

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:15-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 13 December 2021

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Mark Bromley, Vincent Boulanin, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman, 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, Nivedita Raju, Nikos Politis, Alexandra Manolache, Stephanie Blenckner, Alexandra Manolache, John Batho, Lena Kappelin, Nikos Politis, Nils Erik Danielsson, Daniel Crimella

A&D cluster meeting agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from SMT/EUNPDC: Sibylle/Giovanna
- SSC 2021- Lessons learned from SSC'21: Noel
- Report from A&D Programmes/Team (by PD or nominated team member)
- Presentation - by Alexandra Marksteiner, 'Business as usual? Arms sales of SIPRI Top 100 arms companies continue to grow amid pandemic'.
- AOB

Update from Peace & Development – Martina

Forum 2022

A call for proposals for the 2022 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development due to take place **on 23-25 May 2022**, is ongoing. The theme of the 2022 Forum is “From a Human Security Crisis towards an Environment of Peace”. There are side topics that the MFA is very interested in, and especially if there is work to do with the upcoming EU presidency of Sweden. Anything to do with lessons that can be learnt from engagement in Afghanistan is of interest regardless of the main theme of the Forum. Open panels, roundtables, and workshops as in the past but offering the possibility of spotlight presentations (similar to Ted talks) is being considered. Contact Martina or Simone if you have any proposals or interest in contributing and they are both working until Friday 17 December.

Updates from Conflict, Peace and Security – Johanna

The MENA team are releasing a publication package on 14 December containing two policy briefs on fixing the economy and public service provision in Iraq and Lebanon and a policy paper on the topic of governing in Iraq and Lebanon.

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-policy-papers/reform-within-system-governance-iraq-and-lebanon>

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-policy-briefs/fixing-economy-and-public-service-provision-iraq>

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-policy-briefs/fixing-economy-and-public-service-provision-lebanon>

Updates from Operations

As in November 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. Please heed the Maconomy deadlines circulated to our email if you want to get paid salary in January.

Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial) - Steph

- No editorial colleagues were available today but there are a lot of publications still going out this week ahead of the Christmas break.
- The next newsletter will be issued on Wednesday 15 December, and includes an item with information about all the SSC 2021 video session being available on-line.

Updates from Sibylle/SMT/EUNPDC

- Not much to report from SMT. The upcoming meeting between SIPRI and the Alva Myrdal Centre (AMC) was referenced. Sibylle will be Chair of one of working groups (nuclear disarmament in policy and international law) being hosted during the two-day board meeting. Joakim will be there as a board member of AMC. The idea of an AMC/SIPRI joint summer school will be pitched and help cover costs as well as being partially hosted in Uppsala.

EUNPDC

- The Annual Conference held on 6/7 December was moved on-line in the end due to the pandemic. The Next Generation workshop will be held on-line on Wednesday 15 December. On Friday, 17 December, there will be a meeting with other members of the consortium, the European External Action Service, and the European Commission to discuss the next (4th) phase of the consortium. A preliminary budget proposal and a preliminary narrative proposal presenting the different projects in planning to be implemented will all be discussed on Friday.
- Some reflections on the EUNPDC Annual Conference highlighted the Next Generation for the first time gave conclusions and did a great job. The videos will shortly be uploaded and available to watch via the Consortium website.

SSC 2021 – Noel

SSC reflections:

- We had no Plan B for moderators. We got lucky this year! There should always be a contingency plan to cover a moderator who cannot make a session for whatever reason and have a run of show (session plan) for hand over.
- Moderators should be on time and in the green room with the technical team and available to meet your panel speakers.
- The SSC organizing team need to decide the format beforehand and clearly communicate the structure. Webinars were the correct way to go this time and not Zoom meetings.
- It would be useful to give the Partnerships Manager a specific role in the SSC process. This could mean being involved from the beginning to engage with strategic partners or with donors - whatever would be useful to the SSC team and session organizers.
- Rules of engagement for events like this needs to have better framework. Take inspiration from the Forum? We did not give ourselves time to harvest the benefits of big partnerships. We need clearer processes. Strategic partners = means more influence in the SSC = their limitations will be our limitations.
- It felt like too many chefs involved in the Open Day and not one person leading. Online and hybrid = two events. Two processes = two leads? We think some extra leadership needed and ideally in one dedicated person with the overview but with team support.

- There should always be an IT support person in the building for events on all days, and especially for a major on-line event like the SSC.
- For a session with a small panel of just a speaker and moderator then 45 minutes is enough.
- Timings on 10 November was too tight and something to be mindful of for future reference. Also consider more what sessions are running back-to-back and try to allow some more breathing room between sessions. In general, perhaps too tight.
- The SSC team could have done with a least one if not two more technical moderators.
- Monitoring the chat while moderating is a challenge, but someone seconded to handle questions can be very helpful.
- The offices upstairs generally have poor sound insulation and internet connection.
- Housekeeping rules – slide at the beginning and thank you slide at the end – could be a bit smoother.
- Registration tweaking: improve linking between sessions to make it more accessible to register for multiple sessions. Registration links open in new tab. It was time consuming to monitor the registration, in general but especially from multiple Zoom accounts.
- The recordings are important, prioritize editing and uploading this on YouTube quickly, inform conference participants through the website that recordings will be available ‘in a few weeks’ time’ to avoid too many email inquiries about session recordings.
- It should be particularly stressed to all speakers if sessions are public and recorded, so that everyone is comfortable on what and how they wish to state during the session, this should be clear from the onset for all speakers.
- Promotion delayed by late confirmations/submissions of bio +photo: Is it an alternative to promote without the names/photos? The downside is less traction.
- Make sure editor is informed with making any text changes on-line. (See feedback from Emma).

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

Arms Transfers – Siemon

- Now a key period for the arms transfers core project as the team try to gather all available data by the of January and preparations for the new data launch get underway.
- The new arms transfers database is delayed as the programmers could not deliver in time. Moreover, now is not the time for testing during an already busy period.

- The current arms transfers database is up and running including the public version.
- In conjunction with DUAT Andrea has co-authored a policy brief on post-shipment controls <<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-policy-briefs/post-shipment-site-inspections-military-materiel-challenges-and-responses>>.
- Another policy brief in which Andrea is a co-author will be out before the end of December <<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-policy-briefs/taking-stock-arms-trade-treaty-summary-policy-options>>.
- Siemon is working on a project for the Australis Department of Defence led by Lucie and examines arms technologies in Asia. This will see a publication during summer 2022.
- Pieter together with MILAP team members is working on a UNSCAR project examining how milex reporting is working and will end in September 2022.
- AT have another project proposal submitted to UNSCAR looking at the UN register and transparency in Asia. The team await an answer on if this project will proceed.
- The team are also awaiting response from the Australian DoD on a project proposal that would run over three years.
- Pieter Wezeman has circulated a paper with ideas for the data launch factsheet in the hope that some of you may have highlights that is linked to the AT data to include.

DUAT – Mark

- The team have been busy recently in terms of activities making presentations at events and chairing meetings as reported at MMM. Recent publication have been mentioned in the AT report.
- In terms of fundraising DUAT had 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. Funding has been granted and DUAT will work on this project with Mark now in touch with Lena to work out some financial issues and get in touch with people who will possibly work on this project, including from this cluster Alexandra Kuimova from AT.

Emerging Military and Security Technologies – Vincent

- The main highlight is the team are just back from attending the third session of the 2021 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) on the **2-8 December** in Geneva, Switzerland. The GGE failed to adopt an extensive report by consensus with Cuba, Russia and India being leading opposers to the process. A summary will be shared but a discussion on next steps will be upcoming in the new year.
- Laura attended an informal autonomous weapons event in Wilson Park last week (w. 49) and will prepare a report and is also working on a contribution to the SIPRI YB.

- A project on autonomous weapons and the question of responsibility remains ongoing and currently Vincent and Laura are doing a literature review.
- Vincent also reported on an increase capacity for the team from January on with more details to come.
- Other funding efforts remain ongoing.

Nuclear – Petr

- After four years Petr Topychkanov has announced his leaving SIPRI but will continue as a Senior Associate. All SIPRI colleagues wish Petr continued success for the future.
- Tytti referenced a joint proposal prepared with Nivi bring updated with FAS (Federation of American Scientists) for the Ploughshares Fund.
- Work towards the SIPRI YB is also presently ongoing.

MILAP – Xiao

- Congratulations to Alexandra Marksteiner and team on a successful arms production data launch. The team are still busy with interviews and media requests and the SIPRI Communications team are thanked for all efforts.
- Alexandra Marksteiner and Xiao attended UN Women webinar on Mobilizing Women, Peace and Security to Reduce Military Spending last Wednesday, where speakers discussed the impact of excessive military spending on women, as well as the effect of female representation in national parliaments and budgeting process on reducing milex. The participants also discussed the data sources and methodologies of SIPRI milex database and called into attention on the need to be aware of off-budget and extra-budgetary sources.
- Lucie will be speaking at the French Military School in Paris on Wednesday for the annual conference of the ‘Defence Economics Chair’ of the Institute for National Defense Studies. She will provide a scene-setter presentation on the global trends in military expenditure and arms production. The conference will feature closing remarks from the French minister of armed forces (<https://ecodef-ihedn.fr/15-decembre-2021-conference-annuelle-de-la-chaire-economie-de-defense-ihedn/>)
- Nan will present via video recording to the UN Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters on the trends and drivers in military spending after the end of the Cold War, touching on issues of high or excessive military spending, opportunity costs and avenues for reduction. This is part of the initiative set out by the Secretary-General, who asked the Board to consider the issue of military spending as its discussion topic for 2022 and 2023. The video recording will be on the 30th of December and there will be a Q&A session with the Board on the 9th of Feb.

- Elisabeth will be presenting her co-authored paper ‘The human security case for military expenditure reductions’ at a meeting between UNODA and UNIDIR (16 December) as part of their strategic brainstorming discussion on military spending. This is part of the follow up to the informal roundtable discussions organized by UNODA. Nan will also be attending this event as this is part of the deliberations by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters meeting in Feb.
- **Fundraising:** MILAP is working on a project proposal for the Riksbankens Jubileumsfund ‘Infrastructure for Research’ call. deadline is February 1st 2022. The objective is to fundraise for the digitalization of the arms industry archives and overhaul of the arms industry database. The deadline is February 1st 2022. <https://www.rj.se/en/funding-opportunities/funding-opportunities/rj-infrastructure-for-research-2022/the-entire-call/>

Presentation - SIPRI TOP 100/Trends in Arms Production 2020 - by Alexandra Marksteiner

Sales of arms and military services by the industry’s 100 largest companies totalled \$531 billion in 2020—an increase of 1.3 per cent in real terms compared with the previous year. This is according to the new data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The arms sales of the Top 100 arms companies in 2020 were 17 per cent higher than in 2015—the first year for which SIPRI included data on Chinese firms. This marked the sixth consecutive year of growth in arms sales by the Top 100.

For more information see:

<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-fact-sheets/sipri-top-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-2020>

AOB

Next Cluster meeting is on Monday, 17 January 2022 @14:30pm

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!