

Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #4 - 29 July, 2020 at 2pm UTC

Attendance: Canada, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, UK, US; Support Unit [SU]

Housekeeping

- Recap of action items from the Strategy and Coordination Meeting and the FOC/AN Roundtable
- FOC outlook and calendar
 - FOC is hosting two sessions during RightsCon Online (27-31 July 2020).
 - Led by Canada, the FOC Taskforce on AI and Human Rights (T-FAIR) workshop will take place on Wednesday, 29 July from 3:15-4:15pm UTC. The session is an opportunity for civil society representatives to inform the drafting process of the FOC Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights, particularly focusing on content moderation and facial recognition technologies, presented by Advisory Network (FOC-AN) Members and co-Chair - Elonnai Hickok and Bernard Shen, respectively. [Online consultations](#) will remain open until Friday, 14 August.
 - Canada noted that they will close the workshop with a discussion on dissemination and that they will provide further updates after the session has taken place.
 - The [FOC is hosting an open forum](#) on Friday, 31 July from 12:30-1:30pm UTC. The panel will feature representatives from the US, Canada and Finland as well as FOC-AN Members. The first part of the conversation will focus on the Program of Action for 2020, in particular on the Joint Statement on COVID-19 and Internet Freedom. The second part will look at the upcoming 10-year anniversary of the FOC and Finland's chairship priorities for 2021.
 - The FOC-AN monthly meeting for July will take place on Monday, 3 August.
 - The next Friends of the Chair call is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 26 August.
- In June, SU asked FOC points of contact and the FOC-AN to provide input to find solutions on document sharing and collaboration that are workable for all Members.
 - Because Google Drive and Microsoft Teams are unavailable or restricted for several FOC and AN Members, a shared Dropbox folder will be created as a temporary solution until a password-protected repository is developed on the FOC website.
 - Regarding document collaboration, the FOC will continue using Word attachments and Google Docs where possible, ensuring that all Members have access to any respective documents.

FOC Chairship

- Finland will provide updates on FOC Chairship at the next Friends of the Chair meeting in August.

Program of Action 2020

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - New York:

Action>> Members to provide written input on the draft Standard Operating Procedures for developing and disseminating joint statements by Friday, 14 August.

- Canada provided an update on the Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights.
 - The drafting process is planned to begin in mid-August. Canada will then work with T-FAIR to develop the first draft and circulate it to the wider FOC membership in mid-September.
 - The drafting process will be finished by the end of October.
- UK provided an update on the Disinformation Statement.
 - The revised draft of the Disinformation statement was presented at the Joint Roundtable FOC/FOC-AN meeting on Thursday, 2 July.
 - The deadline for input is Friday, 31 July.
 - UK and Finland will present a revised draft, including dissemination points, in early September to both FOC and FOC-AN.
 - The Netherlands, Switzerland and the US noted that they will provide written feedback.
 - UK thanked the Members who sent in comments and noted that it would be helpful for Members yet to send feedback to adopt some of the guidelines from the SOPs on developing and disseminating joint statements, namely prioritising redlines.
- SU noted that Members should consider avoiding circulating drafts of several joint statements for input at the same time.
 - Canada agreed and welcomed for this to be discussed at the next Friends of the Chair meeting in August.

Action>> Members to send written comments on the Joint Statement on Disinformation by Friday, 31 July.

Advisory Network (AN)

- Update on AN activities
 - SU noted that earlier in June a proactive advice from the FOC-AN had been circulated to Members. FOC-AN is proposing to set up a learning call with FOC Members to discuss content regulation, rule of law, Internet freedom health and funding.
 - Members welcomed additional information regarding the learning call from the FOC-AN.

FOC Membership

- Updates on FOC Member engagement
- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership

AOB