

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 1 November 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Lora Saalman, Andrea Varisco, Kolja Brockmann, Giovanna Maletta, Laura Robin, Shannon Kile, Tytti Erästö, Petr Topychkanov, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Marksteiner, Alexandra Kuimova, Laura Bruun, Luke Richards, Nivedita Raju, Nikos Politis, Alexandra Manolache, Nils Erik Danielsson

Agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC
- SSC 2021
- Report from A&D Programmes/Team (by PD or nominated team member)
- Updates from P&D and CP&S Clusters
- Presentation - by Giovanna, 'Transfer of military equipment through a European Peace Facility: risks of diversion and misuse'.
- AOB

Updates from Operations

As in October the cluster were reminded of the following:

1. Please make sure that any suppliers/consultants that are under contract for *this year* are aware that they *must* submit their invoices - dated in 2021 - no later than December 31, 2021. All invoices must be submitted as *one* pdf-file (incl. any and all supporting documents) to invoices@sipri.org.
2. If you have any publications that will be edited and peer reviewed in 2021 *but not printed until 2022*, please contact Emma for a quote for the printing and forward that to me and Jenny (in cc).
3. If you have any suppliers with contracts extending beyond 2021 that will do part of the work in 2021 *but will not be able to send an invoice this year* (this is a worst-case scenario, with the best-case scenario being that they submit an invoice for work done this year), please contact me or Jenny as soon as possible.
4. If you have funding for a project under the *MFA Strategic grant* for this year that you know you will not be able to absorb (either as salary cover or direct costs), please let me or Jenny know as soon as possible, as any savings may be used elsewhere in the institute (the money cannot be saved until next year so any unspent funds this year will have to be repaid to the Swedish MFA beginning of next year).

Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)

(Höstlov) Nothing further to report at this meeting.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

Sibylle will schedule a trip later this year (late Nov or early Dec) to Berlin to reconnect with the German Foreign Ministry and desk officers, some of whom have changed. Sibylle will need to have discussions with those here in SIPRI engaged in current projects and that may have future projects funded by the German Foreign Ministry. Due to the recent German election and Government being formed there won't be a budget available to give grants early next year but most likely in the second half of the year. Ideally for those who would like to pursue funding is to have discussions in the first half of the year and when the budget is agreed be ready to go.

The SIPRI Governing Board will be held on 15 November. Some members of A&D will meet with the Governing Board on Monday 15 November to discuss our cyber work and future research interest. The general staff meeting with the Governing Board takes place on 16 November.

EUNPDC

Discussions are on-going with other members of the consortium about possible proposals for the next Council Decision for financing the next phase of the project. It is hoped the next phase can start straight away after the current one ends from May 2022. Recent board meetings saw brainstorming on how specific feedback from the EU can be used to improve various activities or implement new ideas. The discussion and ideas are being put in writing and presented to counterparts at the European External Action Service (EEAS) and European Commission. The next step is to find a suitable date to meet with the EU.

It was flagged once again to the cluster that as part of the annual conference that will take place in December the *International Affairs Institute in Rome* (IAI) is still arranging the next generation workshop. SIPRI staff can submit applications with a deadline of mid-November to attend the NextGen workshop. The workshop is on-line and divided over two days 15/16 December.

In terms of the distribution of projects discussed at the last board meeting it looks like SIPRI will continue the general management and policy paper series. Colleagues at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) are increasingly busy with the next generation young women initiative but have been running proliferation awareness seminars for the natural sciences, with one seminar for IT and engineers and one seminar for chemical/bio students but would be happy to hand this on. If anyone at SIPRI is interested in taking this activity on, then get in touch with Sibylle.

As we are now in the planning stage for the next phase and the funding is going to be limited it is within the clusters interest if anyone has any idea for including an activity into the next project then you are welcomed to share it.

SSC 2021 – Noel

Final SSC preparation is underway and registration for sessions going well. The organizing team will report on final number of attendees following the conference. The SSC begins on Monday 8 November with an opening panel on ‘Battlefields of the Future’ and culminates with the ‘Ypres Peace Prize ceremony’ a concluding event. The prize will be given to 2020 winners ‘Campaign To Stop Killer Robots’ and Sibylle will give a keynote speech.

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

Arms Transfers – Andrea Varisco

Nothing major to report as database collection work continues. Later this month there may be another seminar on TIVs. Andrea is working on two papers as co-authored to DUAT projects, with one on ATT and one on post-shipment controls. In terms of recent activities, the team plan to submit an UNSCAR project proposal following the recent call Interest in a recent call <<https://www.un.org/disarmament/unscar/>>. A project led by the Flemish Peace Institute monitoring arms trafficking should start in January and AT will work with DUAT on recruiting a Research Assistant. AT have been approached by ECOWAS to speak about the AT database as they are planning to have a database about SALW.

DUAT – Mark

On the ATT project both Giovanna and Andrea are working on revising the research paper. The EPF (European Peace Facility) project blog piece by Giovanna and Eric Berman is upcoming and being presented on here today. The SALW in Sub-Saharan Africa project is ongoing with data collection underway and working being done on a topical backgrounder. Kolja’s MTCA project has seen the first paper published and a recent webinar hosted last week and work on the second paper is underway. In terms of fundraising DUAT have been in talks with German Government sources and their agency BAFA (The Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle, short BAFA) for

a possible EU project that would look at capacity in the dual use export control area in the Middle East region.

Emerging Military and Security Technologies – Laura

The process has started for the recruitment of a research/senior researcher for the team with a deadline on applications by 31 October. The interview process should start this week. In terms of projects there are two to keep the team busy during the rest of 2021 and much of 2022. One project is a follow up on the work already done on autonomous weapons looking at the issue of human responsibility in the development and use of autonomous weapon systems. The other project referenced examines responsible AI innovation and is a follow up to work done last year on the topic and is in partnership with UNODA. The aim is to do more engagement activities with one op-head, a series of small fact sheets and one on-line workshop. This project is hoped can lead to larger project being planned engaging with the EEAS to try and secure a CD for a larger 3-year project. An initial green has been given to develop a proposal. Vincent is doing some work the climate change and risk team on AI but currently on hold following Luke's recent departure but will continue.

MILAP – Nan

The team and cluster welcome Xiao Liang as a Research Assistant to MILAP. The team have received funding for a project on European arms industry dataset from EBSCO and EU Commission. The team are also submitting a proposal to UNSCAR 2022 on a project about 'constraining military spending over the next decade'. The first draft of the arms industry top 100 factsheet is in progress. The team are in the revisions stages of the UD grant project 'on military spending in post-conflict societies'.

Nuclear – Tytti

Petr and Lora have concluded the South Asia project and have been focused on editing related articles for a national security journal based in New Zealand. Petr will be busy with Alva Myrdal Centre activities for the rest of the year. SIPRI is responsible for one of the working groups related to nuclear disarmament at the Alva Myrdal Centre based in Uppsala. Tytti submitted a funding application to the EA (Effective Altruism) fund for a 12-month project in collaboration with FAS looking at the intersection of nuclear deterrence and space security. This project has been planned together with Nivedita Raju, Hans Kristensen and Matt Korda. The contract for the next project with the Hiroshima Prefecture is being finalized. Tarja has been writing on the NPT and the topic of negative security assurances in the context of nuclear weapon free zones. Lora has been writing on strategic stability issues related to China and the US and spoke at the Beijing Xiangshan Forum hosted during w.43 (25-26 Oct)

Vitaly – On 2/3 November is participating in an event set up by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – more specifically, a consultancy meeting for the identification of topics about the next IAEA coordinated research programme on nuclear forensics.

P&D Cluster – Martina

Nothing to report from the cluster this month apart from they had an away day this month.

C, P&S Cluster – Johanna

Johanna cluster will be having a cluster meeting tomorrow and C, P & S teams involved are preparing for the SSC.

Presentation

Presentation - by Giovanna Maletta , 'Transfer of military equipment through a European Peace Facility: risks of diversion and misuse'.

This topic is the focus of a research project currently being implemented in the DUAT Programme. The EPF (European Peace Facility) is a new financial mechanism which the EU have adopted in March 2021 and proposed already in 2018. It is an off-budget mechanism meaning it will run alongside the traditional regular budget and is supported by EU member states contributions.

The ultimate aim of the EPF is to enhance the EU's ability to prevent conflict, preserve peace and strengthen international stability and security. It will do so by allowing the EU to better help partner countries, either by supporting their peace-keeping operations or by helping increase the capability of their armed forces to ensure peace and security on their national territory, as well as through broader actions of a military/defence nature in support of CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy) objectives.

This presentation was also the topic of a recent blog published and to find out more about the topic presented, please see [here](#).

AOB

Next Cluster meeting is on Monday, 13 December @14:30pm