

CPS Cluster Meeting, 25 January 2022

Present online: Luc van de Goor, Alexandra Manolache, Evelina Francesca Cristofano, Claudia Pfeifer, Timo Smit, Lena Kappelin, Annelies Hickendorff, Evelina Francesca Cristofano, Virginie Baudais, Issaka Souaré, Virginie Baudais, Lora Saalman, Martina Selmi, Amal Bourhrous, Meray Maddah, Johanna Eliasson, Dylan O'Driscoll, Frederic Daudon, Jair van der Lijn, Pauline Poupart, Shivan Fazil, Daniele Crimella, Fei Su, Ian Anthony, Sepideh Soltaninia, Noel Kelly, Frank Esparraga

Report back from SMT

- A report on the recent Work Authority inspection will be produced, and a follow-up on the &Frankly survey should be implemented.
- The guest researcher programme with the Taiwanese Ministry of Defence will be continued. A new candidate selection procedure is to be established.
- The China-Asia Security programme will transform into a cross-cluster workstream. It will continue with Fei as researcher, Jingdong as Associate SR, but Lora Saalman will join as SR from the A&D Cluster. This will allow for more capacity and more joint projects. Sibylle and Luc will jointly be involved in workstream and responsible for the line management. The search for a PD will continue.
- SMT discussed a proposal by Jan Eliasson on the topic of 'deficiency of trust in world politics'. He suggested an event on the topic during Spring 2022. SMT supports the idea and a concept note will be drafted.
- A final decision has been taken on the strategic grant proposals. Several projects were carried over from last year and thus had implications on the budget for new projects.

The CPS projects covered are:

- UNSCR 1325 and peace operations: The next 20 years
- Annual Fact Sheet for Women's participation in peace operations
- China's interest and role in post-withdrawal Afghan reconstruction and peacebuilding
- Governance and long-term planning in the MENA region: Yemen, Syria, and Libya
- Dialogue in the Gulf Region (collaboration with Climate Risk)
- Dialogue activities on the Korean Peninsula

Staff updates

- Dr Ahmed Morsy will join SIPRI as MENA Senior Researcher on 1 March.
- Dylan will be leaving the position of Programme Director by the end of March. He will remain connected with SIPRI as Associate Senior Researcher.
- Issaka will not join SIPRI in Solna as Programme Director as initially planned, but will instead remain connected with SIPRI as Associate Senior Researcher. He will leave his current position at the end of January.

Corona state of affairs

- The effects of the pandemic on SIPRI's social life were looked at more closely in the beginning of the pandemic, but needs to be given attention still. If there are opportunities for teams or other constellations of colleagues to arrange social events that are still safe, this is welcomed. Any suggestions or examples of ways to do these types of get-togethers are welcome.

Updates from:

Operations

- The week starting 7 Feb will see the annual audit of SIPRI, which will keep finance busy. The week starting 21 Feb will cover project audits. Relevant staff might be called upon for questions.

Outreach

- Work on reviewing relevant pages on the website is ongoing. A communications working group has been set up for the China and Asia security section
- For other research themes, a dedicated contact/representative of the team or programme should be assigned. The communications team is happy to schedule a meeting to take it forward.

Arms & Disarmament

- The cluster is working on Yearbook chapters.
- An in-house seminar on the human security case for military expenditure reductions, involving all clusters, will be held in the near future.

Peace & Development

- The Forum team is in the process of evaluating session proposals. Two proposals have been submitted from the CPS cluster – one from Jair and partners on SSR after Afghanistan and Mali, and one from Timo and partners on the mainstreaming of climate and environment in EU Civilian Crisis Management. If you receive external questions on the Forum, please direct them to sthlmforum@sipri.org.
- The cluster has two ongoing recruitment processes for an Environment of Peace Coordinator and Event Assistant for Forum.

Partnership Manager

- The February mission to West Africa and Mali, which was planned with the head of UNHCR and the former Swedish Development Minister, has been cancelled with the new minister.
- The launch for the predictive analytics project by UNCHR and UNICEF has been postponed.
- Waiting for feedback from UNHCR in relation to the Sahel-team's work. Sepideh will set up a separate call about the way forward.

Team highlights

European Security

- In two weeks, a kick-off meeting will be held for a project covering the public perceptions of authority in crises in Sweden and Norway.
- There are plans for a two-day conference in Ukraine in 2022, if viable.
- The next Turkey roundtable will cover internal determinence of Turkish security policy.
- A roundtable on the role of nuclear weapons in EU security is also being planned. The exact topic is still to be decided.
- A new series of roundtables on the rule of law is being explored. These would host academic discussion of what the rule of law means and how it's applied, with the aim of setting up a network of academic lawyers from across Europe.

Peacekeeping Operations and Conflict Management

- The team is working on the Yearbook.
- Timo's workshop that was initially planned to be held in Stockholm will now to be held in Brussels.

- Work on the final report on epidemics/pandemics, environmental degradation and resource scarcity is soon to be started.
- All cases for the study on EU Civilian CSDP Mission focusing on SSR activities have been received and will be compiled in a report.
- Late stages of work on the EUTM study is underway.

Middle East North Africa

- Within the Bosch Stiftung project, twenty local dialogue meetings will be held this year. Shivan will be travelling to Iraq where he will train the enumerators and prepare to launch the research part of the project.
- As part of the Gulf dialogue, a meeting will be held during the 2022 Stockholm Forum, to discuss climate security and water.

Sahel-West Africa

- The signing of the agreement with the Swiss Cooperation will likely happen next week.
- EU REKA, Danish Refugee Council and West Africa Peacebuilding network agreement has been signed. The project will be starting in February.
- The event organized together with the French Embassy in connection to the AU-EU Summit has been postponed due to political and corona situation.

China & Asia security

- The team is in the final stages of working on the Policy Paper *China's evolving approach to foreign aid*.
- Planning is soon starting for the Strategic Grant project on China's interest and role in post-withdrawal Afghan reconstruction and peacebuilding.
- The team is working on the Yearbook.
- Japanese MFA has reached out for continued cooperation on our annual events.

Cluster away day

- There are plans for an online half-day. An in-person event will be organized later in spring, potentially in connection to a cluster meeting.

China's ODA in Africa

- Fei gave a summary of the forthcoming Policy Paper *China's evolving approach to foreign aid*.

AOB

- There is an opportunity to pick up short meetings to discuss upcoming events and developments that will be relevant for the work in the cluster. Previously, these were 15-20 minutes long and took place after the Monday staff meetings. If there is interest, we will explore the timing for this.