



Note taker: Noel Kelly

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Tuesday 2 May 2023 - **@15:00PM** in SIPRI seminar room and Zoom

Participants:

Virgine Baudais, Shourjya Deb, Sibylle Bauer, Mathew George, Pieter Wezeman, Giovanna Maletta, Kolja Brockmann, Lauriane Héau, Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Lorenzo Scarazzato, Xiao Liang, Shannon Kile, Tytti Erästö, Nivedita Raju, Vladislav Chernavskikh, Vongai Murugani, Joey Fox, Sepideh Soltaninia, , Ulla Hurting Nielsen, 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 Sahel and West Africa Programme (Virginie Baudais and Shourjya Deb) – and discussion with the A&D Cluster.

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- Virginie gave a presentation about the work and projects undertaken and Shourjya presented about the databases.
- What they do – the goal is to try and understand the populations perceptions of security, governance, social cohesion, and development. It is a bottom up, inclusive, and repeatable research approach. They do conduct mainly perception surveying in the Sahel region and qualitative research in the same areas. The idea is to support the production of knowledge on the Sahel and develop evidence-based policy recommendations. The team works with many different partners including regional networks, researchers, international organisations, and other NGOs.

Operations

Travel Policy

- Staff are reminded about and advised to follow the travel policy. There is a signed agreement between Trånas and SIPRI with staff required to book all flights through them as much as possible. When you submit your expenses the travel proposal should be included so the Finance team know who should pay (be it for a project or core cost). If you have any questions - contact the Finance team.

Invoices

- Finance cannot accept invoices that are not set up from a company. Invoices without organizational numbers or company names are not legitimate. Such payments should not be on the salary list – consultants must have a company to invoice from. Auditors have cautioned and SIPRI must follow correct financial procedures. Therefore, Finance will not accept invoices that are not from legitimate companies. This may mean agreements being re-written for individuals (consultants), but it must be done. Finance will help as much as needed and staff are advised again to communicate any questions or issues.

Salary costing

- Tracking on the projects and overall finances has been going well with Nikos helping all teams in A&D to monitor and cost time in Maconomy. It is important for financial planning when you have vacation scheduled that such information is shared with the operations team. The summer period is upcoming with many staff including from operations planning vacation and we are reminded that for correct budget planning and salary allocation this information is collected and shared in advance. In A&D, we have given a deadline for 1 June 2023 requesting all staff share summer vacation plans (even if TBC) – with their line manager and Cc Sibylle and Noel.

Strategic grant

- On the strategic grant teams are advised to think about how they want to utilise funds within existing project work once these funds are available. There are different options, with certain limits and criteria on how this funding can be used, as this is development

assistance funding. In certain contexts, we know that SALW, arms trade treaty assistance, and military spending project work are options. We need to think what things we are doing anyway could fit and what are new possible additional project work on the top of our priority list. There will be further planning and discussion in a dedicated meeting with A&D team leaders.

Directors Office

- Preparations are underway for the visit of NIS to meet with A&D here in SIPRI on Friday 5 May. A planned agenda has been shared with NIS and once confirmed will be circulated in advance of this meeting.
- The Finnish Foreign Minister may be coming to SIPRI on Thursday 11 May and the focus will be on Africa. Sepideh will inform us once more is known and confirmed.
- Preparations for the Governing Board (GB) meeting are underway, and information has been shared. **SAVE THE DATES:** Board meeting participation on 22 and 23 May. E-mail to register for lunch and meeting with GB members is forthcoming.

HR

- Lisa Wiklund was unavailable for this meeting but will join our next cluster meeting and present to colleagues. Lisa would like to hear the expectations from the cluster.

Outreach (Communications/Editorial)

- Communications were delighted with how the milex data launch has been received with a record amount of coverage 8023 reports to date. An overview shows coverage in over 7 600 online news articles or broadcasts (and an additional over 600 blogs) in the first five days alone. Congratulations to all and well done on the great teamwork MILAP + Outreach!
- On the website updates, such as bio information – please send to Amelie <amelie.lutz@sipri.org> with Stephanie <blenckner@sipri.org> in Cc. On the regular website content for the general pages, please send to Joey <fox@sipri.org> with Stephanie in Cc.
- There are two data releases left before the summer vacation period, the first is on 29 May from the C, P&S cluster covering peace operations. From A&D, the WMD Programme release the world nuclear forces data on 12 June (linked to the SIPRI Yearbook launch story).
- The SIPRI Yearbook has been sent to the indexer, and Joey thanked the A&D cluster for all collaboration that ensured the process went smoothly this year. Communication will be sent for schedule planning covering early fall and please respond once you get the e-mail from Joey.

Peace & Development Cluster

- We are reminded that on Thursday 4 May, all are welcome to the Resilience Seminar today at 12.30h. Cedric De Coning will speak on “Resilience and Complexity”. He is a Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and has done research on resilience and complexity ranging from how civilians and social institutions

self-organize and adapt to hybrid threats to how to rethink UN peace operations under changing conditions.

- On 25 May, SIPRI will host Rotary Peace Fellows who are studying at the University of Uppsala's Department of Peace and Conflict on 25 May 2023. The meeting will take place from 10:00-12:00 in the Seminar Room.

Conflict, Peace & Security Cluster

- The Sahel and West Africa team is interviewing 4 persons for the RA position.
- SIPRI's European Security Programme is hiring a Senior Researcher-Programme Director (combined role) to lead the programme as Ian Anthony will be leaving his position in SIPRI at the end of May.

MILAP

- As already covered the team have been extremely busy dealing with the milex data launch and dealing with media and general requests. Congratulations to the MILAP team on a successful launch.

Arms Transfers Programme

- We welcome new Programme Director Mathew George who has arrived in SIPRI today.
- Getting back to the core work following the busy AT data launch period.

DUAT

Project work ongoing:

- BAFA
- INSIGHT
- e-learning unit on export controls.

Fundraising:

- Mark's meeting with Australian MFA officials, sent concept note with ideas on China and export controls, the regimes.
- Funding proposal to UK FCDO has been rejected.

Meetings/briefings/travels:

- Kolja travelled to Paris on 20 April to brief MTCT participating states on his work on the regimes.
- 11-12 May he is also participating to the German export control conference in Berlin.
- Kolja and Lauriane to take part to the Science, Peace, and Security in Darmstadt (presentation and poster)
- DUAT will brief the EU Dual-Use Working Party on 16 May.

Governance of AI

- The programme has rebranded from emerging tech and is currently recruiting to expand the team. Processes are on-going to hire a senior researcher and research assistant.
- Funding proposal to UK FCDO has been rejected.
- On LAWS IV application the team are waiting to hear back from Swedish funders (Netherlands and Swiss on board).

WMD

- Wilfred back from holiday, now in London for Institute of Science and Tech conference on nuclear hotlines, back on 4 May.

Publications

- Tytti's Hiroshima paper on "Role of Umbrella States in the Global Nuclear Order" will be published soon.

Events

- Vitaly conducting EUNPDC online intro course for students of nuclear and aerospace engineering disciplines. (Thanks Noel and team, all involved (including Tytti and Sibylle)).
- Last week Vitaly was working with Bob Kelley in Uppsala as part of the AMC Working Group 4.
- Lora Saalman participating in an AI and Cyber Security Dialogue this week (w.18).
- Nivi was in Brussels for closed seminar on the EU Space Strategy hosted by Sweden with EUISS last week (w.17).

Activities: Normal work continuing, some events to prep for-

- For Lora: The cyber workshop 13-14 June, 'Cyber Incidents and Threat Perceptions: Views from China, Russia, Europe and the United States' and insights paper with Larisa and Fei.
- Nordforsk exploratory workshop on WMD governance and tech, 20-21 June
- The AMC annual conference in June

Funding

- WMD got 0 out of 3 in UK CPACC applications this year.
- Successful Australia DOD application on strategic effects of regional naval dynamics, will be working across cluster and programmes on this, congrats to Tytti.
- We have been talking with ROK, hope to hear back soon about possible joint workshop with UNIDIR as part of our larger space-nuclear work.
- For SIPRI-ICRC space and IHL fellowship, continuing to talk to the Swiss about funding – but Canada has said no for this fiscal year.

EUNPDC papers – Apart from 2 published papers, 5 papers commissioned:

- Raul Gonzalez (Capgemini engineering) and Clara Portela (University of Valencia) on the EU Space Strategy – first draft submitted and under review.
- Raluca Csernatoni (Carnegie Europe) on mapping AI-enabled EU defence technology - paper is in review stage.
- Jean Pascal Zanders (FRS) on disinformation under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention – first draft submitted and under review.
- Laura Rose Brown (BASIC) on Feminist Foreign Policy and nuclear weapons policy – first draft submitted and under review.
- Another paper commissioned and due in the summer by Callum Watson and Aline Shaban from Small Arms Survey on small arms control.

1 proposal is also under review.

EUNPDC Updates

Status of the Network

- 107 institutions and 3 more applications are being reviewed.

EUNPD Annual Conference

- Will take place on 4-5 December 2023.

EUNPDC 12th Consultative Meeting

- Will be split into two parts.
- 12 June: discuss CONOP issues.
- 15 June: discuss COARM issues.

Interim Report

- Plan is to submit the report to EEAS by end of June. Currently waiting on inputs from Consortium members.

Proliferation Awareness training

- Taking place on 2-5 May online.

EUNPD Papers

- 2 already published in this phase of the project (Phase IV)
- 5 additional papers have been commissioned, 1 more proposal is being reviewed.

Additional:

- Sibylle briefed CONOP and COARM Council working parties on the implementation of the EUNPDC project on 18-19 April. Several representatives spoke highly of the work the Consortium does.

Update from DOS/SMT.

- SMT was reported on already at our RSC meeting this morning. As mentioned, we have the NIS visit on Friday 5 May, and suggestions for discussions from teams with time slots has been shared with Joakim for agenda planning. The list of participants is coming from the Foreign Ministry and this along with the agenda will be shared in advance. NIS normally arrive well in advance and the meeting is scheduled to start at 10:00am, please come early as participants can meet in the library beforehand.

- New Agenda for Peace. Sibylle attended the first two meetings (Geneva and Vienna) and Diego (now Nan) will participate in New York. Part of preparations on new agenda for peace that will be launched and feed into the summit next year and the ministerial meeting this September. This will possibly result in a new vision for disarmament. This activity will be reported on in more detail at another time (we were limited for time in this meeting and internet connection dropping off).

AOB

- Next A&D Cluster meeting will take place on Thursday 1 June @13:00PM.