

## Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #5 - 26 August, 2020 at 2pm UTC

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

### Housekeeping

- Recap of action items from the July call
  - All action items from the July Friends of the Chair (FotC) call have been completed.
  - SU thanked Members for submitting their feedback on the Joint Statement on Disinformation and the Standard Operating Procedures for developing joint statements.
- FOC outlook and calendar
  - The next Friends of the Chair call is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 30 September.
  - The August monthly call of the FOC Advisory Network will take place on Tuesday, 8 September.
  - Next Strategy and Coordination Meeting (SCM)
    - SU noted that the next SCM will take place in the margins of the Internet Governance Forum in November. The exact date and time will be confirmed.
  - [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)
    - IGF will be organised remotely in two phases:
      - Phase 1 will take place from Monday, 2 November to Friday, 6 November and it will include pre-events, open forums, DC sessions, newcomers sessions and Youth IGF 2020 Summit.
      - Phase 2 will take place from Monday, 9 November to Tuesday, 17 November (excluding the weekend) and it will include opening and closing ceremonies, workshops, main sessions, high-level leaders track, a parliamentarian's session and thematic concluding sessions.
      - The FOC Open Forum is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 5 November at 13:50 UTC and it will focus around disinformation. The FOC Joint Statement on Disinformation is intended to be launched during this session.
      - Canada noted that the Taskforce on AI and Human Rights (T-FAIR) will also host an event during Day 0 on Thursday, 5 November at 12:40 UTC under the theme "Promoting Rights-Respecting AI: a Call for Action from the Freedom Online Coalition". The Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights is intended to be launched during this session.

### FOC Chairship

- Update on FOC Chairship 2021
  - Finland noted that the first draft of the Program of Action for 2021 (PoA) will be circulated before the September Friends of the Chair call.
  - Finland also noted that the structure and priorities of the PoA will remain the same as presented during the June Strategy and Coordination meeting.
- SU noted that it is developing an internal Program of Action to complement the external PoA as stated by the Stockholm Terms of Reference (ToR). The internal PoA will be centred around the operational side of the work of the FOC and the SU.

### Program of Action 2020

- General Updates
  - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on diplomatic coordination

- SU noted that following the discussion at the SCM in June, it is developing SOPs on diplomatic coordination with the aim to share a first draft with the Friends of the Chair ahead of the September call.
- Diplomatic Coordination
  - Geneva
    - The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)'s Committee on the Rights of the Child is currently drafting a [general comment](#) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment. The Committee has now invited all interested stakeholders to comment on its draft general comment by Sunday, 15 November 2020.
  - New York
    - The UN will mark its 75th anniversary with a one-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Monday, 21 September on the theme, 'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'. The UN75 declaration that will be adopted at this high-level meeting will contain a few points about digital/cyber issues.
    - In conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, UNICEF, the International Telecommunications Union, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and Generation Unlimited, will convene a Digital Cooperation Summit on Wednesday, 23 September, focused on concrete actions to safeguard the technological era for future generations.
    - On Thursday, 1 October UNGA, through resolution 73/249 which calls for a high-level meeting, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), which took place in Beijing, China in September 1995.
    - Irene Khan, the new UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, will host an interactive dialogue.
      - US noted the possibility to engage with the special rapporteur and raise the work of the FOC.
    - The UN High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (UNHLP) roundtables 3A/B and 3C will be hosting a joint event on COVID-19 and privacy. More updates will be provided soon.
    - UN Security Council Arria-Formula meeting on "Cyber Attacks Against Critical Infrastructure" took place earlier today Wednesday, 26 August. The Netherlands noted that they referenced the FOC Joint Statement on the Human Rights Impact of Cybersecurity Laws, Practices and Policies in their remarks.
    - The OHCHR resolution on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age
      - Germany noted that, together with Brazil, they are developing a draft to update the last resolution based on streamlining language from the Human Rights Council and adding elements on human rights, AI, COVID-19 and tracking.
      - Germany noted that relevant colleagues have been made aware of the FOC Joint Statement on COVID-19.
  - Paris, Vienna: N/A

**Action>>** The Netherlands to provide further information about the OHCHR's Committee on the Rights of the Child's [general comment](#) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment.

**Action>>** The Netherlands to provide further updates on the interactive dialogue with the new special rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

**Action>>** Members to express interest in joining the new Special Rapporteur's dialogue and raising the work of the FOC, and/or coordinating on activities, by emailing the SU.

- Shaping Global Norms
  - General Updates
    - SU noted that it has prepared a mapping of FOC Joint Statement language to aid diplomatic coordination and the development of future joint statements. The mapping will be shared with the minutes of this call.
  - SU provided an update on the revised SOPs for developing joint statements
    - Following the consultation among FOC Members, SU has revised the draft and has shared it ahead of this call.
    - SU highlighted that Members suggested shortening the silence procedure which would require a revision of the Stockholm ToR:
      - Once developed, a “draft statement will be circulated to the Friends of the Chair for a 15-day review and comment period.” (Stockholm ToR, Section V. b.)
        - Members suggested shortening this to seven days.
      - “Silence procedures shall typically last 30 calendar days.”
        - Members suggested shortening this to 15 days.
      - “However, if the FotC considers that circumstances warrant, an “expedited” [10-working day] silence procedure may be used.” (Stockholm ToR, Section V. a.)
        - Members suggested shortening this to five working days.
    - SU noted that if there is interest from Members to implement the suggestions and to amend the Stockholm ToR, the process requires a Member to recommend this to the wider FOC Membership for a 30-day silence procedure. SU noted that the recommendation would be best submitted in writing.
    - US recommended to amend the ToR and to share this with the wider FOC for a 30-day silence procedure.
  - Canada provided an update on the Task Force on AI and Human Rights (T-FAIR)
    - The next monthly T-FAIR call is scheduled for Thursday, 27 August.
      - The main focus of the meeting will be the upcoming Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights and the collected input from the external consultations held in July and August.
      - Canada noted that they plan on circulating the first draft on Wednesday, 2 September and on utilising the expedited silence procedure for the final draft shared with the FOC.
    - Learning Calls
      - The August Learning Call took place on Thursday, 13 August and was on “Human Rights and AI Policy-making: the Perspective of Estonia”.
      - The next Learning Call is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 10 September. Canada and Finland, both part of the UNHLP 3C roundtable, will host an informal discussion on the proposed Global Advisory Body on AI. Canada noted that it has invited T-FAIR Members and external consultees to participate in the call.
      - Finland noted that it is coordinating with Canada to organise a T-FAIR call on AI education and human rights in the next months.
  - UK provided an update on the Joint Statement on Disinformation
    - UK has consolidated the feedback and has paid particular attention to red lines. UK and Finland are working together to finalise the draft.

- UK noted that the finalised draft will be recirculated to the FOC members and the Advisory Group for a second round of red lines to resolve any outstanding issues before going into a final silence procedure.
- UK noted that, together with Finland, they are aiming to finalise the statement in September and to launch it during the FOC Open Forum at IGF. A further discussion on dissemination might be necessary.

**Action>>** Provided there are no objections from the Friends **by COB Tuesday, 1 September**, SU in collaboration with Members would work to draft recommendations for ToR amendments as recommended by the US.

#### **Advisory Network (AN)**

- SU provided an update on AN activities
  - AN held their monthly call on Monday, 3 August.
  - AN is currently finalising the revision of their Rules of Procedure.
  - AN members raised the idea to establish an FOC Taskforce on Digital Equality that would focus on following up on the nine recommendations of the Joint Statement on Digital Inclusion.
    - Germany and Finland voiced their support for the taskforce.

**Action>>** Members are invited to reflect on the concept note for the AN-proposed Taskforce on Digital Equality and provide comments **by COB Friday, 11 September**.

#### **FOC Membership**

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

#### **AOB**