

Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-16:00 PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Zoom virtual meeting, Monday 5 December 2022

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Mark Bromley, Wilfred Wan, Giovanna Maletta, Kolja Brockmann, Tytti Erästö, Vitaly Fedchenko, Lauriane Héau, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman, Justine Gadon, Alexandra Kuimova, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Lorenzo Scarazzato, Xiao Liang, Nivedita Raju, John Batho, Anna Nadibaidze, Anastasia Cucino, Madison Lipson, Sepideh Soltaninia, Priscilla Frimpong Boateng

Please note we have a change of presentation, Anna Nadibaidze will now speak at an in-house seminar/brown bag being organized by the Emerging Tech team 13 December from 12:00 to 13:00.

Giovanna has agreed to give a presentation on the topic 'The war in Ukraine: implication of the arms export policies at EU level' instead.

Please find below the agenda updated for our next A&D cluster meeting on 5 December, and please note this will be an on-line meeting only (Zoom link below).

Agenda – Monday 5 December – @14:30PM.

- Updates from Operations.
- Reports or updates from Director's Office, HR, other Clusters
- Updates from Outreach. (Communications/Editorial)
- Report for A&D teams (AT, DUAT, Emerging Tech, MILAP, WMD)
- Updates from EUNPDC
- Reports from DOS/SMT (Sibylle)

Giovanna Maletta - presentation 'The war in Ukraine: implication of the arms export policies at EU level'

- AOB

Operations

- As of 1 December, the HR department is now under Operations.
- Nikos had hoped to attend and speak to us about event planning and dealing with vendors but will do this at the next cluster meeting.
- They are working in the programme management office to update processes and divide tasks. They are still short staff so be patient. They are moving towards the direction of reporting project time directly in Maconomy. More details to come in due course.

HR

- Hedvig is alone as Helena Berger has now left SIPRI. The recruitment process to replace Helena with a HR Director is underway and it is hoped to have someone in place early next year.
- The general advertisement for internships has been taken down and replaced with the following language. ‘SIPRI no longer accepts internship applications on an ongoing basis. On occurrence within the respective research area or department, available internship positions will be published under SIPRI’s vacancies, on this page.’
<https://sipri.org/about/vacancies>

Directors Office

- Our annual roundtable with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been booked for the afternoon of 17 January 2023. The topics are being sorted out and some from this cluster may yet be involved in this roundtable with more information to come.

C, P&S and P&D Clusters

- No report from either cluster at this meeting.

Outreach (Editorial and Communications)

- Congratulations to the MILAP team on a very successful data launch process. The launch and coverage are going very well. Please take the opportunity to explore the interactive graphics and something that can be utilized more in the future.
- The SSC videos will shortly be ready and published online either this week or by the latest next week (W.50).

Report for A&D teams (AT, DUAT, Emerging Tech, MILAP, WMD)

Arms Transfers Programme - report

- The data collection for the database work is speeding up and the number of input sessions are increasing.
- The team are still working on the new database with the developers but there remain some bugs and editorial issues to be worked through.
- There is still no contract start confirmation for the UNSCAR project ‘Transparency in armaments: promoting the UN Register of Conventional Arms in the ASEAN region.’ This project was applied for in 2021 and recommended in March 2022 for UNSCAR 22/23 funding but not approved yet to start.
- There remains a lot of interest and questions from journalists to the AT team especially in relation to the Russian/Ukraine war. Justine participated last week in a French radio programme (Foreign Affairs) on this subject.
- Alexandra Kuimova gave an on-line lecture to university students (from Turkey) on the relationship between arms trade, regional security, and peace.
- Alexandra is leaving SIPRI after six years and this is her final week. Alexandra will be joining UNIDIR in Geneva and working with the conventional arms and ammunition programme. We all wish Alexandra well!

DUAT Programme - report

- The MTCR (Military Technology Control Regime) project led by Kolja is in the concluding phase. The final report has gone out and the workshop delivered on 28/29 November.
- Giovanna and Lauriane are working on the second topical backgrounder under the UD strategic grant project on SALW and arms transfers assistance activities in the Middle East and North Africa.
- The team are working on the SIPRI Yearbook chapter.
- The team are working on funding proposals including for the German MFA and possibly one for UNSCAR.
- Mark is moving in January to Australia for 1.5 years but plans to continue as a researcher with SIPRI. Giovanna will take on the role of acting programme director in Mark’s absence.

Emerging Technologies - report

- Vincent is currently on vacation and Laura Bruun was on leave today.
- The Emerging tech team invite all to a brown bag seminar on **Tuesday, 13 December from 12:00 to 13:00** for a presentation with visiting guest researcher Anna Nadibaidze. '*Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence: Russian Narratives and Capabilities.*'

Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme – report

- The team are busy with media requests following the release of the top 100 arms industry data.
- The team have completed the first round of milex data collection, and this work continues until February next year.
- The team are wrapping up the UD strategic grant funded insights paper on how to fund military spending using taxation. It should be ready within the next two weeks.
- The Milex SIPRI Yearbook chapter work will start early next year but the arms industry chapter is being written up now.
- Externally funded work is being led mostly by Lorenzo, who is working on the DG DEFIS (European Commission) collecting European arms industry datasets.
- On further funding, the MILAP team are considering an UNSCAR proposal for 2023.

WMD Programme – report

- Wilfred was in Geneva on 2 Dec, moderating a side event 'Biorisk awareness across stakeholder communities' at The Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.
- On 20/21 November, Wilfred took part in the Alva Myrdal Centre working group chairs retreat in Uppsala together with Sibylle.
- On 14 November, Nivi was a moderator at the annual EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference Next Generation panel on disruptive and emerging technologies.
- On 11 November, Nivi was a speaker at a workshop exploring NATO's final frontier – organised by NATO, IAI (Istituto Affari Internazionali), and University of Bologna.

- Vitaly is busy with preparations for the EUNPDC intensive proliferation awareness training course for graduate and post-graduate students of engineering disciplines happening in SIPRI on 6-8 December. The course title is ‘WMD Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Pathways’.
- On 2/3 November Lora Saalman was the organiser and moderator as SIPRI in cooperation with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) America, hosted a closed-door, in-person expert workshop on ‘Cyber Postures and Dynamics: China, Russia, United States and Europe’ in Washington, DC.
- On 15 November Lora was chair and speaker on a cyber security panel at the annual EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference.
- On 15/16 November Lora took part in a US/China on the US nuclear posture review. This was a SEESAC event.
- Tytti reported on progress for a new contract with the Hiroshima organisation for global peace for fiscal year 2022, and they are working on extending this project into the beginning of the next fiscal year 2023.
- Tytti is working on the SIPRI Yearbook chapter and contributing to course being organised by Vitaly.

EUNPDC - report

- Some A&D staff were involved and attended the annual EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference (Sibylle, Giovanna, Nivi, Lauriane, Kolja and Wilfred) that took place in Brussels on 14/15 November, and the add on events. Nivi and Lauriane attended the Next Generation workshop. The annual Network meeting took place before the conference was attended Sibylle and Giovanna.
- As mentioned, the EU are funding the intensive proliferation awareness training course for graduate and post-graduate students of engineering disciplines happening in SIPRI on 6-8 December. We wish Vitaly well with this event.
- The first EUNPDC paper of this cycle have been published in November. It is a paper titled ‘Opportunities for the European Union to Strengthen Biosecurity in Africa’, authored by Benjamin Wakefield from Chatham House. There are two more procurement processes for the next papers to be published in first part of 2023. For the publication series a new paper has been assigned to Ali Alkis from the Odessa Center. He will write on the topic of nuclear security post-Ukraine. Raluca Csernatoni from Carnegie Europe will write on miliary applications of AI.

DOS/SMT – report (Sibylle)

- Sibylle is at the SIPRI office this week but will also be partly involved in proliferation awareness training course on here in SIPRI.
- Next week (w.50) Sibylle along with Wilfred will be at Wilton Park attending the Annual Nuclear Policy Conference.
- Sibylle will be in Stockholm again during the first part pf week 51 (just before Christmas).
- Sibylle attended and reported on the Berlin Security Conference 30 Nov – 1 Dec (W.48). While in Berlin Sibylle also has meetings the German Foreign Ministry about fundraising approaches that are ongoing and will discuss further with A&D team leaders.
- Sibylle reported further about the Alva Myrdal retreat and confirmed dates for the AMC annual conference will be on 14-16 June 2023.

Presentation - Giovanna Maletta - ‘The war in Ukraine: implication of the arms export policies at EU level’.

- This presentation is based on a briefing given on Tuesday 28 November in Brussels, where Lucie and Giovanna briefed the European Parliament Security and Defence Sub-Committee. The issue was examined from two different perspectives. One was the impact on the European Peace Facility (EPF) and the impact EPF is having on EU export controls. The other was from the perspective of individual EU member states and how the conflict is or is not having an impact on their arms export control polices.

AOB

- MILAP Interns Anastasia Cucino and Maddison Lipson are visiting us here in SIPRI this week, please take the opportunity to say hello.
- **SAVE THE DATE - Gender seminar series continues in 2023**

Our **Gender seminar series** continues in 2023, and we would like to invite you to the conference room or meet on-line on **Thursday, 12 January from 10:00 to 11:00**. A link will be circulated in due course. In this gender-themed seminar, Anastasia Cucino <<https://sipri.org/about/bios/anastasia-cucino>> will present on the topic of **‘The Gendering of Today’s Nuclear World Order’**. The discussion will be moderated by Sibylle Bauer.

- **SAVE THE DATE** - seminar presentation by Benoît Pelopidas, the founding Director of ‘the Nuclear Knowledges program’. The WMD Programme would like to invite you to

the SIPRI conference room or meet on-line on **Thursday, 19 January from 12:00 to 13:00PM.**

- **Planned A&D Cluster meetings for first quarter of 2023.** All happening on Monday afternoons as usual @2:30PM.
 - 6 Feb 2023
 - 6 March 2023
 - 3 April 2023