**Attending:**

Finland (FOC Chair), Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ireland, France, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK), United States (US); Support Unit (SU).

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Progress Updates - Program of Action (PoA) 2021
3. Progress Updates - Internal Program of Action (PoA) 2021
4. Updates on FOC Membership and Chairship 2022
5. Discussion Items
6. AOB

**1. Welcome & Opening Remarks**

- SU welcomed Members to the second Strategy and Coordination (SCM) meeting of 2021.

- Finland, FOC Chair 2021, highlighted the need to promote the Internet freedom agenda in the 2020s and shared highlights from the last quarter:
  - Outreach events in Africa to strengthen FOC links in the region;
  - Reinvigorating FOC diplomatic networks and increasing coordination;
  - Delivering the FOC Joint Statement on Freedom of Expression Online at the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) 47th session.

**2. Progress Updates - Program of Action (PoA) 2021:**

- 10th Anniversary of the FOC:
  - The Ministerial meeting will take place in person on the margins of the Freedom Online (FO) Conference (2-3 December).
    - Thus, the Political Declaration drafting timeline will be revised.
  - The Conference will feature the Ministerial meeting, high-level plenaries and parallel sessions, guided by the PoA 2021 and developed with the FOC and the Advisory Network (FOC-AN).

- Diplomatic Coordination in:
  - Geneva
    - The lead, Finland, has focused on the UN HRC, including coordination with the network to deliver the [Joint Statement on Freedom of Expression Online](#).
    - The network set up a mailing list and is currently developing plans for further engagement.

- Paris
  - The co-leads, Canada and Finland, have focused on UNESCO, including by coordination with the FOC Task Force on AI and Human Rights (T-FAIR) to facilitate input into UNESCO AI processes.
  - The network is currently developing plans for further engagement.
- New York
  - The co-leads, US and Finland, have identified the UN General Assembly First and Third Committee as relevant forums for engagement, and held a launch event in June focused on Internet Shutdowns.
  - The network is currently developing plans for further engagement.

**Action >>** Members interested in leading the diplomatic network in Vienna are encouraged to reach out to the SU.

- Advancing Priority Issues
  - Disinformation
    - FOC has worked to raise awareness through:
      - *Tackling Online Disinformation* event at the World Press Freedom Day Conference in April;
      - *Disinformation, Digital Inclusion and Artificial Intelligence* session at the Stockholm Internet Forum in May.
  - Artificial Intelligence
    - FOC has worked to raise awareness through the following T-FAIR calls:
      - Learning Call on AI and Privacy in [month];
      - Call on Council of Europe's Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) multi-stakeholder consultation in [month];
      - Call on UNESCO to discuss its Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in [month].
  - Digital Inclusion
    - FOC established the Task Force on Digital Equality to further the [Joint Statement on Digital Inclusion](#)'s recommendations. The group hosted a:
      - Learning call on *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Technical Community* in [month];
      - RightsCon session in June, *Unpacking the digital inclusion paradox: The Freedom Online Coalition's Task Force on Digital Equality*
  - Cybersecurity
    - As part of Finland's initiative and outreach in Africa, cybersecurity was raised in the African context at a virtual event in Kenya, on *Advancing Human Rights-Based Approaches to Cybersecurity and Data Protection.*
  - Stock Language on Privacy
    - Canada is currently finalising the draft stock language.

- Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach
  - Advisory Network
    - FOC-AN has submitted two pieces of proactive advice on:
      - Cybercrime Ad Hoc Committee's Procedural Matters *(May)*
      - Online Freedom in India (*June*)

- - ■ FOC-AN has also actively participated in FOC activities via Task Forces and Working Groups, and in various FOC events.
    - ■ Finland joined the FOC-AN June monthly meeting in response to discussions at the Joint FOC/ FOC-AN Roundtable meeting in April.
  - ○ Africa outreach
    - ■ FOC and FOC-AN Members, and external stakeholders from regional and local organisations cooperated on key themes and policy priorities in the African context. SU noted the active participation of African FOC members.
    - ■ Events were held in:
      - ● Tunisia, on combating online gender-based violence;
      - ● Ghana, on digital inclusion;
      - ● Ethiopia, on promoting free, open and secure Internet;
      - ● Kenya, on cybersecurity and data protection.
  - ○ Silicon Valley Working Group
    - ■ The FOC set up the group in an effort to build new forms of cooperation between the FOC and the global technology sector.

Action >> SU to circulate a summary document of the African outreach events.

**3. Progress Updates - Internal Program of Action (PoA) 2021:**

- ● Upcoming FOC Activities ([click to view online calendar](#))
  - ○ Internal FOC Events (July):
    - ■ July 7 - Joint FOC and FOC-AN Roundtable
    - ■ July 8 - T-FAIR call on UNESCO Draft Recommendation on Ethics of AI
    - ■ July 9 - Virtual Briefing on the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime
    - ■ July 28 - Friends of the Chair Monthly Call
    - ■ July 29 - Task Force on Digital Equality Monthly Call
    - ■ July (TBC) - FOC-AN Monthly Call
    - ■ July (TBC) - T-FAIR Monthly Call
  - ○ Upcoming activities and deadlines:
    - ■ Call for FO Conference session proposals (September 5 deadline)
    - ■ Questionnaire on options for issuing country-specific statements (September 17 deadline);
    - ■ Political Declaration drafting process (TBC)
    - ■ FO Conference Invitations (TBC)
    - ■ Program of Action 2022 drafting process (September-December)

- ● Communications
  - ○ The [new FOC website](#) has been launched and a refreshed visual identity has been utilised across documents, the website and on external communications channels.
  - ○ The SU is consulting with Independent Diplomat, who are developing a media and social media strategy for the FOC.

- ● FOC Finances

**4. Updates on FOC Membership and Chairship 2022:**

- FOC Membership
- Chairship 2022
    - Canada shared their plans, including the intention to ground the Chairship in the context of digital inclusion, as well as in positioning the FOC as a key partner in conversations in 2022 around democracy.
        - To be centred around: *Connectivity, Literacy, Civic Participation and Safety.*
        - PoA 2022 will reflect a focus on gender as a key element of inclusion.
    - Canada has begun consultations bilaterally with Members and with civil society to identify key areas of work, and will seek to circulate a survey in the coming weeks.
    - Members are welcome to connect with Canada prior to the drafting of the PoA.
    - Decision on an FO Conference in 2022 is still being determined to identify the best approach to ensure involvement in various summits and conferences in 2022.

**5. Discussion Items**

- Political Declaration Draft
    - Finland noted that the Declaration aims to direct the FOC's work in the 2020s, guiding future activities and PoAs.
        - The Declaration reflects the changes in Internet governance in the past 10 years, highlighting the positive aspects of open Internet and technologies, and FOC's key concerns.
        - The Declaration highlights three major themes:
            - Normative basis of the FOC's mission to promote human rights
            - Promoting equal access, connectivity and digital inclusion
            - Promoting multistakeholder and international cooperation
    - The second draft will be circulated in early Autumn, as the timeline is being revisited.

- Finland provided updates on the Freedom Online Conference Concept Note
    - The concept note is based on PoA 2021.
    - The Conference aims to be forward-looking and future oriented, to discuss how the FOC can promote a rights-based approach to Internet governance and digitalisation in the 2020s.
    - The two main themes for the Conference are:
        - Human Rights Based and Inclusive Digitalisation
        - Open and Accessible Internet for All.
    - Members are welcome to reflect on possible partners when suggesting sessions (other Members, international organisations etc.).
        - UNESCO secretariat has expressed interest in proposing a session.
    - The format is in-person, with virtual elements planned due to the pandemic.
    - Members discussed the possibility of inviting representatives from the diplomatic networks.

Action >> SU to circulate the FO Conference Call for Session Proposals form.

- Country-Specific Statements

- During the 10-year Anniversary Roundtable consultations, FOC Members expressed interest in reviewing FOC's policy of not issuing country-specific statements.
- Finland noted the importance of ensuring coherence.
- Finland and SU have developed a questionnaire. The responses will be reviewed in autumn and a proposal for next steps will be proposed at the FO Conference.
- SU stressed the importance of all 32 Members completing the questionnaire.

Action >> SU to share a questionnaire with FOC Members on country-specific statements.

- Joint FOC/FOC-AN Roundtable Agenda
  - SU raised the discussion items up for discussion at the Joint FOC/AN Roundtable, including:
    - Political Declaration Draft
    - FOC-AN Proactive Advice on Online Freedom in India
    - Country-specific Statements

## 6. AOB

- Denmark shared information on the [Tech for Democracy](Tech for Democracy) initiative
  - In an effort to ensure that tech supports democracy, the initiative will bring together governments, tech companies and civil society organisations with a joint interest in shaping a responsible, democractic and safe technological future together.
  - Denmark will invite high level representatives from these three sectors to Copenhagen in November to discuss how to pursue this agenda.

Action >> Denmark to share further information on the Tech for Democracy initiative.