



Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #9 - Wednesday 25 September - 14:00 UTC

Attendance: Canada, Estonia, Finland, Ghana, Netherlands, the United States

Apologies: Costa Rica, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom

Housekeeping

- All action items from the August Friends of the Chair Call have been completed.
- FOC outlook and calendar
 - FotC membership will come up for renewal at the end of the year
 - SU will follow up regarding nomination process.
 - IGF in Berlin on 25-29 November
 - Several FOC meetings will take place on Day 0, including the Strategy and Coordination Meeting, FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable and meeting of the Cybersecurity Task Force.
 - A priority agenda item for the SCM will be Program of Action 2020-2021.

FOC Chairmanship

- Ghana and SU provided an update on the Annual Conference
 - New conference venue: Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre.
 - Revised concept note has been circulated to the FotC.
 - Following the session submissions from the FOC and AN Members, Ghana and the SU developed the program outline
 - Members were invited to provide input on the outline and indicate if they are interested in leading sessions.
 - First round of invitations will be sent out in the coming weeks
 - Members were invited to share contact details of colleagues for invitations.
 - Ghana and the SU are finalizing the conference budget.

Action>> Members to share contact details of colleagues for invitations to the Annual Conference.

Action>> Members to provide input on the Conference Program Outline.

Action>> Members to express interest in leading sessions at the Annual Conference.

Program of Action 2019

- Diplomatic Coordination
 - New York: Report back from FOC Roundtable on OEWG
 - Permanent Missions of Germany and Ghana hosted FOC Roundtable ahead of the first substantive session of the OEWG on 5 September.
 - A summary from the discussion was circulated to the FotC ahead of this call.
 - Next step will be to hold a follow-up meeting in the margins of either the December or February OEWG session
 - Members were invited to indicate if their government would be interested in hosting the next FOC meeting.
 - The Netherlands noted an opportunity for FOC engagement around the UN 3rd Committee, and the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
 - Paris: Update on UNESCO General Conference on 12-27 November
 - The General Conference will include discussion around UNESCO's work on Artificial Intelligence.
 - An opportunity for FOC to coordinate with UNESCO and engage with the FOC Paris diplomatic network.
 - Geneva: n/a
 - Vienna: n/a
- Shaping Global Norms
 - Ghana and Germany provided an update on the Digital Inclusion statement
 - Second draft is being finalized and will be shared with FOC shortly.
 - Estonia and the Netherlands provided an update on the Cybersecurity statement

- The Task Force on Human Rights and Cybersecurity held their introductory call on Tuesday, 24 September to establish working methods and timeline.
 - The call also included initial discussion on the purpose and focus of the statement, with more detailed conversation to follow in the coming weeks.
 - The leads aim to develop the first draft within the next month.
- Canada provided an update on the Artificial Intelligence statement
 - Work on statement will likely start in early October.
- Finland and UK provided an update on the Disinformation statement
 - The first draft is close to being finalized and will be shared with the FOC and AN in the coming weeks.

Advisory Network (AN)

- Several AN members are active in the Task Force on Human Rights and Cybersecurity.
- AN monthly call will take place on 25 September.
- The quarterly call of the FOC and AN will take place 10 October.

FOC Membership

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

AOB

- Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) Independent Advisory Committee
 - The role of the newly established [Independent Advisory Committee](#) is to provide guidance to the GIFCT Operating Board.
 - Majority of the members are from civil society, and there is a minority of members from government and inter-governmental entities.
 - All government representatives must represent governments that are members of the FOC.
 - Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States have already signed on.
 - Members noted the importance of the topic to the FOC, and recommended including it into the agenda of the Annual Conference in Accra.