



Friends of the Chair Call #4 - Wednesday 24 April 2019, 2pm UTC

Attendance: Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Ghana, The Netherlands* UK; US; Support Unit

Apologies: Estonia, Finland, Norway.

**input sent via email*

Housekeeping

- The SU provided an update on FOC outlook for the Month Ahead
 - Stockholm Internet Forum (SIF) 16-17 May 2019:
 - A 'Meet the FOC' session for all SIF participants will be held on Day 1, with an additional closed meeting for FOC representatives.
 - RightsCon, 11-14 June 2019 in Tunisia:
 - Working meetings are being held on Day 0 of RightsCon, including a Strategy and Coordination Meeting and meetings with the FOC-AN.
 - Following Ghana's input, the agendas for meetings at RightsCon will be sent to the Friends for review and sign-off.
 - The SU additionally noted upcoming events relating to Internet Freedom:
 - 1-3 May: [World Press Freedom Day](#), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, theme is "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation".
 - 6-8 May: [re:publica 2019](#), Berlin, Germany.
 - 28-31 May: [Cycon](#), Tallinn, Estonia.

Action >> FOC Members to notify SU if they/their colleagues can join meetings at SIF on Day 1 (16 May 2019) by **3 May 2019**

Action >> FOC POC's to RSVP attendance of RightsCon using [this form](#).

FOC Chairmanship

- Ghana provided an update on FOC Chairmanship.
 - Ghana highlighted priority activities for their Chairmanship, including:
 - A study of the current state of digital rights across Africa, outlining strategies for improving digital rights on the continent;
 - A roadmap for countries in the region on how to implement and promote human rights online.
 - The US noted to Ghana that there may be opportunities to collaborate with NGOs who are currently working on these issues in the region.
 - Ghana noted that they would investigate opportunities for such collaboration.

Program of Action 2019-2020

- SU provided an update on Program of Action 2019 - 2020
 - Diplomatic Coordination:
 - Further FOC leadership is required for coordination at diplomatic networks and highlighted the upcoming Human Rights Council in June. The SU

reiterated the importance of identifying leads in advance, to facilitate coordination with Advisory Network Members who can provide input.

- The Netherlands noted that they are in touch with their Mission in Geneva to explore the possibility of leading coordination at one of the upcoming HRC sessions.
- The US provided an update on plans for the FOC briefing in New York.
- The US provided an update on strategic review of FOC Statements and identifying language that may be leveraged in multilateral forums.
 - The US noted that the Coalition has produced a number of valuable statements, which have agreed language that can be leveraged during diplomatic coordination.
 - The US invited Members to provide suggestions on existing statements to prioritise for review, and to highlight opportunities and potential strategies for their use in multilateral forums.
 - The Netherlands highlighted the FOC's existing joint statements on [Internet Censorship](#), [Network Disruptions](#) and the [Export of Cyber Surveillance Technology](#).
- Shaping Global Norms:
 - Canada provided an update on the Defending Civic Spaces Statement:
 - Negotiations on the language of the statement are ongoing and that the draft would be circulated once these are complete.
 - Canada is hoping to launch the statement at the Stockholm Internet Forum.
 - Canada additionally highlighted the upcoming [OGP Global Summit](#) in Ottawa, which has an agenda that will focus on civil society and civic participation. The statement could inform discussions at the forum, particularly by FOC government representatives.
 - Ghana and Germany provide update on Digital Divides Statement.
 - The statement had been renamed to be a joint statement on 'Digital Inclusion'.
 - Germany and Ghana have been collaborated on the first draft, which will be circulated to the Friends of the Chair Members shortly.
 - The SU noted that it is working with Estonia and The Netherlands on drafting a Request for Advice for the FOC-AN on the Cybersecurity Laws Statement.
 - The SU reminded Members that Canada is the lead for the FOC's focus on AI and Internet Freedom Implications.
 - SU noted that FOC still requires a lead for the proposed joint statement on Disinformation.
- Multistakeholder Engagement:
 - The US suggested outlining FOC-AN expertise and individual FOC Members' areas of interest in the Member Directory.
 - US had a call with the FOC-AN co-Chairs, on potential opportunities for collaboration. An outcome of the call was that recognition of the value add of fostering individual relationships with FOC-AN Members, for seeking advice relating on specific areas.

- The US suggested incorporating a section in the directory outlining FOC-AN Members' areas of expertise to guide FOC Members in soliciting input. The US further noted that FOC Members could outline the specific topics that they are seeking more expertise on.
- Members welcomed this initiative and that noted that they would find this resource very beneficial to their work and for identifying areas for collaboration with the FOC-AN.
- The SU noted that the directory of POC's and FOC-AN Members contacts would be shared with Members along with the minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call, and that this initiative of outlining expertise could be accommodated in the directory at a later stage.

Action >> FOC Members to inform SU of interest in leading coordination at the June Human Rights Council by **10 May 2019**.

Action >> SU to share contact directory following the Friends of the Chair Call.

Action >> FOC Members to share key areas of interest with SU for inclusion in directory by **17 May 2019**.

Action >> FOC Members to provide suggestions on existing statements to prioritise for review, and to highlight opportunities and potential strategies for their use in multilateral forums by **28 May 2019**.

Operationalising the Stockholm TOR

- Advisory Network
 - Ghana and Germany noted that they would be soliciting FOC-AN input for the first draft of the Digital Inclusion statement.
 - The SU noted that the FOC-AN will be involved with planning meetings at RightsCon.

FOC Membership

- Members provided updates on the internal engagement strategy.
- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership
 - n/a

AOB

- The US highlighted that the Stockholm Internet Forum would provide representatives with an opportunity for bilateral meetings, and informed Members that they will attend the forum.
- The US noted it would be valuable to have insight into the sessions that are being organised by Members at RightsCon, to increase FOC participation in those events.
 - The Netherlands' noted that their POC, Lisa Vermeer, will be moderating a workshop on digital security challenges for funders following The Netherlands' project to draft a guide for diplomats with Wieke Meilink, Peter Steudner and Gillo Cutrupi. The Netherlands encouraged governments representatives to engage with and attend the workshop.

Action >> FOC Members to share organised sessions/planned panel engagements at RightsCon with FOC mailing list or the SU by **10 May 2019**.