



Minutes of the Friends of the Chair Call #8 - Wednesday 4 September - 2pm UTC

Attendance: Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Ghana, UK, US; Support Unit (SU)

Apologies: Germany, the Netherlands, Norway

Housekeeping

- SU informed members that all action items from the July Friends of the Chair call had been completed
- SU provided an update on FOC outlook for the month ahead:
 - OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will take place in Warsaw on 16-27 September:
 - SU invited members to indicate plans to attend the meeting.
 - Finland noted they plan to attend the meeting and coordinate with Poland on FOC engagement.
- SU noted that the [Internet Freedom Calendar](#) is now live on the FOC website
 - SU invited members to share any relevant events to be added to the calendar.

Action>> Members to indicate if they will attend the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw by emailing SU

Action>> Members to share any relevant events with the SU to be added to the Internet Freedom Calendar

FOC Chairmanship

- Ghana provided an update on the annual conference
 - New meeting dates are confirmed as 5-7 February:
 - First day (5 February) will be reserved for internal FOC working meetings.
 - The Conference will be advertised publicly as 6-7 February.
 - Invitations will be sent out this month:
 - Members were invited to share contact details of colleagues for invitations.
 - Call for session proposals was sent last week for FOC and FOC-AN input:
 - Members requested an extension for the submission deadline.

Action>> Members to note the new Conference dates: 5-7 February

Action>> Members to submit session proposals for the annual conference **by Friday 13 September** by filling out [this form](#)

Program of Action 2019

- Diplomatic Coordination:
 - New York:
 - SU provided an update on FOC meeting in New York:
 - The meeting, hosted by Germany and Ghana, will take place on Thursday 5 September at 11am.
 - The invitation was sent to the FOC members as well as the FOC New York network.
 - SU reported back from the FOC and FOC-AN call on OEWG
 - The call provided FOC and FOC-AN members an opportunity to share information ahead of the OEWG meetings, discuss how to advance FOC positions, and identify opportunities for collaboration.
 - Geneva, Paris and Vienna: n/a
- Shaping Global Norms:
 - General updates:
 - SU is finalising the review of the Joint Statement Protocol.
 - Digital Inclusion Statement

- Following the call with FOC and FOC-AN members, the leads are consolidating feedback, with the intention to circulate the revised draft later this month.
 - Members were invited to contact Germany directly if they had any further questions or comments on the statement.
- Cybersecurity Statement
 - Estonia provided an update on the task force on human rights and cyber security
 - An introductory call for task force members to be held in the next few weeks.
- Artificial Intelligence Statement:
 - Canada updated members on efforts to coordinate with the FOC-AN co-Chairs to invite provisional engagement on the topic.
- Disinformation Statement:
 - Finland and UK informed members that they had commenced work on the first draft of the statement, which will be shared with the Friends of the Chair later this month.

Advisory Network (AN)

- The monthly call of the FOC-AN was held on 19 August.
- The Quarterly Call of the FOC and FOC-AN will take place in September.

Action>> SU to send a doodle poll for the Quarterly Call of the FOC and FOC-AN.

FOC Membership

- Updates on FOC Member engagement
 - Ghana noted ongoing efforts to re-engage Kenya, supported by the Netherlands and the US.
- Updates on enlargement of FOC membership
 - SU noted that Switzerland is finalising their membership application.

AOB

- n/a