



Minute taker: Noel Kelly
Time: 14:15-15:30PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 7 February 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, Daniel Crimella, Nils Erik Danielsson, 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 from A&D Programmes/Team (by PD or nominated team member)
- Updates from other Clusters.
- Discussion (moderated by Sibylle) - **Planning for future events** - pandemic experiences, technical advances, environmental considerations, and current unpredictability.
- AOB

Housekeeping

Welcome to Lorenzo Scarazzato – joining MILAP

Teams were requested to forward the names of incoming interns along with information on start and end dates of internships.

Interns as of this date are:

Ludovico De Angelis (DUAT)

Nils Erik Danielsson (EUNPDC)

Anant Saria (MILAP)

Alex Kaplan (MILAP)

Ming Sun (MILAP)

Updates from Operations

Nothing specific from Operations to report in this meeting.

Updates from Outreach. (Communications and Editorial)

Communications

On the SSC film good progress has been made and thanks is expressed to all who cooperated. The arms transfers data launch is upcoming on 14 March and preparations are being made. For all incoming new staff please note that Steph and Joey will reach out for an online introduction presentation about comms and editorial work at SIPRI. A tentative date is 10 March.

Editorial

Nothing specific from Editorial to report in this meeting.

Updates from SMT/EUNPDC

The next SMT meeting is on Wednesday 9 February and more information will be forthcoming after this meeting on the return to the office for staff and policies regarding visitors and inhouse events.

The SIPRI armament and disarmament summer school in partnership with the Alva Myrdal Centre (AMC) is being planned for 12 June – 17 June in 2022. The school will consist of a five-day programme of in-person lectures, seminars and workshops for emerging experts and the next generation of professionals. The 2022 pilot course they will adopt a regional approach focussing on trends, challenges and shifting security dynamics in MENA. However, the programme is still in discussion with AMC.

The Stockholm Security Conference 2022 will be on the 7-11 November.

On vacation – staff are requested to submit vacation plans as soon as possible and before end of April.

On the Ypres Peace Prize - last year one of the SIPRI nominees – Campaign to Stop Killer Robots - won the prize. The next prize will be awarded in 2023, and Sibylle has been asked to chair the peace prize committee this time around. We are asked to think about who we would like to nominate.

A gender ad hoc seminar is upcoming on 30 March. There will be two sessions and speakers are being finalised with the first round of invites sent out. The first session will focus on identifying the challenges to centre gender in disarmament and non-proliferation. The second session will be more inward looking and examine whether it's possible for the EU to adopt a feminist foreign policy. If not, what are the challenges? This session will also look at activities and policies one should introduce in our organisations and institutions to mainstream gender.

On 24 February there will be another EUNPDC ad hoc seminar led by PRIF on emerging technology, but this is more a mapping exercise. The idea is to map what kind of expertise is available in the network.

Sibylle presented the proposal the Phase IV of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium Project to both representatives both from CONOP and COARM working parties in January (24/25 Jan). There has been no objections or comments from member states and the budget is now being finalised for sending to the EU Commission.

Updates from other Clusters.

Peace and development

Nothing further from PD in general but on the Forum both Martina and Simone, met with the milap team to discuss the debate session being organised for the Forum.

The Forum team are conferring with the Swedish MFA and Ministry of the Environment to cooperate more with the Stockholm+50 process, with the conference happening the week after.

Conflict, Peace and Security

Information was shared on what this cluster will be working on within the framework of the strategic grant this year.

- Work on 1322 and peace operation the next twenty years.
- The annual factsheet for women's participation in peace operations.
- China interest and role in post-withdrawal Afghan reconstruction and peacebuilding.
- Governance and long-term planning in the MENA region for three countries, Yemen, Libya and Syria.
- Two dialogue activities.

Arms Transfers Programme - Alexandra K

The data release and fact sheet are due for release on 14 March. However, there is an opportunity to see the updated data information and assessment of international arms transfers internally in a presentation meeting, on Tuesday 8 February at 10:30AM.

Alexandra Kuimova is working on a DUAT led project about export controls in the Gulf region - *Capacity building dual-use export control GCC or Middle East* (EU Commission).

Siemon is involved in a project funded by the Australian DOD on arms industrial capabilities in the Pacific region - *Arms-industrial capabilities in Indo-Pacific: Measuring autonomy of supply*. Pieter is working with the MILAP team on the project funded by UNSCAR, 'Revitalizing the UN Report on Military Expenditures: Leveraging public national government reporting.' Andrea is working on a project with the DUAT team about post-shipment controls - *post-shipment controls: Identifying challenges, supporting assistance, identifying good practices, and creating a roadmap for expanded implementation* (MFA Germany). Furthermore, at the end of January Andrea attended a kick-off meeting for a project titled *International Network Studying Incidents with Guns: Harm and Trafficking* (In-SIGHT), led by the FPI (Flemish Peace Institute) and funded by the EU Commission. SIPRI will participate in this two-year project as co-applicant.

As for other fundraising applications the team are awaiting results from UNSCAR and Australian DOD for different projects and the results should come in late March.

Work is also continuing the Yearbook chapter sections.

The Stimson Center is planning with the AT Programme a joint event to present the new arms transfers data, and this will happen in late March.

For further information on projects being worked on and already reported on - see the A&D January cluster notes.

DUAT - Giovanna

The team are working on the Yearbook for the DUAT chapter with comments being received back and revisions being worked on.

On 21 January, A SIPRI backgrounder, *SALW-related assistance to states in sub-Saharan Africa: Hitting the target or missing the mark?* by Mark Bromley, Giovanna Maletta and Ruben Nicolin was published.

On 4 February, A SIPRI backgrounder, *A matter of speed? Understanding hypersonic missile systems*, by Kolja Brockmann and Dr Markus Schiller was published. This is part of the MTCR project being led by Kolja.

Later today (7 Feb), Mark, Kolja and Andrea will meet virtually with representatives from the Canadian MFA to discuss post-shipment controls that is part of a project that DUAT is implementing.

Emerging Technologies – Laura Bruun

The teams work on responsible AI and autonomous weapon systems continues. For responsible AI Vincent is working on various projects (referend in the A&D January cluster notes) mainly with UNODA. This includes a pilot project and workshop being organised for the last week of April. As part of this work Vincent is working with a colleague Kyungmee Kim from the Climate Change and Risk team in SIPRI for the implementation of a MISTRA project on new technologies and the geopolitics of sustainable development.

As regards work on autonomous weapons systems a project is currently being done ensuring human responsibility in the development and use of autonomous weapons systems. his week

the team are organising a closed online workshop involving legal experts and advisors from different governments.

A new associated colleague Marta Bo based in Portugal is working with the team but plans to visit SIPRI next week (w.7) and spend a few days with the team.

MILAP – Alexandra M

New Research Assistant Lorenzo Scarazzato who joined the team today will be working on a project funded by EU Commission collecting data on the European arms Industry. The team are currently completing the data collection cycle and the milex database will be closed this week. The new milex data along with the new milex database currently in the final testing stages will go live on 14 April. The work on the MILAP Yearbook chapter is also continuing.

A project was completed in partnership with the Rome based think tank Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the European Defence Agency (EDA) during which summaries of national defence industrial strategies of all the participating EU member states were drafted.

A fundraising proposal has been submitted to RJ (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) to help revamp the arms industry database.

The proposal from the milap team to organise a debate session about military expenditure reductions at the Peace & Development Forum was accepted.

On Wednesday 9 February, Nan will be participating in a Q&Q session with the UN advisory board on disarmament to discuss the topic of military spending reductions. This is a follow up to a presentation Nan made in January.

The Nuclear Team – Tytti

The team are working on the respective SIPRI Yearbook sections and Tytti is also working on the Hiroshima report. Further project planning will see Tytti meeting the Ploughshares Fund this week to discuss an application submitted in December with FAS (Federation of American Scientists).

New Programme Director Wilfred Wan will be working with SIPRI on 1 March.

Lora Saalman has been working on cyber issues and trying to integrate this into the nuclear programme work. Apart from publications Lora is working cross cluster with C, P&S with Su Fei to try and come up with proposals for the Japanese Government and MSB to work more on cyber and integrate in that in a bigger way. Lora will be consulting with Vincent and the emerging tech team moving forward.

Vitaly reported on developing cooperation with the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS), and as a result they have applied to the State Department for funding a project. The project will be looking at strengthening nuclear security infrastructure for deployment of small modular reactors in Eastern Europe. The project would start in October if successful.

There have been discussions of an offer SIPRI received from the European Space Agency where there is a possibility of SIPRI receiving satellite imagery and the funding to analyse that satellite imagery in application to questions that SIPRI are working on. Apart from the work in A&D other colleagues such as associate Robert Kelley. If anybody in the cluster has ideas of how satellite imagery might apply in some work, they are invited to share.

Planning and budgeting for future events - Pandemic experiences, technical advances, environmental considerations, and current unpredictability

Discussion (moderated by Sibylle)

The aim of our discussion was following two years of the pandemic we wanted to take stock and share experiences. We have all gathered bits and pieces of a big puzzle and putting it all together should give us a better sense of how to plan and budget going forward.

How to predict for future planning and budgeting – what is here to stay and what will go back to pre-pandemic times?

In terms of travel is one area – what kind of travel do anticipate going forward? When is it worth traveling for events in person or in individual cases for meetings? In which cases will it be OK to just to attend virtually?

In terms of events – there are some main categories but many combinations thereof. There's virtual, hybrid (combining many different elements). Moving meetings on-line or having an on-line component can mean an increase in democracy – a lot more participants and more diverse participants.

There are of course environmental reasons and one can break up meetings into different parts so not everything needs to be in one go. One can also have much more continual engagement.

There are new challenges including how do you attract a new audience. If you don't have a critical number of people, then no one will want to come.

Questions about flexibility – one might be forced to change plans at a week's notice – if regulations change and in practical terms there may be huge costs if one must change or cannot cancel previous flight tickets or hotel bookings, and this was not foreseen in the planning.

Some recent experience highlighted how people joining hybrid meetings online were not centrally involved in the discussions or ignored as screens are too small or not correctly placed in the room – the larger point is such meetings need to be technically planned better to more inclusive. The technology must work, and this means as an organiser one must invest in the right technological environment, technical training, and support.

From a survey carried out on those who attended industry conferences and their interest in going back to in person fully, the hybrid meeting experience or fully virtual meetings showed results that most people saw a benefit in the hybrid format. Both the information that you want to convey and much of the audience you want to reach is expanded in the hybrid format. The shortcomings are missing out on social interactions and connecting professionally that happens at in person events. If one is having a seminar or launching a new release (report, publication, etc) then distance is fine but if you are trying to foster institutional relationships then in person is key.

It was best for absorbing if just virtual and allowed the online audience a flexible level of engagement. More numbers but less interaction has been the general sense.

Not traveling does save time and is more environmentally friendly. If we return to business travel does SIPRI have a travel CO2 neutral policy? We do have a travel policy but one that needs updated to cover travelling CO2 neutral. The current policy is available on the intranet for access. In the past when you wrote a funding proposal you could get away with an amount of travel without question, but this has changed. Now there is alternatives to meetings, so we need to justify and have thought through when we do want to have in person meetings.

Hybrid meetings are not cheaper but virtual meetings are. What extra elements change costing completely? This information needs to be shared and perhaps the communications team can share with us what setup we have in the conference room and what kind of additional technical add-ons we need to consider?

There are pros and cons, but it really depends on what is the purpose. The important thing to keep in mind is what is the purpose of the meeting you are trying to do. Is it about sharing information or promoting a publication launch? In this case you can do it virtually and reach the largest possible audience. If the purpose is to facilitate interaction between people that do not know each other having an in-person meeting would be beneficial.

A rolling document on organising meetings would be useful where people can add in as we go along about some of the practical considerations. How do we consider time zones? How to book venues? What are social distancing rules? How to book rooms that are 2-3 times the size of the audience? These issues can be quite complicated at times. What are cancellation policies? What rules can you include?

On virtual internships – what is your experience and what works well or doesn't? How will it work going forward when many of us are back in the office? How do keep virtually interns involved and make it work? You are welcome to share thoughts.

AOB

Next A&D meeting is on 7 March @14:30PM.