Strategy and Coordination Meeting

9:00 - 12:30, Europasaal - Thursday 28 November 2018; Berlin

Attendance: Austria, Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands,New Zealand; Portugal *[Observing],* Sweden, US; UK; FOC Support Unit [SU]

MINUTES:

- Introductory remarks and tour de table
  - Germany welcomed attendees to the meeting.

- Housekeeping
  - SU provided an overview of the day's schedule and the FO Conference program and activities.
  - SU presented Members with the 'Basic Documents' pack and thanked Germany for providing the FOC with the resource.

- Looking back: Update on FOC Chairmanship 2018
  - Annual Conference
    - Germany presented the Conference program, highlighting that the sessions were designed to reflect the substantive focus of the FOC's work.
    - Germany noted that the Conference Concept Note and program had been developed in collaboration with the Advisory Network and FOC Governments, which ensured that the Conference had a multistakeholder perspective at every level.
    - Germany noted that a change in staff at the Cyber Unit had presented a challenge to Conference preparations.
    - Germany thanked the SU for their assistance in coordinating the Conference, and the SU thanked the Federal Foreign Office for their work on the Conference.

  - Update on implementation of the San Jose Work Plan (SJWP)
    - Under the German Chairmanship, the FOC established the Advisory Network, developed the Evaluation Framework for Member Review and Termination, and developed a framework for Peer Learning.
    - Canada provided an update on the activities of the Advisory Network.
      - The FOC-AN have provided 4 Submissions of reactive Advice, in response to requests from the FOC:
        - Conference Concept Note
        - Defending Civic Spaces Statement
        - Conference Program
        - Digital Divides Statement
      - The AN proactively submitted a draft statement on the ITU Plenipotentiary, which resulted in a Joint statement by the Coalition

(lead by Canada), ITU Strategy Call between the FOC/FOC-AN and on the ground coordination between the FOC at the FOC-AN at the ITU Plenipotentiary.
- ■ Canada noted that greater clarity on the modalities for developing proactive advice would be valuable.
- ■ Canada noted the FOC-AN's engagement at the BHR Forum in Geneva, across various areas.

- ○ Reporting back on implementation of Program of Action 2018
  - ● Germany presented completed activities under the Objectives of the Program of Action 2018, including the completed statements and statements still in development *[please find Program of Action attached]*.
  - ● Members noted individual activities that contributed to the FOC's Program of Action:
    - ○ Under Objective 3, Germany noted that cybersecurity and the digital security of the user should be part of the equation, and noted the importance of raising awareness on human rights and capacity building
    - ○ Canada noted that the resolution they led at the Human Rights Council Resolution accelerated efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: "Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls in Digital Contexts", was adopted by consensus, with 73 countries co-sponsoring, on July 5, 2018. Canada also noted the G7 Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.
    - ○ The Netherlands highlighted work on the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace.
    - ○ The US noted a key success was increasing awareness of the FOC in a relevant regional Conference and the opportunity to engage with civil society from Sub-Saharan Africa through the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFA) which took place in Ghana in September 2018.
- ○ Diplomatic coordination
  - ● Germany noted the activities which the FOC Local Networks have carried out over the year.
    - ○ <u>FOC Network in Geneva:</u>
      - ■ On 19 February, Germany coordinated an Ambassadors Lunch Reception.
      - ■ On 26 April, the Permanent Mission of Germany coordinated a meeting for FOC members in Geneva, where they Geneva Network discussed promoting FOC values and priorities at the 38th Human Rights Council Session and at the UPR.
      - ■ At the 38th Human Rights Council Session, the Geneva Network issued a statement on Internet Censorship, the first of its kind. This was an initiative led by Australia.
    - ○ <u>FOC Network in Paris:</u>
      - ● On 14 June, Germany co-hosted a meeting with Canada. UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Moez Chakchouk (previously the FOC representative for Tunisia)

participated in the meeting and was acquainted with the Paris Network.
- On 12 November, the German delegation to UNESCO hosted a meeting on the margins of the IGF, for both local and capital representatives – discussed the existing and potential role of the Paris network.
- ■ FOC in New York
  - FOC members provided input into Germany's privacy resolution in New York.
  - Side Event on Artificial Intelligence for coordinated with FOC members.
  - The US expressed concern about the Internet freedom implications of the Russian Resolution on Cybercrime. The US also expressed concern that not all FOC governments had voted no against the resolution. Noted especially that in the future the FOC governments ought to ensure that they stand firmly against the resolution. Canada and Estonia supported this.
- ■ ITU Plenipotentiary
  - The FOC held two coordination meetings at the ITU in Dubai, and shared information papers with attendees at the ITU PP
- ■ The FOC held 3 Open Forums, at RightsCon in Toronto, EuroDig in Georgia and at the IGF in Paris.
- The US noted that ⅓ of the FOC membership lacks a point of contact, which was noted as an area for improvement for 2019.The US suggested that FOC members identify strategies to re-engage unengaged FOC members.
- FOC members discussed at length the importance of and mechanisms to strengthen the diplomatic networks. Members raised that strong diplomatic networks is critical to the future success of the FOC.
- Germany noted that even greater diplomatic coordination through the FOC local networks, particularly in New York, in 2019 would be valuable, and noted that there had not been a meeting of the Vienna Network.
  - ■ Germany will be asking colleagues in Vienna if there is more the FOC can do.
  - ■ Canada noted the OSCE's work on disinformation.

- ○ Outreach
  - No formal applications received, although several countries expressed interest in joining the Coalition informally,

- ○ The year ahead: FOC in 2019
  - Germany informed Members that they hoped to be able announce Chairmanship for 2019 in the coming week
  - SU thanked Argentina for contributions as part of the Friends of the Chair

- SU provided an update on 2019 Finance
- Global Partners Digital's role as the mandate-bearer for the FOC Support Unit Mandate was renewed for another year.
- Program of Action for 2019
  - Members noted the continued relevance of the 3 objectives introduced in Program of Action 2018.
  - Members suggested rolling over outstanding activities from 2018 into next year.
  - Members noted the importance of making the Program of Action more specific and outcome-oriented.
    - Objective 1:
      - Strong support to continue efforts under Objective 1 (promoting global norms to prevent state sponsored restrictions to HR online). As a multilateral organisation, this should remain key objective of the Coalition in 2019.
      - Some members supported introducing more explicit focus on 'facilitating meaningful multistakeholder engagement to promote HR online'. This could be a cross cutting objective. Alternatively, Objective 2 could be reframed to reflect this.
    - Objective 2
      - There was a question on whether focus on digital divides should be made more explicit as part of Objective 2 (supporting civil society voices online), such as by reframing the objective into 'promoting and protecting human rights online in the context of sustainable development'
    - Objective 3
      - SU noted that the Coalition had a Working Group on Cybersecurity and Human Rights, which produced work on this issue and definitions of cybersecurity. The Objective was framed with the activities of the WG 1 in mind.
    - Members highlighted two potential additional areas of focus for 2019: AI and emerging technologies, and disinformation.
    - On disinformation, some members noted its links to cybersecurity, however cautioned against framing it as a cybersecurity issue under Objective 3 as this may play into the trend of securitising Internet-related discussions. Members suggested introducing this issue under Objective 1.
    - FOC members discussed the need to develop strategies to leverage current and future FOC joint statements to influence global norms.
    - Across all objectives, FOC has a set of tools it can deploy:
      - Developing norms (e.g. through leveraging current and future statements);
      - Engaging with and strengthening diplomatic coordination (at capital level and via local networks);

- Holding meetings with members and other stakeholders (including through the Annual Conference, engagement with the Advisory Network, and outreach/public events at IGF, RightsCon etc).

Action>> SU to capture draft objectives and send around to FOC Members with request for input by mid January

Action>> FOC Members to submit proposals for focus areas under three objectives for finalisation of the Program of Action 2019 on the FotC Call in January