

Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #7 - 28 October 2020 at 14:00 UTC

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

Housekeeping

- Recap of action items from the September call
 - Most action items from the September Friends of the Chair (FotC) call have been completed.
 - Recommendation to amend the FOC [Stockholm Terms of Reference](#) (ToR)
 - The recommendation has been circulated for a 30-day silence procedure until Friday, 6 November.
 - Provided there are no objections, the amended ToR will be adopted and shared with the full FOC for reference.
 - Draft FOC guidelines for leading diplomatic networks
 - The draft guidelines are open for input until further notice, to allow Members to consult colleagues.
 - FOC outlook and calendar
 - The next Advisory Network (FOC-AN) monthly call will take place ahead of the Strategy and Coordination meeting and the Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable. The exact date will be confirmed.
 - [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)
 - The [Taskforce on AI and Human Rights \(T-FAIR\)](#) will take place on Thursday, 5 November at 12:40 UTC. The Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights is intended to be launched at this session.
 - The [FOC Open Forum](#) will take place on Thursday, 5 November at 13:50 UTC and it will focus on a thematic discussion around disinformation.
 - Strategy and Coordination meeting (SCM) / Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable
 - The next SCM will take place on **Monday, 23 November** in lieu of the November FotC call. The next Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable is scheduled for **Tuesday, 24 November**. SU circulated doodle polls to select the timing of each meeting.
 - The agenda will include a review of the progress of the Program of Action 2020 and looking ahead to 2021.
 - Due to the holiday season, the December FotC call will be rescheduled.
- FotC election
 - As outlined in the ToR, the Friends will comprise no more than one-third of the Coalition's membership. Any FOC Member, including current FotC Members, may volunteer to serve on the Friends by writing to the SU.
 - Timeline
 - Friends to express interest to continue serving as FotC for 2021.
 - The call for nominations will then be opened to the wider FOC membership.
 - The new group of Friends will be announced during the SCM and will begin their term in January 2021.
 - SU highlighted that diversifying the FotC is a priority.
- SU noted that Minna Penttila, SU, will be leaving her post in the next six weeks.

Action>> Members are encouraged to share the draft guidelines for leading diplomatic networks with relevant diplomatic missions and to provide written comments to SU.

Action>> Members to fill in the doodle poll to select the timing of the next [Strategy and Coordination meeting](#) and the [Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable](#) until **COB Friday, 30 October**.

Action>> SU to confirm timings of the next Strategy and Coordination meeting and the Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable.

Action>> SU to share the draft Strategy and Coordination meeting agenda for Members' input.

Action>> SU to follow up with a doodle poll to the Friends to select the timing for the December FotC call.

Action>> Current FotC Members to express interest to continue serving as FotC for 2021 by emailing the Support Unit (Minna@gp-digital.org) and (Zora@gp-digital.org) by **COB Friday, 6 November**.

FOC Chairship

- Finland provided an update on the FOC Chairship 2021 and introduced the revised Program of Action 2021 (PoA 2021), which reflects recommendations from FOC Members and the FOC-AN, and includes outputs and activities in addition to intended outcomes.
- Suggested outputs include:
 - To mark the 10-year anniversary of the FOC
 - A 3-year action plan at the FO Conference in 2021 allowing the Coalition to plan ahead in a more strategic way.
 - A policy outcome document concentrating on a key priority for the ministerial-level meeting in the margins of the UNGA High-Level week, including issuing a ministerial joint message on the next decade of FOC's work and against digital authoritarian tendencies.
 - Finland proposed to add the discussion about these outputs to the FotC calls agenda starting from January.
 - A media and communications campaign focusing on social media to increase the visibility of the Coalition, including at national level. For example, a series of video clips highlighting key themes and priority issues, while giving a platform to different voices within the FOC.
 - To ensure more timely and continuous local diplomatic coordination
 - Draft guidelines for leading diplomatic networks will be a first step towards finding best practices and developing a long term strategic approach.
 - The diplomatic network in Silicon Valley can be another possible output for diplomatic coordination. As it is still being developed, this was not included.
 - To strengthen engagement with governments worldwide, non-governmental stakeholders and co-operation with global and regional organisations
 - Organising a series of events on internet freedom focusing on engaging the global South. Engagement in Africa is a priority, but Latin America is also an option.
 - To advance FOC's agenda on priority issues – digital inclusion, cybersecurity, disinformation, artificial intelligence, challenges by authoritarian regimes
 - Digital authoritarianism is a priority issue of the Finnish Chairship and in next year's activities.
 - A strategic review of existing statements to plan ahead in a more strategic way.
- SU is working on the draft Internal Program of Action which will outline the responsibilities, priority areas and activities of the SU and will complement the external Program of Action. SU will share the draft ahead of the SCM in November.

Action>> Members to provide written feedback to Finland (Rauno.Merisaari@formin.fi JanetteSorsimo@formin.fi) on the revised draft of the Program of Action 2021 by **COB Wednesday, 11 October**.

Action>> SU to add discussions about policy outcome documents to the FotC agenda starting from January 2021.

Program of Action 2020

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - New York: The Netherlands provided an update on 3C resolution “Privacy in the Digital Age”
 - The Netherlands proposed to have an FOC coordination meeting within New York in the margins of the UN discussions around the resolution and started approaching bilaterally some of the FOC Members locally in New York.
 - Members will reach out to their respective colleagues in New York and revert back to the Netherlands and the SU.
 - Canada raised the importance of having an FOC consolidated position on privacy (see AOB).
 - Paris, Geneva, Vienna: N/A
- Shaping Global Norms:
 - Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: Canada provided an update on the Task Force on AI and Human Rights (T-FAIR)
 - The Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights entered into a 10-day silence procedure on Monday, 26 October until Thursday, 5 November.
 - The panel for the IGF T-FAIR session will be meeting today to discuss the session, in addition to the T-FAIR monthly call this week which will focus on the statement and the IGF session structure, as well.
 - Starting in November, T-FAIR will focus on advocacy and dissemination.
 - Disinformation Statement: UK provided an update
 - The agreed text was sent for final red line edits to the full FOC on Tuesday, 27 October until Monday, 2 November.
 - The statement is intended to be launched later in the autumn. Next, the leads will look at disseminating and implementing the statement recommendations.

Action>> Members to connect with respective New York colleagues to check appetite for FOC coordination in the margins of the 3C resolution “Privacy in the Digital Age” discussions, and revert back to the Netherlands.

Action>> Members to provide final red line edits on the Joint Statement on Disinformation until **COB Monday, 2 November**.

Advisory Network (FOC-AN)

- The FOC-AN held their monthly call on Friday, 23 October. The next call will be scheduled before the SCM and the Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable.
- The Letter on Internet Freedom Funding, signed by some FOC-AN Members and external stakeholders, was shared with the FOC governments for awareness on October 22nd.
- FOC-AN will open a call for nominations for co-Chairs for 2021 until Friday, 13 November. The co-chairs are to be selected by December, taking into account stakeholder, geographic and gender diversity. The terms will be aligned with those of the FOC Chair and the Friends, starting in January.
- FOC-AN Members provided feedback on the draft PoA 2021 and are participating in both FOC sessions at IGF.

FOC Membership

- Updates on FOC Member engagement
 - N/A
- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership

AOB

- Canada noted that during the drafting of multiple statements, there were disagreements on how FOC Members recognise privacy from a legal perspective as positions on the issue have evolved.
 - Canada proposed starting a conversation on having a consolidated position on language related to privacy in the digital age when drafting statements within the FOC or when engaging and negotiating beyond the FOC.
 - Members supported the discussion. SU noted that the language of the existing FOC statements has been mapped internally in the FOC Language Mapping document shared previously with the FOC.

Action>> SU to add a discussion on developing stock language or a common framework on privacy in the digital age to the Strategy and Coordination meeting agenda.