

Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #13 - 26 February 2020 - 3pm

Attendance: Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America

Housekeeping

- Recap of action items from SCM in Accra
 - Members who are yet to do so were encouraged to express interest in joining the task force on identifying best practice for joint statements and to volunteer to lead one of the FOC local diplomatic networks by emailing the SU by 28 February.
 - All other action items from SCM have been completed.
- FOC outlook and calendar
 - Next Strategy and Coordination Meeting will take place in the margins of RightsCon Costa Rica in June.

FOC Chairmanship

- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2019-2020
 - This is the last FotC call under the Ghanaian chairmanship with the current FotC cohort. Members and SU thanked Ghana for their leadership in the past year.
 - Members and SU thanked Costa Rica, who will be stepping down from the FotC and welcomed new member, Switzerland, who joined the call for the first time.
- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2020
 - In the absence of a Chair, the FotC will assume the role of the Chair from 1 March to 31 December 2020.

Program of Action 2019-2020

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - Canada provided an update on the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation Recommendation 3A/B - Digital Human Rights
 - Canada represents the FOC as one of the key constituents under Recommendation 3A/B.
 - The second virtual roundtable on HLP Recommendation 3A/B will take place on Friday 28 February and will focus on inputs to the Secretary-General's "digital roadmap".
 - The key constituents have been asked to provide one or two issues or actionable items related to Digital Human Rights that they would like to see included in the roadmap.
 - Other Members thanked Canada for representing FOC in the process and noted that they would be sending input in writing.
 - The deadline to provide written input to the roadmap is 3 March.
 - SU provided an update on the Second substantive session of the OEWG in New York
 - Several FOC Member States, including Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK, referenced the recently launched FOC Joint Statement on Human Rights Impact of Cybersecurity Laws, Practices and Policies in their remarks.
 - Members highlighted this as a great example of successful diplomatic coordination and leveraging the FOC language in international forums.
 - Germany provided an update on the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council
 - Germany will be delivering a statement on digital inclusion on behalf of Members of the FOC in the general debate on 5-6 March.
 - The statement will use agreed language from the FOC joint statement on Digital Inclusion.
 - Germany is coordinating with colleagues in the Geneva network to collect signatories for the statement.
 - Germany encouraged Members in capitals to highlight this opportunity to their missions in Geneva.

- Finland noted that the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women on 9-20 March in New York might also be a good opportunity to leverage the joint statement.
 - Paris, Vienna: N/A
 - Shaping Global Norms:
 - Canada provided an update on the joint statement on Artificial Intelligence
 - Canada noted that they will establish a task force to support the development of the statement and more information would be made available in the coming weeks.
 - Finland and UK provided an update on the joint statement on Disinformation
 - Following input from Members, the leads are now looking into revising the statement to make it shorter and more high-level.
 - Once the new draft is finalized, the leads will hold a call with the Members of the FOC and FOC-AN.

Program of Action 2020

- Update on Program of Action 2020
 - Following written input from Members and the conversations in the Strategy and Coordination Meeting in Accra, a revised PoA 2020 draft was circulated to Members ahead of this call.
 - The new draft includes activities under each priority area as well as a timeline of activities by quarter.
 - The PoA 2020 will be finalized following a final round of written comments from Members.

Action>> Members to provide input to the Secretary-General's "digital roadmap" on Recommendation 3A/B - Digital Human Rights by emailing Canada by Friday 28 February.

Action>> Members to provide input to the PoA 2020 draft by emailing the SU by Friday 6 March.

Advisory Network (AN)

- SU provided an update on the Open Call for new FOC-AN Members
 - FOC-AN established a New Member Selection Subcommittee in Accra.
 - The Subcommittee has selected 5 new Members who they will formally recommend to join the FOC-AN.
 - The list of new FOC-AN Members will be shared with the FotC for final approval.
 - The new cohort will start their 2-year term in the beginning of March.

AOB

- N/A