

## CPS Cluster Meeting, 16 August 2022

### Updates from SMT

- The Strategic Grant was discussed with the MFA. There is an interest, but it is also clear that we first have to finalize this year's projects and wait for the priorities of a new government after the elections. Yet, it is to be expected that the war in Ukraine is going to have an effect on funding. Similarly, the NATO membership may lead to changing financial priorities. Whether this will affect the SG – ODA budget – is not clear. There may also be new priorities that lead to new project opportunities. For the cluster the objectives for now should be:
  - o To try and focus on other, non-Swedish MFA funding as it probably will take until late this year or early 2023 until we get full clarity;
  - o To prepare a general note, not detailed or with concrete project proposals, on themes and policy areas that we could support with SG-funding (taking the new setting into account);
  - o To prepare the reporting process for the 2022 SG in order to have reporting over '22 approved as soon as possible.
- The visit of the AU delegation could result in further collaboration, potentially a partnership. Joakim will be in touch with them.
- SIPRI was contacted by the WHO to explore the possibility of a partnership.
- Dan is in touch with the OECD, the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF). This network has can also be relevant for POCM, MENA and Sahel related work.

### *Staffing*

- We have been successful in recruiting a new Programme Director for the MENA programme. Alaa Tartir will be joining SIPRI in the last quarter of 2022 and move to Stockholm towards the end of the year.
- Guest researcher Ding-Rui Chuang from Taiwan will arrive on 2 September. He will be with us for one year and mainly work with the colleagues in the China Asia Security Programme.
- The Office seating arrangement is being reviewed and Luc will get in touch with all who will have to change office in the coming weeks.

### *Events and activities*

- A cross-cluster brown bag series on Gender will be held over the autumn, starting with Gretchen Baldwin.
- On 25 August, Stefan Löfven will visit SIPRI. The cluster will have an opportunity to present our work in a one-hour conversation with him. Recommendation to highlight

what differs the work of this cluster with the other clusters, what direction the cluster is going in, and the research focus and aims of the programmes.

## Updates from the teams

### *Peace Operations and Conflict Management*

- Jair and SWAP have been presenting the EUTM report to various audiences, incl. the European Parliament.
- A series of interviews with UN human rights divisions in the missions was initiated. Interviews are planned to be finished by end of September. Part of a project with Uppsala University, but there could become a broader project and a pillar for the programme. In preparation for this, there is contact with Adam Dey from UNCPR in Geneva, and Claudia will be joining an EPON-produced paper on human rights in peace operations.
- The budget for the third part of the Geopolitics for Peace Operations project was extended.
- New EUCAP mission chapters to be collated in a final report later this year.
- Consultant Kevin Steeves is working on case studies for Cote de Ivoire and Sierra Leone for the project on SSR exit strategies in peace operations. Marina Caparini will be working on the theoretical part of the study.
- Application for ELSIE funding for a Canada-funded project on gender and peace operations to be finished by early September.
- Timo has been working on EU civilian CSDP and has recently joined a study led by EEAS to CSDP missions in states such as Kosovo, Palestine, and Georgia.

### *European Security*

- The first Ukraine roundtable will be held in October on the topic of reconstruction.
- Online roundtable with colleagues from Azerbaijan and Georgia on Aug 25th on perspectives on the current developments in European security, connecting Nordic perspectives with other representation.
- The next Turkey roundtable will probably touch on the topic of Cyprus. Conversation about involvement of EUISS. If this happens, there could be a more public element to the roundtable/s.
- Cooperation with RUSI, looking at the impact of foreign financial transactions on national security in selected European countries.
- Tromsø university project about trust in institutions is ongoing.

### *Middle East North Africa*

- Bosch Stiftung project is ongoing. The team is collecting surveys from before and after the dialogue meetings to analyse impact. Third round of meetings to take place in late October/early November.
- USAID project: Graphic designers for the novel have been identified. Work on developing the storyline.
- Strategic grant project on state-society relations is ongoing - interviews have taken place and writing is continuing.
- Ahmed recently visited a conference where he found potential for collaboration with the Arab Reform Initiative. He also met with director for the Middle East programme at Carnegie Endowment. Conversation will take place in early September to explore mutual interests.

### *Sahel and West Africa*

- The last round of surveys in Central Mali will be carried out in September. The team has built the database and working on the synthesis. A conference will take place in Bamako at the end of November.
- The project on Humanitarian Protection has been extended to the end of December. DRC will organize restitution to the beneficiaries in September and several events will take place in Dakar, Ouagadougou, Bamako and Niamey.
- The study carried out for the Swiss cooperation on local protection mechanism has been submitted.
- Three projects continue: ReCAP scoping study is done. Now working on the report and to determine possible members for the network. Possible members will be invited, and an inaugural meeting will take place in Dakar, probably in October.
- Just Future: The next round of surveys in Mali and Niger will be conducted in September. Some localities need to be changed.
- The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed interest in a new study on the concept of fragility. A proposal will be sent to the French MFA towards the end of August.
- SWAP will join the steering committee of the P21 project, Co-led by DRC and UNHCR. The project aims to improve the availability of consistent protection data regional protection analyses and providing evidence for the actors operating in the Sahel.

### *China and Asia Security*

- Welcome back to Jiayi.
- Interviews within the China-Afghan project has been conducted over the summer. A roundtable will be organized in September.
- The naval project, funded by the Japanese MFA, will host an online roundtable around the end of September.

- The project on the cyber sector (involving Fei and Lora), comparing China, Russia and the US, will have in-person meeting towards the end of November or early December.
- Jingdong is involved in a project on Europe in an era of intensifying China-US rivalry, organized by the Goethe University in Frankfurt. He is in Frankfurt next week for a conference.

## **Updates from the institute**

### *Peace & Development*

- Recruitment ongoing for a new Senior Researcher in Peacebuilding. More information on candidate presentations is forthcoming.
- The 2023 Stockholm Forum is on the agenda, and a start-up meeting with the Swedish MFA will be held on 26 August.

### *Armament & Disarmament*

- The vacancy for the Programme Director for Arms Transfers has been extended.
- New funding for project on Compliance with IHL in the development and use of autonomous weapons system. A two-day workshop will be held at SIPRI.
- New funding from FCO UK for WMD programme: “Developing a Practical Toolkit for Practicing Responsible Biological Science and Mitigating Biotech Risks”.

### *Outreach*

- Stephanie and Caspar are working with Shivan on film material.
- Everyone is invited to update the CPS pages on the webpage.
- December is a busy month, but it is not a capacity problem at Editorial, but rather a promotional slot issue. This might mean that if a report which needs to be published before the end of the year will be published, but promoted first in January. Please reach out to Joey if there are any questions. Please note that anything that is done within the strategic grant must be completed this year.

### *Operations*

- The department is still running with decreased staff capacity. A Grants Coordinator will join team in September.
- Please let Operations know if you are interested in the Australian DOD grant proposal.

### *Directors Office*

- SMT will have an away day on 17 August.
- On the occasion of Stefan Löfven’s visit, there will be an all-staff photo opportunity.
- An internal SIPRI calendar will soon be launched, which will include all events in-house, Dan and Stefan’s speaking engagements, data launches and major events etc. Priscilla will be the penholder.

### **Stockholm Security Conference 2022**

- The SSC agenda is to be confirmed and solidified. It looks as if there will be a day focusing on Protection of Civilians in a broader sense, not only in the context Ukraine.
- Thanks to those who have submitted proposals. If there are still ideas, please submit these asap.
- The fundraising for the SSC is moving forward, and we hope to have more clarity later this month. As regards the session proposals, you have all received an email with the template and we have also received some proposals.

### **Agenda for fall and 2023**

- Taken forward to next meeting.

### **Sweden joining NATO, how will this affect our work?**

- We will have a broader discussion potentially even with Stefan Löfvén and RSC, but good to see how it related to the work that we do in the cluster. No comments for now, taken forward to the next cluster meeting.