*Attending: Canada (FOC Chair), Australia, Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US; Support Unit [SU].*

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- SU welcomed members to the first Strategy and Coordination meeting in 2022 under the Canadian Chairship.
- Canada, FOC Chair 2022, thanked the members for joining the meeting and provided opening remarks:
    - As the only multilateral Coalition dedicated to protecting human rights online, the FOC has enormous potential to coordinate approaches in multilateral contexts to strategically shape digital norms and norms in digital contexts.
    - FOC members are united by the belief that inclusive and resilient societies in the digital age must be rooted in the principle that human rights apply equally offline and online.
    - Canada's Chairship is guided by a shared vision of democracy in the digital age, namely digital inclusion, formed and engaged publics that can participate meaningfully in society both offline and online.
    - The FOC is an ideal vehicle for collective action in shaping the global governance of digital technology towards a world where digital progress benefits everyone.
    - As Chair, Canada is committed to press forward with renewed vigour to advance the work of the Coalition, to ensure that international rules and norms related to Internet freedom are grounded in human rights and in digital inclusion.

**Housekeeping**
- Membership Updates
    - Canada noted that, as outlined in the PoA 2022, it welcomes countries that have shown a strong commitment to human rights and Internet freedom to join the FOC.

- SU provided an update on the implementation of the Internal PoA.
    - Internal Outreach
        - In line with the FOC Internal PoA and following feedback received from last year's [10-year Anniversary Roundtable Consultations](#), the SU is currently reaching out to members in an effort to establish a more regular dialogue and optimise the support it provides.
        - As part of this outreach, the SU is holding strategic calls with interested members to discuss capacity, policy priorities, and ways in which the SU can best support members' engagement with the Coalition.
    - Finance
        - SU thanked members for commitments for this year, made by a number of states to support the work of the FOC and the SU.
    - Communications
        - FOC has launched a new visual identity for Canada's Chairship in 2022.
        - SU has been working to improve external communications coordination with the FOC, by developing relations with comms points of contact of each member state.
        - SU is developing communications outputs across FOC channels for upcoming events and activities, including the Global Speaker Series, the FOC digital inclusion social media campaign, and other activities from FOC sub-entities.
    - FOC Calendar
        - The first Joint FOC and FOC-AN Roundtable meeting of this year to take place on Wednesday, 6 April. *[This has already taken place.]*
        - For other internal events, we point members to the FOC website calendar.

**Action>>** Members are encouraged to provide contact information of relevant colleagues within their communications departments to improve coordination when promoting FOC events and output documents via external communications channels.

**Progress Updates - Program of Action 2022**
- SU presented progress made against the activities outlined in the Program of Action 2022 - please see the presentation in the attachment.

**Program of Action Implementation - Highlights of the Year Ahead**
- **Ottawa Agenda**
  - Canada is looking to update the [Tallin Agenda](), adopted in 2014, to reflect the changes in the direction of the FOC, as well as the direction of Internet freedom and digital rights internationally since 2014.
  - Using some of the documents that have already been adopted, including the [Helsinki Declaration]() (2021), as a springboard, the Ottawa Agenda will be developed through three mechanisms:
    1. Regional consultations all over the world in the first half of the year, focusing on engagement with local populations to understand their issues with the Internet and digital technologies.
    2. The Global Speaker Series, which is meant to connect the existing FOC diplomatic networks, and highlight key initiatives in multilateral fora related to the work of the FOC.
    3. Expert consultations, where technical experts are asked what the FOC should be doing in terms of advancing human rights in the digital context.
  - The Ottawa Agenda is meant to be published in the late stages of 2022, with specific location and date to be determined.

**Action >>** Canada welcomed members to reach out if interested in collaborating on putting together the Ottawa Agenda regional consultations.

- **Responsible Government Use of Surveillance Technology**
  - US noted it is launching a surveillance principles initiative to lay out how governments should use surveillance technologies consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rule of law.
  - US will seek to present guidelines for the oversight of new and emerging technologies, especially surveillance technologies, how to adequately protect user data, need to consult with civil society and industry, and non-discrimination in the use of surveillance technologies.
    - The guidelines are an effort to demonstrate the broader commitments for responsible use of surveillance technology, and to show the contrast between democratic states and authoritarian actors.
    - US noted they are still making final edits and discussing internally, and working to find the right balance between measures to promote oversight and transparency, and showing a clear contrast to authoritarian states.
    - US is looking to encourage governments to consider supporting the US State Department's [Surveillance Due Diligence Guidance,]() which the US views as complementary to the planned principles.
    - US is aiming to share the principles more widely in the upcoming months, and present the principles at the next Summit for Democracy, date to be determined.
    - US is interested in working with the FOC on this issue through consultations and other avenues, and is looking to potentially establish a working group within the Coalition.
    - If the initiative is formally part of the FOC, US would anticipate the process looking similar to the development of joint statements, with ample opportunity for input from the Advisory Network (FOC-AN), and ability for governments to negotiate the text.

- **Country-Specific Statements (CSS)**
  - Canada noted that one of its key commitments in the PoA 2022 is to call attention to egregious situations worldwide that undermine human rights in the online and digital context, and to that end, to finalise the FOC's policy on CSS.
    - On 16 February, 18 Coalition members joined an FOC-wide meeting to discuss further steps for resolving the process of revising the policy.
      - Members present on the call agreed that the FOC should be flexible to create greater impact, credibility and visibility by responding to emerging issues of concern.
      - Members also agreed that CSS should be issued on an exceptional basis, as a tool that can be used in parallel with like-minded forums, statements, and initiatives to achieve greater impact and visibility.
      - Canada is currently working with Finland and the SU on how to reflect the genesis of these discussions into the amendments to the ToR proposed by Finland.
        - Canada noted it is discussing where the statements issued on behalf of some FOC members will be housed once published.
    - Canada and US noted the increase of FOC's visibility following the issuing of the Chair statement on Ukraine, underscoring the importance of finding a solution to the CSS policy.
  - US thanked Canada for spearheading this process, and noted that most of the Coalition members are on board with moving this process forward.
    - US inquired whether there is a set deadline as to when the process will be finalised, and noted that it would prefer the policy to undergo a silence procedure as soon as possible.
      - Canada noted that it would want to arrive at a wider consensus among the Coalition members before sharing the policy for silence procedure.

- **Tech-Related Capacity Building Programs**
  - US introduced the State Department / Bureau of Democracy, Human RIghts and Labour (DRL) Programming Internet Freedom and Digital Rights strategy, and its approach to funding, which could be useful for members in the context of the PoA 2022 implementation.

    - Stressing the importance of multistakeholderism in policy-making processes, the strategy is fundamentally rooted in the Tallin Agenda, and the approach that the Internet should be governed from the perspective of democratic principles and human rights.
    - US noted it is conscious not all governments can fund these types of programs, but all can practise multistakeholderism in ways that are productive and helpful in policy-making.
    - The US strategic framework consists of recognising three Internet-programming policy areas:
      - Infrastructure
      - Internet Freedom
      - Content and Information Space
    - US noted that if states do not see Internet freedom as a foundational principle in the realm of content moderation, then it is the US' position that positive progress cannot be achieved on issues of dis- and misinformation and hate speech.
    - US presented the main pillars, and the subsequent lines of effort, of its work on Internet freedom issues: i.e. Technology development, Digital safety, Policy advocacy and Research.

- **FOC Digital Inclusion Social Media Campaign**
  - Canada noted the FOC will be launching a social media campaign focusing on digital inclusion during RightsCon (June), which will include asking a wider audience on Twitter what digital inclusion means to them through 10-15 seconds video.

- - The campaign will aim to ramp up the FOC's advocacy, communications, and outreach, while raising the Coalition's visibility and presence.
    - FOC and FOC-AN will be asked to submit videos that will be added to a compilation video presented at RightsCon.
    - A concept note outlining more details on the campaign will be shared with the Coalition shortly.

**AOB**

- Austria noted that the High-Level Conference to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and the 10-year Anniversary of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, will be taking place from 2-4 November 2022, with the high-level segment taking place on the 3 November.
    - Members are welcome to contact Austria should they be interested in more details.
    - Canada noted that FOC's upcoming joint session with the Media Freedom Coalition at the World Press Freedom Day Conference will be looking at the intersections between the issues of Internet and media freedom.
- Canada noted that ahead of the Summit of the Americas, it is working with the FOC-AN on a paper to support an inter-American, Canada-chaired ministerial meeting on Challenges to Democracy: The Inter-American Democratic Charter in the Social Media Age.
- US noted that the Task Force's on Internet Shutdowns RightsCon session proposal was accepted.
- In terms of in-person FOC events, Canada noted the difficulties of organising these; however, emphasised that at least one is planned in 2022.

**Action>>** Canada encouraged members to suggest locations and dates for a potential FOC in-person event.

*[Please note Denmark was experiencing technical difficulties, and submitted the below remarks in writing.]*
- Denmark noted the launch of their Tech for Democracy initiative last year to find concrete solutions and take action by bringing together the right stakeholders from every sector.
    - Denmark noted it is of high priority for their government to make sure technology becomes a champion for democracy and human rights, and that its engagement with and support of the FOC remain strong.
    - Denmark's Copenhagen Pledge on Tech for Democracy puts forward a shared vision for a digital future based on democratic values and human rights.
    - More than 150 partners, including FOC and FOC-AN members, have contributed to draft this vision - now, Denmark hopes for the support of the Coalition by receiving official signatures for the Copenhagen Pledge.
        - To that end, Denmark will be following up with bilateral requests, and sharing an FAQ on the Pledge.
        - The Copenhagen Pledge can be found and signed here.