

CPS Cluster meeting, 7 June 2022

Attending in person: Luc van de Goor, Ian Anthony, Ahmed Morsy, Fei Su, Shivan Fazil, Sepideh Soltaninia, Amal Bourhrous, Claudia Pfeifer, Noel Kelly, Pauline Poupart, Frederic Daudon, Johanna Eliasson

Attending online: Timo Smit, Janet Feenstra, Jair van der Lijn, Martina Selmi, Hyunji Kim

Updates from Luc/SMT

- In May, the SMT meetings were mainly focusing on the Forum and the Governing Board (GB) meeting.
- The cluster's KPIs were submitted to the GB. While not all KPI's were achieved within the given timeframe (the calendar year), several goals were reached shortly after. This will be reflected in the KPIs of 2022. Also, changes in KPI presentation were made, which might allow for a more streamlined reporting.
- A presentation was given to the GB on the work of the China-Asia Security Programme.
- Plans for next year's Strategic Grant are to be provided by August. While there is indications for a willingness to provide the grant, the duration and size is uncertain.
- Any ideas for should be submitted to Luc and Johanna before the first week of August. The application should capture the balance between what has changed since the last Strategic Grant and what has not/ The application should show continuity while highlighting new ideas.
 - o The impact of the war in Ukraine, with regard to:
 - Humanitarian impacts, including food security
 - Conflict prevention
 - Energy issues and connections to SIPRI's Environment of Peace initiative
 - Impact on other conflicts (including on the ability to continue having a global conversation)
 - o Misinformation, social media and fake news, and their impact of conflict prevention.
 - o The multilateral system's response to crises and global interdependence and it's challenges.
 - Greater research on how the multilateral system responds to crises
 - Examination of financial flows and the HDP nexus
 - o Global interdependence and its challenges, including for international law and international institutions.
 - o Dialogues
 - Iran
 - The Gulf
 - DPRK
 - As well as the bigger gatherings – Forum and SSC

Staffing updates

- Interviews with candidates for the 2023 Taiwan guest researcher programme are being held. The selected candidate for 2022 will arrive in late August, early September.
- Recruitment is ongoing for the MENA Programme Director. Applications are closed and a first round of interviews will be held in the coming weeks.
- Mid-term Reviews should be finalised shortly.

Visits

- On 14 June 09.00-10.00 the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Bankole Adeoye will visit SIPRI. The programme is under development and some colleagues might be approached.

Updates from the Institute

Outreach

- Stephanie aims to join Shivan in Iraq for the communications part of the project on minorities.
- Outreach will be in reactive mode after 27 June to August.
- Thanks for all the great efforts in updating the website, please continue to give your suggestions for updates.

Peace and Development

- Thanks to everyone who joined the Forum, especially the colleagues who led sessions. The Forum team will be in touch individually regarding the reporting from sessions.
- The call for Senior Researcher/Researcher on Peacebuilding will be open until 9 June. Interviews will most likely take place after the summer holidays.

Armament and Disarmament

- The World Nuclear Forces data launch will be the last from the cluster this year. The data is out under embargo, and is to be fully launched on Monday 13 June.
- Fourth stage of EUNPDC is now launched.
- SIPRI takes over the proliferation awareness course, of which Vitali is lead. More information to come.

Director's Office

- Three delegations are visiting SIPRI during w 24:
 - o On Monday 13 June, a NATO civil military delegation will visit. Contributors have been approached.
 - o On Tuesday 14 June AM, the AU Commissioner will visit. The programme is in construction, so some colleagues might be approached.

- On Tuesday 14 June PM, a Pakistan Military Delegation will visit. Participants have been approached.
- Dan will be travelling to Singapore w. 24 and South Korea w. 25. There are still some gaps in the schedule, so if you have people you think that Dan should meet, kindly contact Sepideh.

Operations

- Two candidates for the Grants Coordinator position have been interviewed, and a successful candidate can hopefully be installed by August or September. Meanwhile the grants management is still shared between operations members. Reminder to use grantsmanager@sipri.org for any contact relating to this.
- Operations staff will be on vacation from now until early August. For invoices and payments, the deadline is 8 June. The next deadline is in July.
- A note that SIPRI has to do manual payments to several countries, including Mali, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Iraq, Russia and Ukraine. It takes longer time to process payments to these countries.

Updates from the teams

Peace Operations and Conflict Management

- New data on Multilateral Peace Operations was recently published.
- Gretchen Baldwin recently joined the team, working on peace operations and gender issues. She is open to looking out across other clusters to help on the thinking.
- On 8 June, Jair will present the EUTM report/s to the group of the green parties in the European Parliament. The following week he will be joined by Virginie and potentially Annelies to do the same for the European Parliament Subcommitte on Defence and Security.
- The team had a successful Forum with sessions led by Jair and Timo.
- Jair was in New York a few weeks ago, where a collaboration with the office of the United Nations High Representative for Human Rights was initiated, as well as with the Security Sector Reform unit.

Sahel/West Africa

- The team will present the main findings of the perception survey in Mali and Niger for the Cordaid/Just Future project to several audiences, such as the EU delegation in Niger and the Dutch MFA.
- On 14 June, Sten Hagberg, SIPRI Associate Senior Fellow, will be visiting.
- Virginie and Jair will present the three EUTM studies and the synthesis to the European Parliament Subcommitte on Defence and Security.
- The 11th perception survey for the Central Mali project will be conducted in June.
- The ReCAP scoping studies are to be launched, starting in Senegal. The study is conducted by former SIPRI-colleague Mamadou. Studies will be conducted in eighteen countries and will result in a mapping of organizations working in peacebuilding, prevention of violence, extremism and conflict prevention.
- The team will discuss the sessions for the SSC in June.

European Security

- The next Turkey roundtable will look at the Kurdish question. Discussions ongoing with EUISS and KAF for how to turn these roundtables into a more formal project.
- Talks are also held with EUISS about the topic misinformation/disinformation. Another project on the theme was just started with colleagues in Norway, now looking at how to link this to EU ISS who have a big project just starting.
- Rule of Law-roundtable will start after the summer.
- Ian will, after the pandemic and heatwave, attempts to (re)start the operational project activities in India and South Africa. A visit in India is scheduled for August.
- The first three Ukraine meetings are scheduled, and speakers are booked. The topics will cover the reconstruction of Ukraine, how the war might end, and information war.

China/Asia

- A session at the Governing Board meeting was dedicated to the the China/Asia programme. Suggestions were to narrow the focus of the programme, continuing work on EU-China relations, regional analysis of SIPRI data, as well as an increased focus on cooperation and collaboration.
- The paper on Chinese ODA was recently published.
- Fei and Jingdong co-authored two pieces on China's dilemma in the Russia-Ukraine war.
- The team is waiting for feedback on budget for an annual event from Japanese MFA, which would be covering naval incident management.
- Fei and Laura are applying for a three-year project with NordForsk. The project would be comparing Nordic and ASEAN countries' strategy and approach to security for cyber-attacks.
- The first round of interviews for the Afghanistan project will take place in June, the second in August and a roundtable discussion will be held in September.
- Hyunji Kim recently joined the team as an intern.

Middle East North Africa

- Shivan will go on a field trip on 9 June for the Bosch Stiftung and USAID projects.
- The project on state-society relations in Yemen and Syria is underway.

Stockholm Security Conference 2022

- The SSC will be held on 8-11 November with the title 'Battlefields of the future - Trends of conflict and security in the 21st century: Effects and impact of the war of Ukraine'. The sessions will focus on themes related to:
 - o Lessons from the battlefield and how to interpret military capacity: The types of arms used, the role of information warfare and the impact on military expenditures.

- Understanding nuclear risks: The impact of technological developments, NC3, conventional-nuclear entanglement and targeting of power plants.
- The global multilateral system: Back to the geopolitical drawing board? What are the implications for regional and global arms control? What might future missions in Ukraine look like?
- Protection of Civilians: Lessons from recent conflicts for the Protection of Civilians: Gender, Peacekeeping and NATO perspectives/dimensions.
- The conference will be hybrid with three, max four sessions per day. No parallel sessions. Aiming to have sessions nailed down by next week.
- Funding opportunities are being explored with Embassies and MFAs.
- Potential partners were mentioned - if there are suggestions for organisations that might be interested, please reach out to Luc and Sibylle. Last year, these requests were sent from the Director's Office.

Away day - follow up

- What are the outcomes from the Away day?
 - Potential to link one of the Ukraine meetings to how the war's impact on the regions.
 - Talks about developing a Europe-Middle East conversation. Ian will send concept note.
 - A methodological exchange between Sahel/West Africa and MENA teams will be planned.
 - Mena-POCM.
 - China and POCM, potential collaboration on SSR.

Improving synergies with AD/PD clusters

- One request has come from the PD cluster for presenting on jihadism as a dimension of conflict. This could be planned to be held after the summer break.
- Another request came from the AD cluster: A wish for presentations from the regional teams, but in order to do this it would be good to know what type of information that would be useful for the cluster. Luc and Sibylle to discuss the concrete next steps.

AOB

- The next cluster meeting will be held on 16 August.