

Monday morning meeting

17 March 2025

Notes

New Colleagues

- Netta Goussac just joined the Governance of AI Team as Senior Researcher to work on the project on Responsible procurement of military AI. She was previously an Associate Senior Researcher and contributed to several project SIPRI conducted on autonomous weapons.

Director's Office

- On Wednesday, 19 March, the SMT will have an away day.
- The MBL with the Unions continues with a meeting on Thursday, 20 March.

Senior Management Team

At the SMT meeting last week, besides the weekly recurring items, the team discussed:

- Budgeting and project allocation for the 2025 Strategic Grant
- The transition process between the outgoing and incoming Directors.
- The SMT's own Zondera action plan.

Outreach

- The Arms Transfers data launch generated high interest and is with over 5 700 global media outlets the second all-time high for those data. CONGRATULATIONS to the AT team, great 24/7 interviews in two intense weeks!!!! The story is still running and diversifying now but we always measure the first five days for comparison.
- WMD convened a successful space-nuclear workshop on 13-14 March. Congratulations to the team. Also, huge thanks to Lucas and Outreach for their support, and to Nivi and Vlad for organizing, and Fei and Tytti for substantive contributions.
- This week, on Wednesday, we will have Forum partner meetings, so we look forward to seeing you there if you have a session.

Operations

- We are now starting the MTR process and allowing extra time to complete it. All MTRs should be finalized by Friday, 9 May, considering Easter and the military spending data launch. The MTR is an informal check-in to review progress, discuss any challenges, and ensure the right support is in place. It's also a chance to raise any work environment or collaboration-related topics. Further details will follow. If you have any questions, please reach out to your manager or HR.

Armament and Disarmament

Last week:

- Jules is back from a workshop he attended last week on "Towards A Quantitative Treatment of Emerging Technologies, Risk, and Governance." The event was organized by Berkeley Risk and Security Lab with funding from the UK FCDO. Jules presented on how AI may drive strategic instability.
- Laura, Alex and Netta are back from the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on autonomous weapons. The key takeaway was that the discussions were surprisingly constructive given the current context.
- AT with the Stimson Center had a very successful launch event with 606 registrations and 311 participants for the hour-long presentation into "Arms transfer trends in an uncertain world."

This week:

- This week, Wilfred is in Wilton Park for a meeting on Irreversibility in Nuclear Disarmament, then briefly (virtually) the ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, then in Annecy for annual NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) diplomatic meeting convened by James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies.
- Zain will present the transfers trends to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at a Swedish Middle East & North Africa (SWEMENA) network of experts event on Tuesday, 18 March.
- On Wednesday DUAT will be hosting an online webinar for government officials and technical experts on export controls and cloud labs, as part of the EUNDP work we are doing on the Australia Group. We will be presenting anew EUNDPDC brief authored by Kolja and Giovanna. Thanks to Comms and Editorial for all the great help!
- Vincent and Netta will be in Edinburgh Wednesday-Thursday for a meeting of the Global Commission on Responsible AI in the military domain. Vincent will present paper on the risk of integrating generative AI in weapons.

Conflict, Peace and Security**Last week:**

- Gretchen gave a key-note speech last Saturday (15 March) titled 'The WPS agenda 25 years on - what is the way forward?' at Operation 1325's annual meeting. Operation 1325 is an umbrella organisation initiated by several Swedish women's and peace organisations, that advocates, informs, educates and creates platforms for debate and dialogue to influence decision makers, civil society and the general public on Women, Peace and Security.

This week:

- Jair will be in Stockholm Monday to Thursday.
- Timo's farewell fika will be on Tuesday.
- On Thursday the POCM team will meet with a delegation of the Romanian MFA, including their Director, Security Policy Department, on civilian CSDIP and the future of conflict management and peace operations.

Peace and Development

- On Thursday 20 March, Florian and Dylan O'Driscoll are speaking at a webinar they set up with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore on Climate Change and Violent Extremism Webinar.
- On Wednesday 19 March, Caroline is in Vienna giving a keynote address at a conference organised by Global Responsibility on Food Security in Fragile Contexts – The Potential of Applying a HDP Nexus Approach.

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