

## **A&D cluster meeting – Monday 3 June**

Where: Conference + zoom

When/duration: 14.30-15.30. **60 min**

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Update from other clusters and teams (15 min)**

Purpose: Representatives from other clusters and other teams can use the opportunity to briefly share important updates — i.e. things that could not simply be put in the email.

Speaking order: 1) HR 2) Operations – GAD (Grant Acquisition and Development) (Fred) and GMO (Nikos) 3) Director's office 4) Other Clusters 5) EUNPDC.

#### **2. Horizon scanning (15 min)**

- Purpose: Identify world developments that are or could affect the work of the cluster.
- Guiding question: What world development is particularly preoccupying your team right now?
- How it will work: Each programme is invited to reflect in advance. A team member will report on behalf the programme. Each team gets 3 min. **Note:** Representatives from other clusters and other teams (HR, outreach etc.) are welcome to participate in the exercise but not required to.

#### **3. Working and learning together: GAD – fundraising - Frederic Daudon (30 min)**

Proposal writing – are you aware of the process that we have?

<https://intranet.sipri.org/support/finance/grants/a-z/>

<https://intranet.sipri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Project-management-flowchart.pdf>

Opportunity to ask questions.

## Notes

### HR report

- There are plans to recruit a senior researcher to the Sahel team within the CPS cluster – the advert is being prepared.
- In Operations the recruitment process for two positions, a new GAD officer and PMO officer is ongoing, with interviews being held.
- The recruitment process for a new SIPRI Deputy Director is ongoing with interviews being held.
- The recruitment process for a new Director process is underway.
- In operations, our new Financial Manager Karin Buzzi-Donato, hired to replace Ulla has started in SIPRI and was introduced at MMM.
- Ongoing work in Hailey was reported on. All employment contracts are in a folder called contracts now.
- There will be an invitation soon from HR to line managers for an open discussion to bring topics to HR (employees e-mail your line manager if you want any specific topics brought up).
- HR has been invited along with the DOSS to a travel process workshop on 4 July to revise the current process. If you want to attend, then contact HR.
- Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation - Johan Forssell, visits SIPRI on 19 June to meet Dan and others.

### Outreach

#### GAD

- There is much work ongoing with many funding applications from A&D. Nan's UNDP application was reported as successful, and there are more applications we are waiting to hear back on.

#### PMO

- This is an especially busy period with some projects ending and reports to be prepared and audits upcoming, including for the EUNPDC phase IV (deadline 17 July but intend to report by end of June). Strengthening Global Regimes to promote Nuclear & Chemical Sec – a report is due by end of June. Responsible Innovation in AI (UNODA-SIPRI) a project report is due end of June. The Ploughshares project (Exploring the role of nuclear weapons in NATO's deterrence policy) ended yesterday and a report is due by end of June. Two GFFO projects (Red Lines is one and MTCR II is another) need to be reported on.
- When we budget from now on, we need to think in terms of fiscal years. The GAD/PMO teams are under resourced for now and all help and cooperation is appreciated.
- We have scheduled with the project leads (during week 25 – 17-20 June) budget meetings so that we discuss both the June and July time reporting plans. Please inform your line managers of holiday plans – this not only influences reporting but more importantly it can influence the efficient spread of funds, and this is very important for the institute.
- All the project files have been shared in teams with the DOS and Programme Directors. You should be able to access individual project folders for your relevant projects. Contracts and details along with follow up information should be found within these folders, and the idea is also to add deliverables and eventually we create a project library resource going forward.

### Directors Office report

- An update on Dan and Joakim's upcoming meeting itinerary was given. This week (W.23) Dan and Joakim are meeting with the Head of NIS part of a regular catch-up briefing.

- Next week (W.24) Dan will be in Helsinki on Tuesday and Wednesday for the NATO Foresight Conference.
- On Friday 14 June, the Colombian President and Foreign Minister are in town and Dan, Stefan, and Joakim and select group of SIPRI researchers will have an opportunity to meet them (Diego and Caroline so far but still being worked out).
- On 20/21 June (W.25), Dan will be in Paris for a meeting at the OECD, where partnerships between eight different aid organisations and the OECD are discussed (talk with Sepideh if you want to know more).
- During week 26 - Dan is going to Montreux for a China - U.S expert dialogue, until the 26 June.
- Partnership wise, the African Union have cleared our MOU but still in process.

### **Outreach**

- Summer is coming and **Outreach is formally closed all of July.**
- Please talk to Steph, Joey and Marti **by 10 June** if you have left hanging promises to Funders, for example any after branding of events which they are waiting for. Please talk to **Emma for any printing** you need done before summer.
- The event colleagues work on what they know is happening per individual agreements already (summer school, September workshops).

### **Other Clusters**

Nothing from P&D today.

#### CPS

- Barbara will be in Vienna for a scenario building workshop on post-Ukraine war European security, and then in Riga for Latvia's National Defense Academy's Annual Conference.
- On Thursday, Gretchen is speaking on a panel in Geneva titled "Peace and Security Now: Reflections on New Frontiers and Challenges in Peacemaking" organized by the University of Basel and the Geneva Graduate Institute's Gender Centre.
- Alaa is in Istanbul participating in an Expert Meeting on "Civic Engagement in the MENA Region Post Arab Uprisings: What lessons? What paths forward?" organized by The Arab Reform Initiative and IDRC Canada.
- Barbara shared the current version of the SSC 2024 programme (sent to A&D on 28 May, check your in-box) and Excel where folks can suggest names for invitations to this event. Please note, no inviting people yourself as this process will be centralised.

#### EUNPDC

- A new EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Paper on 'Arms Supplies to Ukraine: Does the European Arms Export Control System Need Revision?' by Ester Sabatino is now available online.
- Last week the EUNPDC proliferation awareness course for students on the topic of chemical and biological weapons organised by Vitaly was held online.
- On 31 May, a call organised by VCDNP was published with applications now open for the 4th edition of the Mentorship Programme. Please help circulate the call.
- The EUNPDC consultative meetings are taking place on 10 and 13 June. The CONOP working group topics will be covered on Monday 10 June, and the COARM working group topics on Thursday 13 June.

#### Horizon scanning

- From WMD, the reports that Iran may reconsider its military doctrine with regard nuclear weapons was highlighted. The reports suggest to varying degrees that Israeli threats might push Iran to review its nuclear doctrine or if Iran's existence, or nuclear facilities, are

threatened or attacked. This is a further indication of the worsening relations between Iran and Israel and how it might impact proliferation risks. The team have also been following the reports of Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian early warning stations. This has seen a lot of reports and discussion including with the Biden administration, and there are concerns about potential nuclear escalation.

- From MILAP, two pieces of news reported on and both from Europe with one concerning milex and the other arms production. Putin recently replaced his Minister of Defence with an economist, so the implications of this and what this might signal is yet to be seen. One interpretation is Russia is in a war for the long run by making changes to build a war economy. Some analysts on Russia say that military spending has become an important driving force of Russia's economy. Given Russia's long commitment to the war from Ukrainian side there is a question of do they have enough soldiers. On the arms industry side, Germany and France reached an agreement on a multimillion dollar deal jointly producing tanks. This was seen as an historical breakthrough, as joint defence procurement and joint defence industry has been pushed for by the EU as it didn't really have a joint defence industry before. This is seen as signal of closer collaboration down the road.
- Lucie will be leaving SIPRI and there will be a farewell on 12 June (so mark your calendar with more details to come).
- From DUAT, the European Commission earlier this year published a white paper on export controls. This was also discussed in SIPRI when the NIS representation visited earlier this year. The council have responded to the white paper, providing some steps on possible measures to increase coordination of the implementation of the EU dual use regulation. Some of the key points include the council advising new member states stressing the importance of collaboration at the multi-lateral level in the field of export controls. They take note of the challenges created by the new geo-political environment. It was stressed the tools are already there to facilitate cooperation and increase coordination on the implementation of the regulation, including the dual use coordination group, the enforcement coordination mechanism and the dual use working party. They stress in several parts the competence of the dual use working party as a forum where EU member states already discuss implantation of the regulation. They suggest it would be useful to organise high level meetings of the working party to discuss export control policy issues. There were also some suggestions on the best way to update the control list. Priority should be given to the current implementation of the dual use regulation because one of the proposed measures was to bring forward the evaluation of the other regulation. The council asked the commission to involve member states in defining the terms of reference for a study supporting the evaluation before they just go ahead and publish the terms of references.
- From GovAI, they are hoping to get a project of the ground looking at biases in military AI. More specifically, how biases in AI could affect compliance with international humanitarian law. In policy discussions there is a tendency to mention AI biases, but it's never unpacked or prioritised. The link between biases relating to gender or racial biases and how it links to the legal compliance is something this suggested project could unpack.
- From ATP, Katarina presented a snippet of ongoing research that is pertinent for thinking about the future of arms control and disarmament. Katarina is currently working on the implementation of agreement of subregional arms control in the western Balkans which is based on the NATO peace agreement after the Bosnian war. This is described as a spin-off of the conventional armed forces in Europe treaty, with the same categories being controlled.

Katarina has done interviews in the region and reported some preliminary findings. It's working well up to a point but not making any impact as the report suggests it is being implemented in a bubble and isolated from everything else. The question about whether to include uncrewed aerial vehicles in arms control sees contrasting views.

### **Working and learning together: GAD – fundraising - Frederic Daudon (30 min)**

Proposal writing – are you aware of the process that we have?

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- Eventually we need to establish a strategy that accompanies SIPRI's new research strategy. There will be further discussion on this task.
- Going back to the current SIPRI strategy at the Operations level, and therefore the Grants and Development team, help contribute to making our organisation more efficient, sustainable, inclusive and resilient with qualified and engaged colleagues. As referenced from the strategy KPI - GAD seeks more long-term funding, more diverse funding and more targeted funding. The ambition is to maintain our current research and invest in new research fields and build up our financial reserves. Under the long-term funding a further ambition is to exit progressively the hamster wheel we are in right now by trying to fund the financial gap for 2024. Now we are chasing any opportunity, but the ideal target would have two thirds of our funding needs for next year already by the beginning of the year. We don't have the financial capacity with our core grant to finance all the activities we consider strategic for this year with the core grant. We need to increase our core grant or find alternative ways to fund. We need to be open minded but at the same time ethically aware as we seek new donors, including from the private sector. More targeted fundraising includes not overwhelming potential donors with too many applications and diversifying efforts also. It is important to work out who has the contact and is best placed to have the conversation with the donor. We need to secure the maximum of funding that we possibly can before summer.
- Current we have good communication tools to share and contact GAD/PMO in our fundraising efforts, including SharePoint, Teams, and the GAD database is now accessible to all. A brownbag sharing your experience in terms of writing proposals and budget planning, writing a log frame and doing an application would be useful. Pragmatism is needed for now to address our immediate funding needs. Currently we have an equivalency determination 501(c)(3) because of Diego's OSF Colombia project. Equivalency determination (ED) is the process by which a U.S. grantmaker makes a good faith determination that a foreign grantee is considered the equivalent of a U.S. public charity under IRS Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a) of the tax code. Our 501(c)(3) expires at the end of this year and we could get it again, but it requires a funder to pay an organisation to do it. This is good to try and use while we have it!
- Going forward it is important that everyone is cooperating with the GAD office, PMO office, Finance office, Luc in his role as Director of Programme Development, the Directors office, and of course the research teams as input is needed from all to be successful in our fundraising effort. To budget well for instance, we need input from project leaders and PMO to understand what has work and what has not.
- When we develop an idea the current process (flow chart) shows the GAD office at a later stage but needs updating (the flow-chart will be updated to reflect), as the GAD office would rather be involved from the very first stage of the idea and everything being submitted to the donor should flow through the GAD office.

Next cluster meeting in August (TBC).