



Minute taker: Noel Kelly

Time: 14:30-16:00 PM

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Monday 6 March 2023 - **@14:30PM** in the Conference room and Zoom.

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Vincent Boulanin, Laura Bruun, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Lorenzo Scarazzato, Xiao Liang, Giovanna Maletta, Kolja Brockmann, Lauriane Héau, Wilfred Wan, Tytti Erästö, Vitaly Fedchenko, Nivedita Raju, Siemon Wezeman, Justine Gadon, John Batho, Sepideh Soltaninia, Lucas Wiktorsson, Ana Carolina de Oliveira Assis, Kelsey Hartman, Sofia Staderini, Nikos Politis

Agenda

- 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.
- Update from DOS/SMT.
- Presentation from Alaa Tartir – Programme Director of SIPRI's MENA Programme - and discussion with A&D.

Operations – (Nikos)

- Staff are thanked for cooperation in the contract and project management system and working with Maconomy to help with budget allocation for salaries. Good results are being seen from engagement with these processes.
- Staff are reminded not to submit timesheets before the due time.
- Long-term the hope is that project leads can find information on remaining budget spend in Maconomy. For now, SharePoint is suggested to be used with A&D Programmes. Here the PDs would have access to contracts, budgets, and financial progress. Moving to the time reporting helps update the financial progress each month.

Director's Office – (Sepideh)

- Dan and Stefan attended the Munich Security Conference.
- Dan and Sepideh were in Geneva during week 9, mostly for meetings with UNOHCHR.
- Dan and Sepideh also met with ICRC while in Geneva and UNIDIR.
- On the 16 March there is an Indian Army War College delegation visit to SIPRI. It was also mentioned that the Pakistani War College will visit at some point.
- On 23 March the Stockholm Association of International Affairs (group of students) are visiting SIPRI.
- On the 27 March there is a German staff course visit.
- On 27/28 March Dan is in Helsinki for a meeting co-convened by SIPRI and the Finnish Institute for International Affairs for a meeting about Sweden and Finland's plans to join NATO.
- On 31 March, the Romanian Prime Minister is coming to SIPRI, and this will be an invitation only event.

No report from HR or other clusters this afternoon.

Outreach. (Communications/Editorial) - Lucas.

- Congratulations to the ATP on getting out all relevant material for the embargo release today ahead of the data launch on 13 March. There is already a substantial amount of media interest ahead of this launch.
- Preparations are being made for the WMD hybrid event 'Nuclear Security During Armed conflict: Lesson from Ukraine' on 16 March in Malta. A policy paper by Vitaly is being released ahead of this event < <https://sipri.org/publications/2023/other-publications/nuclear-security-during-armed-conflict-lessons-ukraine>>. Released also this month is a nuclear security in the Ukraine and Black Sea region policy paper authored by Vitaly, Wilfred, and Dr Polina Sinovets and Dr Iryna Maksymenko from Odcnp (Odesa Center for Nonproliferation). <<https://sipri.org/publications/2023/other-publications/nuclear-security-ukraine-and-black-sea-region-new-threats-new-risks-new-consequences>>.
- Also forthcoming is the SIPRI biorisk toolbox project (Wilfred) video series.
- Papers highlighted has forthcoming is Kolja and Lauriane's MTCR paper 'Good Practices in Export Control Outreach to the NewSpace Industry', and a paper from Laura Bruun 'Compliance with international humanitarian law in the development and use of autonomous weapon systems.'
- In a cross-cutting team collaboration Lora Saalman, Fei Su and Ian Anthony have a paper coming on naval incidents. Naval Incident Management in Europe, East Asia and South East Asia <https://sipri.org/publications/2023/sipri-insights-peace-and-security/naval-incident-management-europe-east-asia-and-south-east-asia>.

- Staff are reminded when planning events to loop in Stephanie, Martina and Joey from the beginning of this process.

Emerging Tech (Laura and Vincent)

- Laura just returned from Costa Rica Laura having attended the Latin American and Caribbean Conference (23-24 Feb). Laura participated on a panel and spoke about IHL and accidents in war and whether autonomous weapons increase the risk of accidents.
- Laura is traveling to Geneva this week to attend CCW Group of Governmental Experts on autonomous weapon systems, first session of 2023.
- Next week (w.11) Laura is travelling to Vienna for a day (14 March) to attend European Regional Conference of National IHL Committees. This conference is organised by Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, and ICRC.
- As reported last month Vincent and Laura attended the REAIM Summit meeting at the Hague on 16 February (a Conference on responsible AI). Vincent is available to debrief further those who would like to know more. <https://sipri.org/news/2023/sipri-joins-first-summit-responsible-ai-military-domain-hague>
- The team have had 3 online publications over the last 2 months. The last one was issued on the ICRC blog and written by Vincent and Marta Bo (Associate Senior researcher) . <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2023/03/02/three-lessons-autonomous-weapons-systems-ihl/>.
- Vincent had a paper with Dustin Lewis (Associate Senior researcher) [Responsible reliance concerning development and use of AI in the military domain](#), *Ethics Inf Technol* 25, 8 (Feb 2023)
- Laura had an external publication back in January justsecurity.org (an online forum) ['Investigating \(Mis\)conduct in War is Already Difficult: Will the use of Military AI Make it Harder?'](#), Just Security (Jan 2023)

Arms Transfers team (Pieter)

- This is embargo week, and the team are preparing for the data launch on 13 March.
- The team are currently working on the SIPRI Yearbook chapter.
- There is one external project 'Transparency in armaments: promoting the UN Register of Conventional Arms in the ASEAN region' funded by UNSCAR that work must begin on shortly and be completed this year.

DUAT team (Giovanna)

- Outreach already reported on some of the deliverable's forthcoming from DUAT.
- The team are working with (BAFA), which is the German export controls authority in the implementation of a project on export controls assistance to countries from the Persian Gulf region along with Iraq and Lebanon. Colleagues from the MENA Programme are also working on this project. Lauriane is in Dubai during week 11 for an outreach event organised by BAFA and UAE authorities. Lauriane will chair one of the panels during the day.
- Kolja will be in Brussels between 14/15 March for a seminar organise by the U.S. government and the European Commission on Catch-all controls.
- Kolja was approached by the Swiss to participate in a separate event in the context of the MTCR meeting happening in Paris during April. He has been asked to brief on the final report for the MTCR project that came out at the end of last year.

- DUAT have a meeting with Mexican diplomats here in SIPRI on Tuesday (7 March). They are interested in discussing a very specific topic which is the appropriate responsibility of gun manufacturers.
- DUAT are engaged in various fundraising efforts and in relation to this will meet with the Chair of COARM (Michał Karczmarsz) who will be here on 27 March for the EU Directors meeting.

MILAP team (Lucie)

- MILAP have recent seen two blog pieces published. [Going private \(equity\): A new challenge to transparency in the arms industry](#) by Lorenzo Scarazzato and Madison Lipson and [The proposed hike in Japan's military expenditure](#) by Xiao Liang and Nan Tian.
- The team are busy with the SIPRI Yearbook chapter and preparations towards the data launch.
- External project work continuing includes the DG DEFIS: 2022-2023, European arms industry datasets project that runs until end of July 2023.
- Work on a new OSF (Open Society Foundations) '*Colombia transparency in military expenditure*' project is expected to start soon with the project confirmed but just waiting for the contract to be signed.
- On fundraising they are awaiting answers for applications, including from the European Commission, UNSCAR, and Alfred P Sloan Foundation. A concept note is being worked on in partnership with UNIDIR for a project about 'matching security priorities and security spending'. A concept note is being written for a project on disaggregated military expenditure with a contact from West Point Military Academy. Xiao is working with Fei on a concept for a project about Coast Guard forces in the Indo-Pacific region.

WMD team (Wilfred)

- The new Research Assistant Vladislav Chernavskikh for WMD will arrive in SIPRI on Monday 27 March.
- Event upcoming include a brown bag with Professor Yoko Iwamaon Monday 13 March at 12:00:13:00, for a talk on 'Japan's National Security Strategy in a Changing Era'.
- There is a hybrid event from Malta where the Odessa Center has now relocated and co-organised with UKFCO and SIPRI on Thursday 16 March at 13:00-15:00, for a talk about 'Nuclear Security during Armed Conflict: Lesson from Ukraine'.
- On 28 March, Ambassador Alexander Kmentt (Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Austrian Foreign Ministry) will visit SIPRI for a panel event on "Perspectives on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and Nuclear Disarmament" (16:45 – 18:00 in the Conference room).
- This week (w.10) on 6-7 March Tytti is in Brussels for a conference on nuclear stability and escalation risks in Europe being organised by the Foreign Policy Research Institute and funded by the U.S. DTRA (Defense Threats Reduction Agency).
- On Wednesday 8 March, Wilfred travels to Wilton Park for an event on on Irreversible Nuclear Disarmament (IND).
- Later this month Wilfred will be in Geneva to brief the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on risk reduction.

EUNPDC

- Nothing further to report since last month and with regards dates and meetings. The Annual Conference is in December (dates TBC) and the Consultative meeting in mid-June (dates TBC) with a focus on export controls.

- On publications not much to report this time but still working on procurement. The next two papers have been identified, with one paper on tech and bio and one on foreign policy and how it relates to the states nuclear disarmament laws.
- An announcement and call for applications for the next EUNPDC funded and organised by SIPRI course in May (online) will be published and circulated - 'WMD Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Pathways: intensive online introductory course for students of nuclear and aerospace engineering'.

Update from DOS/SMT

- Sibylle was in Berlin last week (w.9) for the formal launch of the feminist foreign policy in Germany. The event was well attended with high level participation. There is a specific website and guiding principles online.
< <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/ffp-guidelines/2585074>>
- The armament & disarmament summer school will take place again this year during the week of 21 August (w.34). Wilfred, Vladislav, Martina, and Daniele along with Sibylle are the core team organising this event.
- The week of 12 June (w.24) will be a busy one, as this is the week of the Alva Myrdal Centre (AMC) Annual Conference in Uppsala, and week of the (EUNPD) Consultative Meeting in Brussels (dates TBC). In addition, the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) Cyber Project Workshop organised by Lora Saalman will be hosted in SIPRI on 13/14 June.
- Sibylle will be in Montreal during 13-17 march (w.11) for the International Studies Association (ISA 2023) Annual Convention. Sibylle is planning to attend a lot of gender sessions and sessions with a focus on curriculum analysis and teaching. There's a one-day workshop for a project on decolonizing nuclear curricular that Sibylle will attend.
- Sibylle has been asked by SMT to organise a fundraising peer learning session to share experiences.

Presentation from Alaa Tartir – Programme Director of SIPRI's MENA Programme - and discussion with A&D.

- The MENA programme is currently working jointly with the A&D DUAT programme on one project 'Capacity building dual-use export control GCC or Middle East' funded by the European Commission.
- The overall MENA programme is framed in the following way – the first line is work on research that goes into two branches – the first one that is country focused and one that is thematic focused. The second line is country dialogue - track 2 and other geo-political dialogue. The third line is links within SIPRI – within the Conflicts, Peace & Development cluster and across Clusters.
- Over the past two years they worked a lot on Iraq as a case study, with lots of details related to research on perceptions about security, conflict, and peace building, but also conducting a lot of community dialogues. The defining feature of this work was the focus on people and a bottom-up and developing a methodology. Not so much about institutions but the community people level.
- There is a natural synergy that can be built as there is not much analysis being done using the data collected by MENA yet across SIPRI. Steps are being taken to expand – collaborative and project work is currently ongoing with the DUAT team. MENA have had conversations with MILAP on the data and arms companies and exploring possible collaboration with plans to write a concept note.
- There has been conversations on US transparency of arms transfers towards the Middle East. Here the MENA team could be useful in the background to give context.

- One starting point raised for collaboration was from ATP, with the suggestion perhaps for a meeting to go through the arms transfers database. It is useful to understand what it's about and goes in there and what one can do with it. To which extent it's just data and which extent it's a basis for knowledge within the ATP team and more broadly within the institute. One learns about issues related to conventional arms and expertise to better understand the role weapons play in international security. Arms procurement is something we can look at closer on the Middle East.

The teams spoke about their work projects and exchanged where they had experience of research/project work related to the Middle East.

AOB

- The next A&D cluster meeting will be on 4 April.