

Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #3 - 27 May, 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 April Call
 - All action items from the April Friends of the Chair (FotC) call have been completed.
- FOC outlook and calendar:
 - Advisory Network's (AN) monthly meeting will take place on Thursday, 28 May.
 - Task Force on AI and Human Rights' (T-FAIR) monthly meeting will take place on Thursday, 28 May.
 - T-FAIR will hold a learning call on Thursday, June 11 on Facial Recognition and AI Algorithms. The presenters are AN co-Chairs Bernard Shen and Mallory Knodel, and AN member Elonnai Hickok.
 - Learning calls are open for everyone. Please contact the SU if you would like to join.
 - Learning call around the OEWG process (more details below).
 - Strategy and Coordination Meeting in June
 - Date and time will take place in the week starting June 22.
 - Members agreed on dividing the SCM between 2 days of 1,5-2 hour-long meetings.
 - SU invited Members to share initial reflections on the SCM draft agenda. The agenda will also be shared with the wider Coalition for their input.
 - Germany recommended including a discussion on the findings of the Advocacy Strategy report on the SCM's agenda.
 - Finland suggested having separate agenda sections for discussions on diplomatic networks and dissemination of statements, including how to link the discussion to PoA 2021.
 - Finland also recommended inviting a guest speaker for the discussion on COVID-19.
 - Joint FOC and FOC-AN meeting will be held the week following the SCM.

Action>> SU to confirm the date and time of the SCM.

FOC Chairmanship

- Update on FOC Chairmanship 2021
 - Finland is planning to seek input on the Program of Action 2021 in advance of the SCM in June by circulating a survey to the FOC and AN.
 - Following the survey and discussions at the SCM, Finland will work on finalizing the draft over summer and plans to launch it on the margins of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in November.

Action>> Finland to seek Members' input on Program of Action 2021 activities in advance of the June SCM by circulating a survey to Members in the coming week.

Program of Action 2020

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - New York: OEWG process.
 - Following the publishing of the report's first draft, the Chair will be scheduling informal consultation meetings in early June.
 - SU and AN are planning to organise a learning call prior to the consultations between the FOC and AN members, to provide opportunities for non-governmental stakeholders to raise awareness about priority issues and key concerns around the OEWG process.

Action>> SU to share more information about the OEWG process and the upcoming learning call in the coming week.

- Shaping Global Norms
 - US provided an update on the joint statement on COVID-19 and Internet Freedom
 - US thanked governments for the valuable input, participation and collaboration on the drafting of the statement.
 - The statement was launched on Wednesday 27 May and circulated among FOC networks.
 - US, Netherlands, Finland and Canada mentioned that they had shared the statement on social media and other Members noted that they would also circulate it via their social media channels.
 - Virtual launch panel:
 - The panel will feature speakers from the governments of the lead drafters as well as from the AN.
 - Date and time to be confirmed as soon as possible.
 - Canada noted that they had translated the statement to French.
 - Members discussed the possibility of translating this and future FOC joint statements to other languages as well.
 - Canada provided an update on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights:
 - Task force on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (T-FAIR) will hold its second monthly call on Thursday, 28 May.
 - The statement drafting will begin in the coming month with the aim of launching it at the IGF in November.
 - Finland provided an update on Disinformation Statement
 - The statement is currently under revision.
 - Members discussed ways to incorporate already agreed language on disinformation from the COVID-19 statement.
 - SU to follow up with Finland and the UK regarding next steps.

Action>> Members to submit reflections on the COVID-19 statement development process, including suggestions on language to be incorporated for the Disinformation statement, by emailing SU by Friday, 5 June.

Advisory Network (AN)

- Update on AN activities
 - Advisory Network will hold its monthly call on Thursday, 28 May.

- AN plans to hold their next monthly call during the same week as the SCM to help feed in the Joint FOC and FOC-AN meeting that will take place the following week.

AOB

- Independent Diplomat's (ID) final report on FOC's advocacy strategy was finalized and circulated to the FOC and AN. The report will inform FOC's advocacy efforts and program of action where appropriate, and will be discussed further on the SCM in June.
 - Members noted that the report is very useful when thinking about FOC's advocacy and look forward to having a robust conversation on utilizing the report in FOC's work in the SCM in June.

Action>> Canada to share a write-up regarding ways to utilize the ID report on FOC Advocacy Strategy recommendations to link up with the Joint Statement on COVID-19.

Action>> SU to add discussion on the findings from the ID Report on FOC Advocacy Strategy to the SCM agenda.