

Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #11 - Tuesday 7 January 2020 - 3pm UTC

Housekeeping

- Recap of action items from SCM
 - Members who are yet to do so were encouraged to express interest to chair one of the FOC local diplomatic networks.
 - Members were also invited to provide input on the scope of the joint statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI) by emailing Canada.
 - All other action items from SCM have been completed.
- FOC outlook and calendar
 - Next Strategy and Coordination Meeting will take place on Day 0 of the FO Conference in Accra on 5 February.
 - The SU is finalizing the first draft of the Program of Action 2020 and will circulate it to Members by the end of the week.

Action>> Members to express interest in chairing one of the FOC local diplomatic networks by emailing SU by 15 January.

Action>> Members to provide input on the scope of the joint statement on Artificial Intelligence by emailing Canada by 15 January.

FOC Chairmanship

- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2019-2020
 - Ghana provided an update on the Annual Conference
 - Currently cca 200 confirmed participants, majority from governments and civil society.
 - Members were encouraged to raise awareness of the Conference and share the registration link with their networks.
 - Ghana is working with the SU and session leads to finalize the program, including identifying and inviting speakers.
 - Ghana is preparing a travel information package that will be shared with Conference participants shortly.
 - Day 0 Agenda:
 - Strategy and Coordination Meeting
 - SU noted that the draft agenda for the Strategy and Coordination Meeting was shared ahead of the call.
 - Priority agenda items include Program of Action 2020 and strategy for development and dissemination of joint statements.
 - Peer learning session
 - SU noted that Day 0 would include a peer learning session that would follow a similar structure as the one held in the previous FO Conference in Berlin.
 - The session would be organised in three segments highlighting respective successes and challenges in meeting Member responsibilities as outlined in FOC founding documents: 1) domestic; 2) international; 3) relating to FOC engagement.
- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2020
 - Ghanaian Chairmanship and the term of the current cohort of FotC will end at the end of February.
 - Provided that the Coalition has not identified a new Chair, FotC will lead FOC from 1 March to 31 December.
 - Costa Rica will be stepping down from the FotC at the end of the current term.
 - Switzerland has expressed interest in joining the FotC and, provided there are no objections, will join the last call of the current cohort in February.
 - Norway expressed interest to continue serving in FotC in 2020.

Action>> Members to provide input on the Strategy and Coordination Meeting agenda by emailing the SU by 13 January.

Action>> Members to provide input on the suggested Peer Learning Framework by emailing the SU by 13 January.

Action>> Members to indicate interest to lead one of the three segments in the Peer Learning Session by emailing the SU by 13 January.

Program of Action 2019-2020

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - New York
 - OEWG Second substantive session will take place 10-14 February 2020.
 - Currently there is no planned FOC coordination in the margins of the OEWG, but Members were invited to express interest in hosting an FOC coordination meeting in New York.
 - SU noted that Members could also hold a coordination meeting in the margins of the FO Conference in Accra as the OEWG session will take place the following week.
 - Paris: n/a
 - Geneva: n/a
 - Vienna: n/a
- Shaping Global Norms:
 - Ghana and Germany provided an update on the Digital Inclusion Statement
 - Statement is under silence procedure with FotC until 8 January.
 - Following incorporating any additional comments, the statement will be shared with the wider coalition for silence procedure.
 - The leads aim to launch the statement in Accra.
 - Estonia and the Netherlands provided an update on the Cybersecurity Laws statement
 - The Task Force is currently finalizing the first draft and will share it with the full FOC and FOC-AN Membership shortly.
 - Canada provided an update on the AI statement
 - Canada is leading the development of the parallel session on AI in Accra.
 - The aim of the session will be to inform the development of the statement.
 - Members were invited to provide input on the scope of the statement.
 - Canada also noted that it would be useful to receive feedback from the Members of the Cybersecurity Task Force to inform the working methods for the AI statement.
 - Finland provided an update on the Disinformation statement
 - UK is currently finalizing the second draft.
 - The second draft will be shared shortly with the full membership for silence procedure.
 - Finland noted that the leads aim to launch the statement in Accra.
 - Members agreed to apply expedited silence procedure of 10 days for the statements that are currently being developed.

Action>> Members to express interest in hosting an FOC coordination meeting in the margins of the second substantive session of the OEWG in New York by emailing the SU by 15 January.

Advisory Network (AN)

- SU provided an update on AN activities:
 - AN co-Chairs are currently finalizing the open call for new Members, which will be published by the end of the week.
 - 26 out of the 30 Members expressed interest to renew their membership for another term.

FOC Membership

- Updates on FOC Member engagement

- Relevant Members to provide an update on internal engagement strategy
- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership

AOB

- SU noted that following conversations at RightsCon in Tunis and IGF in Berlin, the SU has identified a communications consultant
 - Independent Diplomat, a non-profit advisory group that provides expert advice and assistance in diplomatic technique and strategy, will be developing a communications strategy to strengthen the effectiveness of FOC advocacy efforts, in particular around the development and dissemination of its joint statements.
 - Following analysis of the existing diplomatic landscape, key actors and relevant stakeholders, the consultants will be providing concrete recommendations on how to strengthen the FOC's advocacy efforts.
- SU noted that the FOC has submitted a session proposal for the upcoming World Press Freedom Conference (WPFC) to be hosted in the Hague on 21-24 April 2020. If successful, the session will follow a similar format of FOC Open Forums, and be a good opportunity to launch and/or publicise some of the joint statements the FOC is currently developing.