

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:15-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 17 January 2022

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Mark Bromley, Vincent Boulanin, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, 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, Anant Saria, Alex Kaplan, and Ming Sun, Ludovico De Angelis

A&D cluster meeting agenda

- Updates from Operations
- Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from SMT/EUNPDC: Sibylle/Giovanna
- Report back from A&D Team Leaders 'stay-day' meeting, Monday 29 November 2021: Noel
- Discussion - 'Tour de table' from all teams and catch up on the immediate plans for the year ahead? What are immediate priorities?
- Updates from other Clusters
- AOB

We welcome those who have arrived for internships within the A&D cluster this month. All are on six-month internships.

Anant Saria, Alex Kaplan, and Ming Sun (MILAP)
Ludovico De Angelis (DUAT)

Update Operations – Lena

The Finance team are busy working on closing off the books for 2021, so allow for a longer response time to questions during this period. The project audits will take place in mid-February, and Finance will be in touch with those affected by this process and need to be available.

Updates from Outreach (Communications and Editorial) – Alexandra Manolache, John Batho

Communications are working on the Stockholm Security Conference (SSC) highlights film this week, including doing some additional interviews. The team are also working on the SIPRI Annual Review. Communications are also reviewing the website and this means the bio pages and research initiatives. All staff are advised to be in touch with any new updates.

An outreach highlights for 2021 document has been compiled and will be uploaded on the intranet. It was referenced that last year we got back to a record number of over 30,000 media articles for the entire year. Much of this can be attributed to the work done within the A&D cluster over the past year.

Editorial – no specific updates but thanks from Joey for forwarding on information about plans for forthcoming publications. Joey will be in touch shortly about schedules if not done so already. This is also a busy Yearbook period, and Joey and Ian are working on plans for this, and will communicate more in the near future.

Updates from SMT/DoS/EUNPDC - Sibylle/Giovanna

Nothing further from SMT, they meet tomorrow (Tuesday 18 Jan) for the first time this year.

A&D Away Day – given the pandemic restrictions we cannot confirm a date, However, if not possible in February, then perhaps in March and this would mean new colleagues arriving will be involved.

It is announced that Wilfred Wan, arrives on 1 March as Programme Director for the WMD Programme. The nuclear team will be expanding to a full scope WMD Programme as it used to be in the past.

Reporting on EUNPDC

1. On 17 December, before the Christmas break, the members of the Consortium and representatives of the European External Action Service and the Commission met to discuss preliminary proposals for Phase IV of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

Consortium Project. Based on the inputs received SIPRI is finalizing the proposal for submission to EU member states and this process will start with Sibylle presenting this proposal to both CONOP and COARM working parties next week (24/25 Jan). The goal is to have a CD in place in the spring so that the next contract will start right after the current one. The proposed scope of the next phase of the EUNPDC contract being presented will see continue as before the annual conference, the annual consultative meeting, the ad hoc seminars, the e-learning modules, the Brussels study visit of UNODA Fellows, the newsletter, and the policy papers (SIPRI oversees these). Some activities started this time around with either continue or be reinforced and included is the non-proliferation seminars for the natural sciences (Vitaly will take this forward). The podcast series organized by IISS Europe will be taken forward and the interactive platform for the Network that FRS has started to establish. A teaching clinic – explained as a teaching research hub - where syllabi from arms control and non-proliferation and disarmament courses that are taught around Europe and beyond will be assembled for teaching use and is in development. The mentorship programme will also be continued and developed.

2. HELP DESK PAPERS: 1) China and arms control and how the EU can position itself; 2) The future of the OPCW beyond 2023. Our colleague Lora Saalman has accepted to take on the first request while the second has been assigned to colleagues at PRIF. A reminder that these briefs are not published;

3. EUNPDC POLICY PAPERS. We have three to publish before the end of the contract. Two have been already defined or are being defined. Of these:

- One on 'Balancing the Three Pillars of the NPT: How Can Promoting Peaceful Uses Help?' authored by Ingrid Kirsten and Mara Zarka at the VCDNP, expected on 11 February;
- Our colleague Lora will author one: proposal is work in progress but very generally touching upon issues related to 'Strategic nuclear arms control';
- Paper X to be assigned still. 4. Nivi is taking the lead in organizing an ad hoc EUNPDC webinar on gender and disarmament.

There will be a network members meeting of the European Network of Think Tanks which has expertise in emerging technologies. Dr Niklas Schörnig from PRIF (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) will organize this meeting and the date given is 24 February. An e-mail with more information will be circulated shortly.

It was highlighted that work with the Alva Myrdal Centre (AMC) – is part of the activities that will continue this year. Joakim is on the Board, and Sibylle chairs a working group on nuclear disarmament in policy and international law. SIPRI in cooperation with AMC will jointly host a summer school. The task force assembled to bring this forward is Alexandra Kuimova, Elin Elmgrean and Joakim Vaverka. A possible time mentioned here was the third week of June. An AMC conference will be held in October but with dates to be confirmed. SIPRI's task here will be to establish the more international part of the working group.

In terms of fundraising – the big priority is to try and raise funding for the SSC in 2022 and make sure we have full coverage for this event.

Sibylle is planning a fund raising trip to Berlin to connect with the new Foreign Ministry in place. There agenda shares many of the priorities we have such as arms control, outer space and other issues.

A&D Team Leaders 'stay-day' meeting, Monday 29 November 2021 – Noel

We first discussed the KPI and cluster strategy. Overall, we are hitting many of our targets and fulfilling this strategy. Sibylle plans to discuss first with Dan our plan to improve the language and highlight the actual value of work done.

On Communications and Outreach activities a strategic meeting with Communications at least once or twice a year would be helpful. We could always put it to teams if there is anything to share with Communications at our cluster meeting.

For planning ahead perhaps some regular meetings between our team leaders' group and Comms team would be beneficial. Creating a realistic process that moves quicker needs to be worked out with some forward planning.

On Project planning and implementation, the consensus was the PPMT created by Operations is very useful for planning, as it forces one to break down a project into the constituent parts.

We should have templates with elements one must think about for realistic budget planning. As an example of good practice, it was highlighted that Editorial and Comms have templates for the various activities they offer, and the costs involved.

The quality of work does suffer if it is too fragmented. Being more systematic in the way we identify and assign the work, coordinate the work, and review the work would be most helpful. The time allowed to do a task should be realistic but also specified. Using tools like MS Planner can help. Therefore, one goal is coming up with realistic estimates for how much time it takes and allowing some buffer time. One should plan for the known unknowns that may be coming down the track.

Experience has shown there is a disconnect between our preparing a budget based on planning an ideal scenario and our Project Controller applying the actual expenditure figures. Do we cross link? The person who does the estimates should know what is actually spent and lessons applied for future reference. We need the facts – and to create the institutional memory. Trying to create the evidence for future reference. One way is to have debriefings after projects - including looking at the budget – this was the estimate, and this is the reality. How can we ensure it informs the next project in a realistic way?

We can find out budget information but what about actual time spent on doing a task? For this we need timesheets for internal purposes only and be systematic about doing them. The only way to close this circle on time budgeted for and time spent is to have a time sheet. It was suggested by the team leaders group to share templates.

Plans for an away day in 2022 were discussed and suggested items for discussion on the agenda include:

- 1) Research priorities and strategy.
- 2) Diversity within the cluster.

3) Work environment.

Arms Transfers Programme – Pieter

Figures for the new data release should be ready by the end of January. The data release and fact sheet will happen on 14 March. In advance the data and overall assessment of international arms transfers will be presented internally at a meeting, on Tuesday 8 February.

Further project ongoing include:

- Research on armament developments in Asia with Siemon and Lucie working together.
- A project on SALW weapons in sub-Saharan Africa with Andrea.
- A UNSCSR project on UN transparency in military spending reporting.
- Work is continuing towards developing a new AT database that cannot be launched as planned in March. Postponed until later in the year.

DUAT - Mark

The team are in the process of planning now for the various deliverables on projects to be worked on in 2022.

In terms of projects - all documents have been signed for projects being worked on with the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle, BAFA). DUAT are helping them implement an EU funded project on helping states in the Gulf region to strengthen dual-use export controls. Alexandra Kuimova from AT will also be working on this project and the MENA programme is involved.

A draft of the DUAT YB chapter from DUAT is due to the editors on 24 January 2022.

Emerging military and security technologies project. - Vincent

The chapter for the SIPRI YB that Laura wrote has been circulated and feedback due this week. The team have project work booked for the entire year with three ongoing projects in total. One project is related to the team's engagement on the debate about autonomous weapons. The third phase of a project looking at limits in autonomous weapons systems and this year will focus on how to retain human responsibility in the development and use of autonomous weapons. The team plan to have a strong legal focus and examine how the framework for state responsibility and individual criminal responsibility apply in the case of autonomous weapons. The team will work with a consultant (Marta Bo) who could be become an associated fellow at a later date. The team will also examine how the international process on autonomous weapons is evolving, given the fact the GGE meeting in December failed to reach agreement.

The second project worked on will relate to responsible AI innovation involving two strands. Both strands will be in collaboration with UNODA New York. One small scale project is funded by the Republic of Korea. There will be a small workshop in April, a small on-line publication with an external outlet and some factsheets will be published by UNODA. The second element will be a more long-term project hopefully funded by the EU and support is being sought from EU members states for the concept note put together.

The third project highlighted sees the project link up with the CCR team looking at how AI can be leveraged to better understand climate change security risk. Dr Kyungmee Kim will be working on this from now until the summer and publications are expected later in 2022.

The team would like to flag with others in the cluster and in-house they are happy to exchange on emerging tech related issues and provide feedback on concept notes or exchange ideas.

MILAP – Lucie

The team are also busy towards preparing the new milex data for release in March and related SIPRI YB chapter.

The team have several ongoing projects, including two UD grants, with one wrapping up from 2021 that looks at military expenditure in post-civil conflict societies with a publication expected this month. Another UD grant for 2022 has been confirmed looking at military expenditure as an early warning mechanism for civil conflicts.

The milex team along with Pieter from AT are working on an UNSCAR project examining how milex reporting is working and will end in September 2022.

An Australia Department of Defence project involving Lucie and Xiao and with Semon from AT will examines arms technologies in Asia. This will see a publication during summer 2022.

The team have two EU arms industry related projects with one from the Commission that relates to collecting data on European arms industry. The second is from the EDA where the team are a sub-contractor along with IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali) again looking at European arms industry data but with more qualitative perspective.

Fundraising – The team are planning to submit a proposal to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ) and another proposal to UNSCAR.

The Nuclear Team – Tytti

Presently work on the SIPRI YB sections remains ongoing based on the review comments. Tytti is finishing the Hiroshima report with the help of Pranav Satyanath whose internship is extended until the end of February. There are ideas for potential AMC activities for example on the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons) and NPT (Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons).

Nivi and Tytti are waiting for response to a funding application submitted on the intersection of space and nuclear security to the Ploughshares Fund.

The team can report more on future planning following Wilfred Wan's arrival as new Programme Director.

Vitaly reported on in-house cross cutting cluster nuclear work, in relation to a U.S. State Department call on a Partnership for Nuclear Threat Reduction (PNTR). In response to this call, Ian and Vitaly are considering doing a joint proposal from SIPRI with the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS). The topic will be nuclear security of small modular nuclear reactors with a particular focus on Eastern Europe.

Updates from other Clusters

Peace & Development - Martina

They are currently reviewing all proposals submitted for the Forum with up to 83 received and colleagues who submitted a proposal will receive an answer by January 27. From the A&D cluster Nan and Diego from MILAP have submitted a proposal. Their proposal is for an Oxford type debate on military spending reductions.

Conflict, Peace and Security – Johanna

There is work going into setting up dialogue activity in the Gulf region together with Florian from CCR. This would most likely be focusing water security. If this goes through it would also prep toward a pre-meetings and closed session at the P&D Forum.

There's an incoming new Senior Researcher within the MENA Programme that sees Ahmed Morsy joining in March. The MENA team also have an ongoing recruitment for a research assistant. The Peace Operations and Conflict Management team are in the final process of selecting a researcher to work on gender.

A&D Research on Gender – Nivi

Interest in the gender issue is cluster cross cutting but for A&D, Nivedita Raju, is helping to bring forward this issue, and in the process of organizing an ad hoc seminar. Following an ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) meeting this work has been prepared. It was explained they wanted to look a little more closely at how gender plays a role in IHL (international humanitarian law). Two specific topics were identified – the first being gender and the legal review mechanism under article 36. The second is gender and AI and to examine how does AI perpetuate social biases, including gender.

AOB

Next cluster meeting will be on 7 February at 14:30.