Friends of the Chair Call #3 - Wednesday 27 March, 2pm UTC

Attendance: Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Netherlands, US; Support Unit

Minutes:

Housekeeping
- The SU provided an update on the FOC's outlook for the month ahead
  - Stanford is holding an event on 'The Future of Human-Centered-AI: Governance Innovations and the Protection of Human Rights' on 16 April. The SU will follow up with information on how to join the livestream, which offers a learning opportunity for Members.
  - Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) is taking place in Lagos, Nigeria from 23-25 April. Ghana will be speaking on the opening panel, and we will be hosting an FOC Open Forum at the Conference.
  - Estonia raised the 11th International Conference on Cyber Conflict (CyCon), taking place from the 28-31 May in Tallinn. CyCon 2019 will focus on the core aspects of cyber security, the topics will include cyberspace governance, changing role of states in cyberspace, nature of current and future cyber attacks, military doctrine development, cyberspace as a domain of warfare, artificial intelligence and cognitive cyber security as well as legal aspects of cyber operations. Registration will be open until the 6th May.

Action >> Members to inform the SU if they/colleagues plan to attend DRIF on 23-25 April.

FOC Chairmanship
- Ghana provided Members with an update on the Chairmanship.
- The SU noted they will be approaching Members for their interest in Chairmanship for 2020 onwards.

Program of Action 2019 - 2020
- The SU provided an update on Program of Action 2019 - 2020 *[attached].*
  - The Program of Action's timeline of activities was adjusted and recirculated, and now complements the course of Ghana's Chairmanship which extends from 1 March 2019 – 1 March 2020.The Program of Action had been shared with the Advisory Network (FOC-AN) and introduced on the Quarterly Call.
  - The SU noted that a number of activities require leads and encouraged Members to review activities and inform SU of potential interest.
  - Diplomatic Coordination:
    - The SU noted that the Program of Action requires leads under this item in particular, to facilitate FOC leadership and coordination at crucial processes.
    - The Netherlands noted their interest in assisting with this item, highlighting its importance to the FOC's work.
    - Members provided updates on promotion of FOC language at the March Human Rights Council Session (HRC).

- ■ The Netherlands provided an update on the statement on Freedom of Expression:
    - ■ Over 60 Members of the HRC signed, demonstrating a cross-regional response. The Netherlands noted Members can still sign after the session and invited Members to do so.
    - ■ Finland requested further information on the statement and its signatories.
- ■ The US noted they are working with colleagues to set up a Freedom on the Net 2019 briefing/FOC information session in New York, and additionally noted their interest in assisting with coordination around UNGA.
    - ○ Shaping Global Norms:
        - ■ Canada provided an update on Defending Civic Spaces Statement:
            - ■ Canada noted they are working with Members following the broken silence procedure.
            - ■ Following a question from the Netherlands, Canada noted that the strategy for disseminating the statement would be devised collaboratively with the AN, and noted it would be useful to create a template for leveraging statements.
        - ■ Ghana and Germany provided an update on Digital Divides Statement
            - ■ Germany has commenced drafting the Digital Divides using the FOC-AN's input, which will be reviewed by Ghana ahead of circulation to the Friends of the Chair group.
            - ■ Canada expressed their interest in leading on FOC activities and the joint statement on Artificial Intelligence and Internet Freedom.
        - ■ Estonia and The Netherlands provided an update on the Cybersecurity Laws Statement:
            - ■ Estonia noted that a Request for Advice will be drafted to consult the input of the FOC-AN.
            - ■ Members noted any key areas of interest for the Cybersecurity statement.
                - ■ Finland noted they focus on cybersecurity both as security policy, and through a human rights lens.
                - ■ The US highlighted the importance of using the FOC's previous work and resources on cybersecurity, including through its Working Groups. The US additionally raised potential focus on Africa focus with the input of FOC-AN.
    - ○ Multistakeholder Engagement:
        - ■ The SU updated Members on the learning calls with the FOC-AN on internet freedom implications of artificial intelligence (AI), noting they will work with Canada and the FOC-AN to use the call to inform the FOC's activities on AI. SU noted this is likely to be organised for late April.
            - ■ Finland noted UNESCO will be discussing AI and raised the importance of FOC engagement in this forum.
            - ■ Estonia noted it would be important to consider how the FOC can add value to discussions at international forums on AI.
            - ■ Canada highlighted the value of building on existing FOC meetings, and raised potential partnerships with other organisations working in the space.
            - ■ The US mentioned they had submitted input for this call via email earlier, which had been received by the SU.

- The SU noted a call on effectively promoting a rights-respecting approach to the Internet with be organised with the FOC-AN for May, and invited Members to highlight key expectations for the call and its outcomes.
    - The US acknowledged the benefit of the call and emphasized that its utility would be increased if it were more than a standalone event. The US suggested leveraging this call to further broader engagement on this issue. The US further noted that developing a compelling alternative to digital authoritarianism is one of the key challenges facing the FOC and the AN. Thus, the US suggested that this call would make the greatest impact if members of the FOC and the AN who are particularly interested in addressing this issue could develop a dedicated work stream to identify specific actions the FOC and AN could take to promote a rights-respecting approach to the Internet, develop a useful agenda for the call, and continue working on this issue following the call.
    - The US noted that this would be an opportunity for the FOC to seek to better understand how their own governments are addressing this issue and identify opportunities for the FOC to add value.
    - The Netherlands noted that a discussion on this topic will be valuable in informing future FOC's activities and with formulating a narrative against authoritarian approach to the Internet. The Netherlands additionally noted that a discussion on disturbing content online would be valuable.
    - The US and Canada raised the importance of ensuring an ongoing conversation and actions following the call.
    - The Netherlands encouraged information sharing between Members.

Action >> Members to review Program of Action 2019-2020 and identify activities to lead on, and inform SU by **11 April 2019.**
Action >> Members to contact SU with key/questions and areas of interest for the call on Internet freedom implications of Artificial Intelligence by **17 April 2019.**
Action >> Members to follow up with key areas of interest and desired outcomes from call on more effectively promoting a rights-respecting approach to the Internet by **26 April 2019.**

Operationalising the Stockholm TOR
- Advisory Network
    - The SU provided updates on Quarterly Call with the FOC-AN
        - The first Quarterly Call of the year was held on Thursday, 21 March 2019. SU thanked Members for taking part in the call and that minutes will be circulated shortly.
        - The SU highlighted key points for the attention of the Members:
            - FOC-AN Members had raised interest in improving strategic coordination between diplomatic networks and the FOC-AN at international forums.
                - This would enable the FOC-AN to share expertise with FOC Members, and also raise the inclusion of non-governmental stakeholders at important forums relating to Internet freedom.
                - SU noted that FOC leads for diplomatic coordination is essential to facilitate this engagement and noted successful coordination around ITU Plenipotentiary 2018, where strategic calls set up communication channels and the

relevant introductions to government contacts ahead of meeting on the ground.
■ Advisory Network Members additionally raised interest in contributing to FOC outreach to aspiring Members.

FOC Membership
- Updates on FOC Member engagement
  - Members provided update on internal engagement strategy.
- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership
  - Members provided input on outreach priorities for development of outreach strategy.
    ■ Canada emphasised that the priority should be in engaging the FOC's existing Membership, which would then in turn show value of the FOC.
    ■ Members noted enlargement from underrepresented regions would be especially welcome.
    ■ Ghana noted they could work with Kenya and Tunisia for outreach to the region.
    ■ The US re-emphasized Canada's suggestion that the priority focus is on fully engaging the FOC's 30 existing members at the capitol and diplomatic network level. In parallel they have been engaging with South Korea on the possibility of joining the FOC.

Action >> Members to send contact details of newly established POC's to SU for Member directory.

- AOB