

Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #12 - Wednesday 29 January 2020 - 3pm UTC

Housekeeping

- Recap of action items from December
 - All action items from the December FotC 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 draft agenda for the Day 0 Meetings have been shared with the Members.

FOC Chairmanship

- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2019-2020
 - SU provided an update on the Annual Conference
 - The Chair is working with the SU to finalize Conference preparations.
 - SU thanked all FOC Members and the Members of the FOC-AN for their active participation in the development of the Conference program and sessions.
 - Members who are yet to do so were invited to register for the Conference online, and encourage members of their delegations to do the same.
 - Day 0 Agenda:
 - Strategy and Coordination Meeting
 - SU noted that the draft agenda for the Strategy and Coordination Meeting (SCM) was shared ahead of the call.
 - SCM will provide Members an opportunity to discuss and shape the Program of Action (PoA) 2020.
 - The SCM will also include a session with two breakout groups, focusing on diplomatic coordination and shaping global norms.
 - Members welcomed a suggestion by Canada to invite Cybersecurity Task Force leads to share their experience with the task force format at the SCM.
 - Peer Learning Session
 - SU noted that Day 0 would include a peer learning session that would follow a similar structure as the one held at FO Conference in Berlin.
 - SU thanked Costa Rica, Estonia and the US who had volunteered to lead the three segments of the peer learning session.
 - FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable
 - SU provided an update on the Roundtable with AN Members, which will take place in the afternoon of Day 0.
 - Roundtable will focus on discussing FOC Program of Action 2020
 - SU is in the process of confirming additional meetings for Day 0, including a meeting of the Cybersecurity Task Force and an informal coordination meeting focused on the NY diplomatic network.

Action >> SU to look into the option of integrating breakout discussions into the Roundtable agenda.

Action >> SU to confirm additional meetings for Day 0 and share final agenda with Members.

Action >> SU to circulate updated Conference Program with Members.

- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2020

Program of Action 2019-2020

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - New York
 - OEWG Second substantive session will take place 10-14 February 2020.

- Ahead of the OEWG session, the FOC will hold an informal coordination meeting on Day 0 in Accra.
 - Paris
 - Canada noted discussions with the local diplomatic network in Paris and interest in strengthening coordination with UNESCO.
 - Geneva
 - Germany noted engagement with the local diplomatic network in Geneva to explore strategies to disseminate the FOC Joint Statement on Digital Inclusion.
 - Vienna: n/a
- Shaping Global Norms:
 - Germany provided an update on the Digital Inclusion Statement
 - Final statement draft is under silence procedure until Monday 3 February.
 - The aim is to launch the statement at the Opening Ceremony in Accra.
 - Germany thanked Members for providing input into the statement.
 - Estonia and the Netherlands provided an update on the Cybersecurity Laws Statement
 - Final statement draft is under silence procedure until Thursday 6 February.
 - The aim is to launch the statement in a parallel session on cybersecurity on Day 2 in Accra.
 - The leads thanked the members of the Cybersecurity Task Force for their active involvement in developing the statement as well as all other Members who had provided input into the statement.
 - Canada provided an update on the AI Statement
 - FOC's work on AI will be carried over to the PoA 2020.
 - Canada will be organizing a parallel session on AI in Accra.
 - The aim of the session will be to inform the development 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
 - Finland thanked Members for providing input into the second draft of the statement.
 - The leads are currently incorporating comments from Members into a revised draft.
 - Finland is leading the development of a session on disinformation in Accra, which will provide a further opportunity to discuss the topic among FOC Members and other stakeholders.

Program of Action 2020

- SU noted that the PoA 2020 draft had been circulated to both FOC and AN Members earlier this month for their review and comments.
- The development of the current draft was informed by discussions in the SCM in Berlin in November 2019 as well as ongoing conversations with Members on priority issue areas.
- The PoA 2020 will be discussed in further detail on Day 0 in Accra.
- SU invited Members to provide written input into the PoA 2020 draft by Monday 3 February.
- Canada highlighted content moderation as an issue that could be integrated into the PoA.

Action>> Members to provide input into the PoA 2020 draft by emailing SU by Monday 3 February.

Advisory Network (AN)

- SU provided an update on AN activities:

- The deadline for the Open Call for new AN Members was Friday 24 January and the SU together with the AN co-Chairs is currently reviewing the applications.
- The new AN cohort will be shared with FotC in the coming weeks for their sign-off.

FOC Membership

- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership
 - SU noted that the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Namibia would be attending the FO Conference.

Action >> SU to circulate the list of non-FOC governments attending FO Conference in Accra.

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.
 - The consultant, Karoliina Ainge, will be attending the FO Conference and will be participating in the Day 0 session on development and dissemination of joint statements.
 - SU will be reaching out to Members to schedule interviews with Karoliina in the margins of the Annual Conference.