

Arms and Military Expenditure Programme - Presentation

1. How the Research Team fits with SIPRI / Cluster strategy

The AMEX programme's core work is to monitor, assess and analyse trends in arms transfers, arms production and military expenditure. This work is at the heart both of SIPRI's strategy and the A&D cluster strategy.

- This monitoring and assessment work is essential for global discussions on peace and security. The AMEX team provides publicly and freely available information on the arms trade and the economy underpinning resources for military activities and armaments development.
- For instance, our work contributes to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular in relations to SDG 16 which is to 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels', and the target 16.6 which is to 'develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels'. Proposed indicators for this SDG include transparency in government budgeting and also perception of public sector corruption. Our work on making information on military spending and arms transfers available contribute to these global objectives.
- Our work on monitoring, assessing and analysing armament trends generates a unique world-leading source for information on those topics. The three databases form a public good, used by policymakers, researchers, and civil society, including media, worldwide.
- It therefore not only generates evidence and analysis, feeding into global discussions on these issues, but also enhances transparency at the international and national levels. International transparency acts as a confidence-building measure among nations, and national transparency is an essential aspect of government accountability.
- The AMEX team further contributes to the Institute and the Cluster strategy by providing regional expertise and analysis on arms-related issues. The team brings together analytical strength and knowledge covering the whole world. Our programme's structure and processes are designed to ensure that all regions are covered, with specific regional focus for each team member.
- We are also starting our own internal process on defining our own research agenda and priorities for the coming years.

2. How do you see your programme's planned activities and vision relate to the 5-year Institute strategy?

We have a number of activities planned for 2020, which are in line with SIPRI's strategy.

a) Continuous monitoring and assessment of arms transfers, arms production and military expenditure. This is at the heart of SIPRI's identity and goal to '*to contribute to improved prospects for disarmament, peace and security by carrying out empirically sound research and insightful analysis*'.

- The databases are the underlying tools which make the assessment and analysis of arms transfers, military expenditure and arms production trends possible. To enhance our analysis capacities as well as the wider public's access to our data, we plan several lines of effort to improve those tools. This is in line with the SIPRI and Cluster strategy, which indicate the need to consolidate our strengths in data management and the current databases – and part of these activities still need to be resourced adequately:

- We want to plan for the refurbishment of the Arms Transfers database, to make it more accessible for outside users, but also make it less time consuming for AMEX to produce its regular outputs (Yearbook chapters, factsheet).
- This year will also see the start of an update of TIVs (**SW – lead**) – this is crucial methodological work, which contributes to maintaining the arms transfers database up to date with current developments in the armaments domains. We need to use the most recent weapon systems to compare other systems for cost estimates. This work is to begin in 2020 but will be a multi-year endeavour.
- Introduction of the MILEX database: We also expect to start using the Military Expenditure database in 2020.
- We will also review what we want to do with the Arms Production database. We want the results of that re-thinking to feature in the next SIPRI Yearbook, as a special section on arms production.

b) One of our cluster's main goals is to enhance international and national transparency.

Our work this year will further advance on this objective.

- Improving the methodology for China's military spending (**NT – lead**) – this contribute to transparency efforts, in a particularly opaque country. This work will also benefit SIPRI's reputation as the results will likely get attention from media and policymakers.
- We also seek to improve our own transparency on our data collection and definitions. So this year we will attempt to improve methodologies on military spending for a number of key countries, and be more systematic in how we account for military pensions in total military spending data.

c) Another project for this year, for which we have funding

- We received funding from the Finnish MFA for a scoping project, related to including arms procurement in our monitoring of armament trends (**PW – lead**). This project is two-fold: it involves first exploring how we can also monitor domestic arms procurements, in addition to arms transfers flows. This is becoming increasingly important to support our capacity in analysing global armament developments, as countries more and more produce weapon

themselves instead of importing them. Secondly, the project involves looking at how countries reports on their domestic procurements, in which frameworks (UNROCA, OSCE...), and why they do it. This further contributes to international transparency on military affairs.

d) Team contribution to the Peace and Development Forum 2020

- Peace and Development Forum 2020 panel (**AK – lead**). The panel will look at the causes and drivers of protests in the Arab World. This contributes to SIPRI's peace promotion activities and to regional expertise capabilities that SIPRI wants to develop for the Middle East.

3. Where in 2020 do you see opportunities to work with other programmes in the cluster or with programmes of other clusters?

A project for which we want to start working this year relates to 'Military spending in post-conflict societies' (**Diego as lead**, prep work 2020, for 2021). This ties in with the work of the Conflict, peace and security cluster. One of the objectives of this project is to understand how the military influence the allocation and distribution of resources, and the long-term impacts on countries' economic development.

AMEX is also engaged in setting up the SIPRI regional programmes, on Middle East, Asia.

On a regular basis, our work ties in that of the DUAT programme – for instance we structurally work jointly on arms embargoes- and on military technologies issues that Vincent and Moa look into. We can for instance supply data for discussions on export controls, for instance in relation to the MTCR.

The team would also be interested in getting involved in the **Disarmament education** project.

Conclusion – questions and open for discussion

As mentioned at the start of my presentation, the team will soon have its own away day/meeting to discuss its objectives and research agenda. If there is interest from the rest of the cluster, we'll be happy to give you the results of this away day and introduce you to our own strategy and priorities. This could be done during a future cluster meeting or in another setup – for instance a brown bag lunch?