

Minute taker: Noel Kelly
Time: 14:30-16:00 PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 2 June 2022

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Mark Bromley, Vincent Boulainin, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Wilfred Wan, Laura Bruun, Giovanna Maletta, Tytti Erästö, Vitaly Fedchenko, Lauriane Héau, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Alexandra Marksteiner, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman, Justine Gadon, Alexandra Kuimova, Laura Bruun, Nivedita Raju, Nikos Politis, John Batho, Daniel Crimella, Anant Saria, Alex Kaplan, and Ming Sun

A&D cluster meeting agenda

- Updates from Operations. (Nikos)
- Updates from Outreach. (Communications and Editorial)
- Updates from SMT. Sibylle
- Updates from EUNPDC. Giovanna
- Report from A&D Teams (by PD or nominated team member) – AT, DUAT, ET, MILAP, WMD
- Updates from other Clusters/colleagues?
- SIPRI Policies – awareness?
- A&D calendar key dates - what is upcoming?
- Discussion – Stockholm Security Conference 2022 – next steps (Sibylle)
- AOB

Updates from Operations. (Nikos)

- Reminder of deadline (3 June) for times sheets, expenses, per diem from May.
- Colleagues in Finance will start the summer vacation period a bit earlier and it would be appreciated if by 8 June outstanding invoices from projects were sent and approved. This is to ensure payments can take place on 9/10 June before vacation starts.
- On time reported during the summer period staff will receive further information.
- The recruitment process for a successor in the Grants Manager position (or amended roll) is underway. A new person should be place after the summer.

Updates from Outreach – Communications/Editorial (John Batho)

- Work towards the nuclear forces data launch is on track for going live on 13 June. Staff involved are advised to note internal deadlines.
- On the horizon before the summer vacation period is a commentary piece expected by Nan Tian and Alex Kaplan about military aid to the Ukraine. An insights paper by Lauriane Héau and Giovanna Maletta on European Peace Facility and an insights paper on multi-lateral nuclear disarmament by Tytti Erästö are all forthcoming.
- Stephanie has thanked Laura Bruun for requesting Comms host an internal learning session on media training for staff. This will hopefully be organised in due course.
- The Editorial department essentially closes sown in July and Comms will be in reactive mode. Staff will be available to deal with emergencies but there will be no output in July.

Updates from SMT/meetings (Sibylle)

- Post mid-summer SMT will be winding down until August. The last HR meeting is on 17 June. For those new to the Swedish summer cycle please make sure anything essential that requires SMT involvement or other institutional capacity is reported in the coming weeks. There is always standby capacity but limited.

Updates from EUNPDC

- Phase III ended on 17 May 2022, with all remaining deliverables completed. This included three papers shared already with this cluster and the helpdesk papers on the future of arms control were coordinated by Wilfred Wan.
- One of the last deliverables was an ad hoc seminar organised on 16/17 May by the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) about the impact of the war in the Ukraine on disarmament non-proliferation and arms export controls.
- Phase IV of this project officially started on 18 May 2022. SIPRI will keep responsibility for the general management, the publication series, management of the ad hoc briefs (former helpdesk and a shared responsibility). One new responsibility is the organisation of proliferation awareness courses.
- The next EUNPDC annual conference will take place on 14-15 November 2022. Information on agenda, participation, and format will be shared once it is known.

- The VCDNP and IAI are launching again their mentorship programme another part of the Phase IV contract. This mentorship is targeting young women interested in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. More information will be shared with the EUNPDC network (including colleagues here) in the interest of participation if eligible.
- On the division of work, Wilfred and Nivedita will the work on the papers in this phase. Vitaly will lead on the proliferation awareness courses. Giovanna will work on the general management of this project for the moment together with Noel.
- The EUNPDC network have a new collaborative platform with exclusive access for members of the European network of non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks. Please use the following link <https://consortium.frstrategie.org/login> to sign up and create a profile. We encourage you all to sign up and indicate SIPRI as your institutional affiliation (*Institute - it's a mandatory field).

Arms Transfers team report (Alexandra Kuimova)

- Work on collecting data continues including first input sessions following the data launch.
- As reported in previous meetings the AT team are involved in several collaborative projects repeated here.
- In collaboration with MILAP colleagues, Siemon worked on finalizing a draft of a paper sent on 1 June for an Australian DOD project that collected data on Asian arms companies.
- Pieter is working on an UNSCAR project with the MILAP team called 'Revitalizing the UN Report on Military Expenditures: Leveraging public national government reporting'.
- Andrea is involved with DUAT colleagues on projects related to post-shipment controls and will be participating in a workshop related to these projects in Berlin on 7/8 June.
- Alexandra Kuimova, Andrea, and Pieter are working on a UD project titled 'Reducing the illicit small arms trade in sub-Saharan Africa: identifying gaps in assistance and investigating the main sources and challenges of illicit small arms and light weapons n UD project'.
- SIPRI and the Uppsala based AMC (Alva Myrdal Centre) are continuing preparations towards hosting a disarmament school from 28 August to 2 September, and Alexandra Kuimova is part of a team working on this activity.
- Justine Gadon is working with the MILAP on a project looking at assessing the defence industrial landscape in Europe. It is further reported that Justine has registered to attend a two-day arms industry exhibition in Paris during June.
- Andrea, Giovanna and Mark also provided a contribution from SIPRI to a working paper on stocktaking that will be submitted to the German Presidency of the Arms Trade Treaty.
- Last week Andrea attended virtually the first substantive session on the UN open-ended Working Group on conventional ammunition.
- On the fundraising side AT have submitted two ideas for project proposals to Sibylle (one in the framework of the SSC) for discussion with the GFFO.
- The AT project will likely not apply for the UK Counter Proliferation Programme', so there is no project proposal for the UK Foreign Office on our side.
- Alexandra Kuimova has been invited to be listed as an expert on the forum of the arms trade network based in the US.

DUAT team report (Mark)

The following projects were referenced:

- European Peace Facility (EPI) project (Giovanna leading). Giovanna and Lauriane are finalising a paper for this project that is a UD strategic grant funded.
- Kolja's work continues to the Missile Technology Control Regime project. Kolja was attending an event organised by FRS on the HCOC 20th anniversary held in Vienna on 1 June.
- The team are continuing to work with German licensing authority on their EU funded project looking at outreach and assistance in dual export controls in the Middle East.
- Post-Shipment Controls project. This German funded project is in the second phase. The whole team and Andrea from AT are in Berlin on 7/8 June for events that is a mix of the post-shipment control topic and on EPI. On Tuesday 7 June there is a tabletop simulation exercise with export licencing officials will going through a scenario (developed by Kolja with an external consultant) where they simulate the act of conducting an onsite inspection. On Wednesday there will be an additional one-day workshop event with experts from various research institutes to discuss the issue of post-shipment diversion of military material.
- On fundraising DUAT plan to apply for the UK Foreign Office grant with one or two applications. They will be approached in the coming days and DUAT are thinking of pitching something either on foreign direct investment controls or controls and transfers of cyber surveillance tools. An email will be sent to sound out interest in these ideas. DUAT request that other A&D teams thinking about applying to the UK FCO should inform each other in advance through the team leaders' group.
- On upcoming activity DUAT referenced their involvement with the ATT Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP8) (Date: 22 - 26 August 2022, Geneva, Switzerland). DUAT are committed with the German Government to host a side event on the issue of post-shipment controls.

Emerging Tech team report (Vincent)

- The main update is the team are busy finishing the report on autonomous weapons system and human responsibility. Feedback has come from reviewers and now needs to be finalised.
- The project proposal on responsible innovation in AI has now got the green light form EU member states. Now the team move forward with the administrative process of getting the budget done.
- One paper co-authored Kyungmee Kim from the CCR team on AI for climate security is out for review. If you are interested to have a look let Vincent know.
- Laura and Vincent plan to attend the GGE on autonomous weapons in July if it does take place.
- The team may put together an application for the UK FCO call as well. One possibility could be about the process of investigating IHL violations and war crimes and supporting more transparency and information sharing about the process. The other option would be to examine the more preventive measures that states take to ensure

respect for IHL, and this connects more to the discussion on autonomous weapons and processes.

- Ideas for the SSC is also about the process of investigating IHL violations and war crimes.

MILAP team report – (Lucie)

- In terms of core work the team have been asked by Editorial to check the typeset version of their YB chapter.
- Nan finalised the handbook for the military expenditure database. It will be a living document but also provides institutional memory for SIPRI going forward. (Well done, Nan!)
- Externally funded projects for UNSCAR and Australian DOD are already referenced in the AT report.
- Work for a UD funded project has started on: <Military spending as a ‘early warning’ mechanism for civil conflict outbreak>.
- Work on the European Commission project for collecting data on the arms industry continues.
- Further fundraising discussion are continuing.
- Ideas for the SSC have been forwarded.
- The MILAP internships for Alex Kaplan, Anant Saria, and Ming Sun conclude on 17 June.

WMD team report – (Wilfred)

- Tytti has new publication coming out in June, ‘Revisiting ‘*Minimal Nuclear Deterrence*’: *Laying the Ground for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament*’. The Hiroshima Prefectural Government and the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe) funded this paper.
- Vitaly recently completed a paper for WINS academy (World Institute for Nuclear Security) titled, ‘*Sustaining Human Resources in the Area of Prevention, Detection and Response to Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material Out of Regulatory Control*’.
- Nivedita and Wilfred submitted a draft on a short piece to the Observer Research Foundation about multi domain warfare.
- The WMD team have a lot of travel coming up - Wilfred will travel next for a workshop (7-9 June) on the Transatlantic Deterrence Dialogue Initiative (TDDI) at FRS (Foundation for Strategic Research).
- Wilfred will then travel to Annecy, (10-11 June) for the “10th NPT Review Conference: Prospects and Pitfalls”, put on by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.
- Vitaly has a trip to Vienna on 13-15 June with the VCDNP (The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation) for a diplomatic workshop on NPT issues related to safeguards and nuclear security.
- On June 20, Tytti will be in Vienna as Austria will host the 2022 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of nuclear weapons.
- The NPT goes on for the whole of August in New York, and Tytti requested cluster staff get in touch with her if they would like to attend.

- Nivedita will be in London on 22-23 June for ‘the 4th Summit for Space Sustainability’ with the theme “Global Priorities for Space Sustainability,” put on by the Secure World Foundation. Other NPT activity is being planned.
- In terms of fundraising - the team have submitted an outer space risk reduction proposal to the German MFA (via Sibylle) and are drafting a Bio Plus X sequel for the German MFA. The team are likely to submit some ideas to the UK FCO but need to identify the desk officer and get in touch. Ideas being considered include about nuclear security post-Ukraine (in conjunction with Odessa Center for Non-Proliferation) and the Bio Plus X sequel could also be a candidate for this opportunity. The WMD team are developing a risk reduction China focused East Asia proposal with the Asia team in Conflict, Peace, and Security.
- Longview Philanthropy were identified as a potential foundation funder moving forward –they requested contacting back in September when they have their nuclear team together.
- Wilfred will speak with the Norwegian MFA and including Ms. Elin Marie Hellum, Director of the Global Security and Disarmament Section explore areas of interest.

Updates from other Clusters/colleagues

Conflict, Peace, and Security – Martina Johanna

- No updates but C, P&S are hosting the SIPRI staff mingle today.

Peace and Development Cluster – Martina

- Hitherto all focus was on the forum and now is a period of following up both with financial and general reports.
- Recruitment is ongoing for the peacebuilding Researcher/Senior Researcher position.
- Martina is planning to travel to the Aswan Forum for Peace and Development on 21-22 June in Cairo, Egypt. They are a knowledge partner of the Stockholm Forum.

SIPRI Policies – awareness?

- The cluster were reminded of where SIPRI HR polices can be found online.
<https://intranet.sipri.org/support/hr/sipri-hr-policies/>
- A lot of time and effort has gone into either updating or drafting new SIPRI HR policy information. Moreover, staff are advised to consult the intranet page to access and read these polices and become familiar with them.
- Following feedback, the idea was suggested that a presentation to the cluster on these various policies would be welcome over the coming months. We will suggest to HR and follow up in August.

A&D calendar key dates - what is upcoming?

- The cluster were reminded that there is an armament and disarmament calendar in Outlook, and this has been shared. Please check if any key dates or events are missing and inform the A&D Programme Coordinator. The Programme Coordinator is currently updating known information into the armament and disarmament calendar for the rest

of 2022. Planning for the rest of 2022, including cluster meetings and A&D MMM reporting, is in progress and this information will be shared before mid-summer.

Discussion – Stockholm Security Conference 2022 – next steps (Sibylle)

- The concept note is under revision and in progress. When ready it is planned to circulate around to the Stockholm embassies and other potential funders. We discussed the concept and possible sessions at the team leaders meeting, and now the next step is for internal team discussions to finalise ideas. Feedback a title, and a two-line description of the session, ASAP. Which sessions are teams keen to do? What are more optional?
- We will do our best to structure this in a way that it is not too crowded. We will try to avoid parallel sessions as technical support in-house is limited and we don't want to divide our potential audience.
- The SSC will kick off like last year livestreamed opening plenary, but speakers have not been discussed yet.
- It would be nice to link this to an in-person event, and perhaps invite government officials afterwards, which could be those who provide some funding to come for an in-formal Chatham house style discussion on the results of the conference, and what does this mean? TBC.
- On fundraising for SSC – SIPRI will approach again the diplomatic community here in Stockholm via the embassies and particularly those who assisted last year. In parallel Sibylle is in touch with the German Foreign Ministry.
- Any suggestions for funding possibilities are welcome.

AOB

- It would be good to have more substance on the work being done in other clusters. We haven't made the same links to the regional programmes and one idea is to invite PDs from the other cluster to our meetings in Aug/Sept to talk about their work and ideas for future work. Is there possible scope for collaboration? Briefings from Sahel Programme, briefing from Middle East Programme, briefings from European Security Programme.
- Next RSC was announced for Thursday 9 June. It will include in the agenda the nomination of board members. The Policy on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment will be presented and discussed.
- Our next A&D cluster meeting will be on 8 August