



Note taker: Noel Kelly

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Thursday 1 June 2023 - @13:00PM in SIPRI seminar room and Zoom

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Giovanna Maletta, Kolja Brockmann, Lauriane Héau, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Lorenzo Scarazzato, Xiao Liang, Shannon Kile, Wilfred Wan, Tytti Erästö, Nivedita Raju, Vladislav Chernavskikh, Mathew George, Pieter Wezeman, Siemon Wezeman, Vongai Murugani, Joey Fox, John Batho, Sepideh Soltaninia, Nikos Politis, Lisa Wiklund

Agenda

- Updates from Operations.
- Reports or updates from Director's Office, other Clusters C, P&S, and P&D).
- Updates from Outreach. (Communications/Editorial).
- Report for A&D teams (AT, DUAT, Governance of AI, MILAP, WMD).
- Updates from EUNPDC.
- Update from DOS/SMT.
- Report by Sibylle – UN 'New Agenda for Peace'.
- Presentation by Lisa our new SIPRI Human Resources Manager followed by Q&A.
- AOB

Updates from Operations.

- Staff are reminded to share summer vacation plans, as salary time must be filled both for June and July at the next A&D Programme Directors and Operations salary meetings during June. Nikos will be away in July.
- It was reported that SIPRI will receive a strategic grant of 20 million SEK for 2023. The amount for 2024 is unknown but is expected to be further reduced, and staff are advised to think of challenges ahead and keep up fundraising efforts.
- On projects, staff are advised to think about how direct costs other than salary are assigned to the core. Think broadly and check if such costs (IT support, travel, library book requests, etc) can be covered by externally funded project costs.

Outreach (Comms/Editorial)

- Nothing further to report from communication right now. Editorial thanked those authors for getting corrections for Yearbook chapters sent along to Joey. However, authors who have not responded to YB corrections are advised to get in touch with editorial.

Director's Office

- June will be a busy month with many activities happening here in SIPRI.
- On Thursday 8 June, there will be an RSC meeting.
- On Friday 9 June, there will be a fundraising coordination meeting with all Programme Directors and SMT.
- On Friday 9 June, the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein, Dominique Hasler, will visit SIPRI in the afternoon (14:30 -1600). Nan and Tytti from this cluster be briefing.
- During week 24 (starting 12 June) is a busy week of activities in-house. World Nuclear Forces data launch is on 12 June, and there is a cyber workshop in SIPRI during this week. There is an environment of peace one year on conference in town which Dan be attending. Dan will also be speaking at the Vinnova board. Vinnova is Sweden's innovation agency, whose mission is to strengthen Sweden's innovative capacity and contribute to sustainable growth.
- On Thursday 16 June, there will be an event at SIPRI for an EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) visit with about 70 visitors expected (Ambassadors and Crown Princess visiting). Some of you will receive an e-mail to be here on that day (Programme Directors and those working on EU issues), – the coffee mingle is at 10:00am for those invited with all the PSC Ambassadors.
- During week 25 – On Monday 19 June, the Ethiopian Ambassador is coming to SIPRI for a courtesy visit. The Irish Government is in the process of re-thinking some of its foreign policy, and Dan has been invited to speak at a consultation event in Dublin on 27 June. Dan might be going to the London climate action week.

Conflict, Peace, and Security cluster

- Updates on recruitments. The process to hire a new SIPRI European Security Senior Researcher/Programme Director (combined role) is ongoing. Ian Anthony left his position in SIPRI at the end of May. The position of Research Assistant for the West Africa Sahel programme is being finalised. In addition, an advert is now out for China and Asia Security Programme Director.
- During the C, P & S Cluster meeting this week they discussed the strategy narrative for the cluster which was discussed at their away day. The theme is 'Geo-politics meets the local'. The cluster intends to use the broad range of regional expertise and create more defined research proposals. It is intended there will be a lot of opportunities for cross-programme and cross-cluster collaboration at the institute. If you are interested to know more, please contact Luc, Lucas, or Jiayi.

Peace and development cluster

- On 25 May 2023, SIPRI hosted Rotary Peace Fellows who are studying at the University of Uppsala's Department of Peace and Conflict. Nan and Laura were thanked for giving presentations at this event.
- On 30 May 2023, E&P hosted a lessons learned seminar speaking about their project management experience. If you are interested to find out more get in touch with Claire and Noah.
- The final P&D cluster meeting before summer is on 21 June with a picnic in the park from 3:30 to 17:00.

Arms Transfers Programme

- The team had a kick off meeting for the UNSCAR project 'Transparency in armaments: promoting the UN Register of Conventional Arms in the ASEAN region'.
- Timelines have been set up in the team calendars for testing the new AT database.
- Data input continues and the team are catching up on a backlog for input.

DUAT Programme

Upcoming trips

- On 30/31 May, Lauriane and Giovanna attended a symposium of the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group, hosted by the Swedish Armed Forces this year. It was an opportunity to disseminate further our work on post-shipment controls to a different audience, new contacts etc.
- Lauriane and Giovanna will attend the EUNPDC Consultative Meeting on 15 June. We'll join the same panel on "*EU efforts to combat diversion and illicit trafficking (SALW and other conventional weapons) – current status and ways ahead*", Giovanna will chair, and Lauriane will be a speaker.
- On that same day in the afternoon Giovanna will join the EU Council Working Party on Dual Use for a briefing on controls on cloud services.
- On 4 July Giovanna is planning to attend the annual COARM-NGO meeting.
- The week of the 21 August Lauriane and Giovanna plan to be present at the 9th Conference of States parties to the ATT.

Projects and fundraising

- MTCR II approved by Germans and possible Swiss contribution - 'Mapping and mitigating the potential impact of the NewSpace industry on missile technology proliferation'.
- DUAT have been asked by the EEAS through the EUNPDC to support COARM in their process to review the EU Common Position. Quite clear we will work on two briefs, considering another one and maybe a seminar at the end of the year.

Staff updates

- DUAT will have an intern in August (28).

Governance of AI Programme

Staff updates

- The process to recruit a new research assistant with the team has concluded. The new RA will be joining in mid-August, and his name is Jules Palayer. Meanwhile, the process for hiring a researcher remains ongoing.

Projects

- Business as usual as ongoing project work continues, including 'Promoting Responsible Research and Innovation in AI for Peace and Security'. The process on acquiring continued funding support for the LAWs project work is concluding. 'LAWS III: Retaining Human responsibility in the development and use of autonomous weapon systems' (phase IV to come in 2023).

MILAP Programme

Staff updates

- Ana Assis will be completing her term as a guest researcher here at SIPRI at the end of June. On 27 June, Ana will present research results in a brown bag, and there will be a goodbye fika for Ana.

Projects

- The core work for this time of year is now completed, with Yearbook work concluded and new data launched. The team are focusing on implementing current project work, including from the European Commission and OSF (Open Society Foundation) Colombia. Further fundraising activities are continuing.
- The International Conference on Economics Security (ICES) will be on in SIPRI from 28-30 June. This event is co-hosted with FOI (the Swedish Defence Research Agency) and Nan is organising. It is academic conference where participants submit research abstracts and if accepted pay a fee to attend to cover costs. The attendees will be made up of around 44 academics from around the world. It starts on Wednesday 28 June with a welcoming reception followed by two full days of presentations in the conference room. A programme is being prepared and will be shared in advance. The topics range from arms trade, conflict, military spending, arms industry, terrorism, NATO burden sharing, etc.

Upcoming trips

- Lucie will be in Paris on 9 June, for an IRSEM event <The Institute for Strategic Research (in French: Institut de recherche stratégique de l'École militaire), known by its French acronym IRSEM>, a research institute of the French Ministry of Armed Forces. Lucie will be speaking about the costs of the European Peace Facility (EPF).
- On 13 June, Lucie and Lorenzo will meet with SOFF (Säkerhets- och försvarsföretagen -the security and defense companies), it's a follow up on a [blog](#) Lorenzo published with Madison Lipson with the topic for discussion related to private equity financing and it's challenge to transparency in the arms industry.

WMD Programme

Projects

- June is a very busy month for the team, and as already mentioned a big highlight is the World Nuclear Forces data being released on 12 June.
- Tytti has a paper due to come out on 7 June '[The role of umbrella states in the global nuclear order](#)'. This is related to Hiroshima project work.
- Lora Saalman, Su Fei, and Larisa Dovgal, have their workshop on 'Cyber Incidents and Threat Perceptions' hosted in SIPRI on 13-14 June, as part of the German Federal Foreign Office project.
- The Alva Myrdal Center Annual Conference will be on 14-15 June in Uppsala and on-line in part.
- The Nordforsk project WMD Workshop #1 will be on in SIPRI from 20-21 June.
- On the SIPRI-AMC summer school – the agenda is being organised and Wilfred will be in touch with team leaders about availability for lectures. These lectures will take place between 22-24 August.

Upcoming trips

- On 2 June, Vitaly will be in Georgia to take part in a meeting of the international technical working group of nuclear forensics.
- On 8-9 June, Wilfred will be in Helsinki for an event called 'Contemporary nuclear weapons issues: an introduction' put on by the Finnish Government and RUSI (Royal United Services Institute). Wilfred will speak on nuclear deterrence in the context of evolving strategic technologies.

- On 12 June, Wilfred and Vladislav will be in Brussels to take part in the EUNPDC consultative meeting. Wilfred will chair a session about the war in Ukraine, military alliances, and the nuclear non-proliferation regime.
- On 19 June, Lora Saalman is speaking at a shaping cyber security 2023 event in Berlin.
- On June 27-29, Vitaly and Wilfred will be going to Berlin to participate at a Stanley Center for Peace and Security and RUSI event called 'Exploratory Workshop on Auditing Risk Reduction.

Human Resources

Introduction by Lisa Wiklund.

- Human Resources is about supporting line managers, and the organisation, in creating a sustainable, supportive, and creative work environment.
- SIPRI has expanded rapidly over the past couple of years and HR has been understaffed. Therefore, SIPRI are re-building professional HR processes that support the work. There is a long action list ahead to be worked on.
- SMT has approved that we will go digital for some HR end system process implemented. This will mean no more vacation or absence reporting on paper.
- The work with &frankly will continue and HR plan to develop the process further with a focus on the work environment. One can find an overall plan of action on the SIPRI intranet together with a guideline for local/team exercises around creating a working plan.
<https://intranet.sipri.org/support/hr/work-environment/#more->
- In two weeks, HR will begin a seminar series for line managers – where the role of line manager will be discussed and Swedish labour law. Issues such as work environment, psychological safety, and building trust in teams will be brought up. The plan is to have repeated seminars with line management. HR will come back to talk about stress, organisational and social work environment.
- An updated SIPRI staff handbook will shortly be available, and staff are encouraged to take time and read through it.

EUNPDC Update

- SIPRI hosted an on-line Proliferation Awareness Training Course on 2-5 May 2023. 19 students received completion certificates - mailed out last Friday (May 26).

Mentorship Programme

- A new call for application was circulated on 31 May! The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and the International Affairs Institute (IAI) invite female undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students as well as recent graduates to apply to a Young Women in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Mentorship Programme which will run from 15 September 2023 to 15 May 2024. The Mentorship Programme is organised in the framework of the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative (YWNGI).

EUNPDC Consultative meeting:

- 12 June CONOP Vladislav + Wilfred participate. (Highlighted in team report)
- 15 June COARM Giovanna + Lauriane participate. (Highlighted in team report)

Interim Narrative Report

- The team are currently refining second round of inputs from Consortium partners. 30 June deadline to submit final version.

Update from DOS/SMT.

- SMT minutes are updated and, on the intranet, and nothing further to add here.

Report by Sibylle - **UN 'New Agenda for Peace'** -

- There was a series of retreat meetings as part of preparations on a new agenda for peace that will be launched and feed into the summit next year and the ministerial meeting this September. This will possibly result in a new vision for disarmament. Sibylle attended the first two meetings (Geneva and Vienna), and Nan participated in New York. The meetings were held under Chatham House rules. The Vienna meeting was reported as quite nuclear heavy with a focus on safeguard issues and non-proliferation issues. The Geneva meeting was more on the disarmament pillar, as it's linked to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) based in Geneva. In Geneva it was mentioned this included a dedicated conventional arms session. The New York session was more mixed, including a special session on constraining unlimited growth of military spending and the deteriorating security environment. There was a session on strategic forecasting, and issues of SALW weapons came up with an emphasis on Latin America. There was a session on disarmament in support of humanitarian action and human rights, and this broadened out to emerging technologies and autonomous weapons. Overall, many issues came up, but it was stressed not all will make it to the final document. Meanwhile, a policy brief is due out at the end of June.

AOB

- A&D cluster meeting dates have been planned for the rest of 2023 on the following dates, 4 Sept, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec. We plan to have an A&D teams kick off meeting (picnic lunch) during August (date TBC).