from Operations

Work on planning the SIPRI budget for next year has begun. Lena will soon be in contact with Programme Directors to arrange meetings and discuss what is funded for next year and what the plans are for next year. Maria will have to send the planned to budget to the Governing Board ahead of their meeting. The deadline for sending documents to the Board is beginning of November and backtracking from there we are looking for a deadline at the end of September to have heard back from teams.

Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

- Especially for the latest new arrivals to SIPRI an introductory session to Outreach will be hosted on Friday, 10 September from 11:00-13:00PM.
- The calendar is filling up for the editors with most things coming out in November as there are only two weeks available in December. In terms of scheduling get in touch with Joey for the print publications and with Stephanie for the on-line.
- The website is directed by what our external audience want to hear about SIPRI on the topics being worked on. Teams in a new configuration don't need to change the topic of the website but rather your title, biography and personal staff page will change. If things need to be updated and added to in terms of topics, then development is possible but there is no need to break up structural pages. There is no such thing as a programme page at SIPRI. The website is about the issues. We have an average of 3,000 visitors to our SIPRI website each day.

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

Arms Transfers – Alexandra Kuimova

- AT reported on some past, present, and future activities within the programme. In addition, some DUAT related work activity on the ATT was highlighted on behalf of Andrea.
- The updated of the AT database remains in progress with delivery due in December.
- In-house seminars on various weapons systems and TIVs continues, and all are invited to the next one which will be about SALW on Tuesday, 14 September @10:00am.
- In terms of fundraising an application was recently sent to the Australian MOD for a project monitoring arms transfers to the Indo-pacific region.
- The team are still awaiting communication back about an UNSCAR funding application.
- On the 3 September a topical backgrounder on Transfers of major arms transfers to Afghanistan between 2001 and 2020.
- Carina Solmirano of ATT Monitor was in touch in relation to a project the ATT Monitor will be conducting later this year looking at arms transfers data over the past five years.

DUAT – Andrea/Mark

- SIPRI recently published five preparatory papers for the ATT project Taking stock of the Arms Trade Treaty: The first six years and the way forward. See https://www.sipri.org/events/2021/taking-stock-arms-trade-treaty-first-six-years-and-way-forward for further information.

- DUAT are involved in many different projects, including work being done for the UD grant and Giovanna is involved as a lead on a project highlighted for European Peace Facility (EPF) looking at SALW in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Kolja's project on the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is moving forward with publications in the pipeline for Nov/Dec.
- A German funded project on post-shipment controls will include a policy brief as the next output.
- In terms of fundraising the DUAT team are trying to put together a proposal for the Australian MOD examining the way strategic trade controls and multilateral regimes are being affected by Geo-political tensions and advances in technologies. It is planned to try and move forward on it this week and circulating to those in-house interested to give comments or work on this.

Emerging Military and Security Technologies – Vincent

- Currently in a transition phase between projects and working on funding proposals. Laura who is presenting about a recent report on 'Autonomous Weapon Systems and International Humanitarian Law' today for a project it is hoped can continue and funding is being sought. The next phase of the project would look at the issue of human responsibility and examining existing regimes for individual criminal responsibility and state responsibility for international law violations.
- On a different topic a proposal is being put together for a project related to the governance of AI and responsible innovation. This is aimed to be a three-year EU funded project in collaboration with UNODA.
- In partnership with the UNODA funding has been secured for a short project (starting in Oct) funded by the Republic of Korea also on the topic of responsible innovation.

MILAP – Lucie

- Currently busy collecting data for the arms industry top 100 lunching in Dec 2021.
- The team is working on a project about military spending in post-conflict societies and are currently at the writing stage.
- A project funded by the Australian Department of Defense focusing on the Asian arms industry is at the planning stage with Lucie and Siemon working together on it and data collection will start shortly. A new research assistant has been hired to help and will start on 1 November.
- In terms of fundraising the team are waiting on a response from (DEFIS) Directorate General for Defense of the EU Commission for a project about the arms industry in Europe.
- Diego will give a talk on 22 September at the Global Actors for Peace Conference 2021 in a session titled Measuring Peace: Principles, Practices and Politics.
- Nan is recording himself for a lecture on milex to be given at The George Washington University and will be live for a Q&A session on 6 October.

Nuclear – Shannon

- The nuclear pages were updated thanks to Tytti's initiative, and they are no longer about the programme per se but rather covers thematic issues.

- The German Federal Foreign Office funded nuclear risks and challenges in South Asia (China, India, Pakistan) project is coming to an end. A concluding webinar will take place on 29 September.
- Several project proposals are moving forward including further project work with the Hiroshima Prefecture will move forward as planned.
- Tytii is peaking today at an event organized by the European Parliament about treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Updates from P&D and CP&S Clusters

- Nothing extra after report at MMM.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

- (check minutes of SMT nothing further in this meeting on EUNPDC).

Presentation – Laura Bruun

Laura Bruun - presented about a recent report on ['Autonomous Weapon Systems and International Humanitarian Law: Identifying Limits and the Required Type and Degree of Human – Machine Interaction'](#)

Compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) is recognized as a critical benchmark for assessing the acceptability of autonomous weapon systems (AWS). However, in certain key respects, how and to what extent existing IHL rules provide limits on the development and use of AWS remains either subject to debate or underexplored.

This report aims to help states form and express their views on the legal provisions that already do, or should, govern the development and use of AWS, particularly with respect to the required type and degree of human–machine interaction. It maps (*a*) what limits IHL already places on the development and use of AWS; (*b*) what IHL demands from users of AWS to perform and satisfy IHL obligations, whether the obligations are of a state, an individual or both; and (*c*) threshold questions concerning the type and degree of human–machine interaction required for IHL compliance.

In its findings and recommendations, the report does not pre-judge the policy response that should regulate AWS. Instead, it aims to provide an analytical framework for states and experts to assess how the normative and operational framework regulating the development and use of AWS may need to be clarified and developed further.

AOB

Next Cluster meeting is on 4 October @14:30pm