

Friends of the Chair Monthly Meeting #8 (October)

Tuesday, 18 October, 13:00 – 14:30 CEST

Participants: Chair, Friends of the Chair; Support Unit (SU)

Format: Hybrid

Welcome

Housekeeping:

- Canada thanked the UK for hosting the October Friends of the Chair (FotC) monthly meeting.
- Support Unit (SU) noted that Italy, not a FotC Member, is joining the meeting for the housekeeping portion as the host of the FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting (SCM).
- Internal Program of Action (PoA) 2023 and SU activities
 - SU has been working with the US on the development of the Internal PoA 2023, to be circulated among the FotC once approved by the US and after ensuring alignment with the external PoA 2023.
- Mandate extensions for 2023
 - Friends of the Chair
 - There are eleven (11) seats available for the 2023 cohort.
 - All existing FotC, and Canada as the outgoing Chair, have expressed interest in serving as FotC in 2023, bringing the total number of interested Members to 10.
 - The SU will be inviting the wider Coalition to express interest in serving on the FotC at the SCM.

Action>> FOC Members are invited to express interest in serving on the Friends of the Chair by Friday, 4 November by emailing the SU.

- Task Forces / Working Groups (FOC sub-entities)
 - FOC sub-entities' mandates expire at the end of 2022. All sub-entities have requested mandate extensions.
 - FotC noted that more discussion is needed to set priorities for the sub-entities going forward, and whether to include these in the PoA 2023.
 - SU noted that there is no difference between Task Forces and Working Groups in the [Stockholm Terms of Reference](#) (TOR) language.
 - US clarified that the Silicon Valley Working Group (SV WG) is not a diplomatic network but a platform to give FOC Member representatives based in Silicon Valley the opportunity to coordinate with each other and speak directly with technology companies as a unified voice.
- FOC Advisory Network (AN) co-Chair selection process
 - The AN co-Chair selection process is currently underway.
 - An open call was circulated to all AN Members. Depending on the outcome, the AN will select their co-Chairs by consensus, following which the final selection will be shared with the FotC for approval.
- Membership Updates

Action>> FotC Members are invited to provide comments about Chile's membership by Saturday, 5 November to Canada with a cc to the SU.

- FOC calendar
 - SU provided an overview of the meetings and activities during the Rome SCM and Expo 2022.
- Canada thanked Italy for hosting the SCM, after which Italy exited the FotC meeting.

Discussion Items

- Ottawa Agenda draft
 - Canada provided background on the Ottawa Agenda noting that it is a multi-stakeholder effort, highlighting the [regional consultations](#) that took place earlier in the year, and that the negotiations would include the AN.
 - Canada thanked Members for their feedback on the Ottawa Agenda's first draft and noted that due to technical issues some Members have not received a copy; thus, Canada extended the deadline for providing feedback.
 - Canada noted that it hopes the Ottawa Agenda can be a vehicle for more strategic conversations around what the FOC's focus and priorities should be, as well as how to make the Coalition more impactful.
 - Germany asked for clarification about reasoning for developing the Ottawa Agenda given the recent publication of the [Helsinki Declaration](#) in 2021.
 - Canada noted the 2021 Helsinki Declaration scope was kept broad, and that the intent for the Ottawa Agenda is to take the high-level principles of the Declaration and make them more practical and actionable.
 - US noted the Tallinn Agenda is now outdated and they do not intend to replicate the exercise in 2023.
 - Germany noted that at the SCM in Paris, FOC Members discussed narrowing the FOC's scope.
 - Canada encouraged FOC Members to use the consultations on the Ottawa Agenda to help shape the scope, priorities and actions of the FOC.

Action >> Members are invited to provide feedback to the first draft of the Ottawa Agenda by Wednesday, 26 October to Canada, with a CC to the SU.

- Membership and Observer Status language in the TOR
- Joint Statement on the Internet Shutdowns in Iran
 - US announced the plans for the statement to be published on Thursday, 20 October during the FOC EXPO, and read on Wednesday, 26 October at the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran.
 - *[Please note it was determined that Norway will be reading portions of the statement following the meeting.]*
 - US invited FotC members to consider dedicating a few words of their remarks at the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran to endorse the FOC statement.
 - SU outlined the communications strategy for the statement.
 - UK raised that they have expressed interest to be the lead drafter on a statement on Internet shutdowns in Iran within the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC).
- Surveillance PoA commitment

- US noted that they are launching an initiative to lay out how governments use surveillance technology in a manner that is consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and international law.
 - The Proposed Guiding Principles on Government Use of Surveillance Technologies and Subsequent Data Generation, Management, and Use are broad in scope and focus on addressing the global increase in government misuse of surveillance technology.
 - Following the consolidation of written feedback by the FotC, the US would share a revised draft with the wider FOC and the AN.
 - US intends to have a final draft by early 2023 to share with the Summit for Democracy participants.
- UK asked how the proposed principles compare to documents developed in other multilateral fora, and whether the main consultation route should be via the FOC, or through other forums as well.
 - US noted the proposed principles are complementary to existing documents and efforts, rather than duplicative.
- Denmark asked how the US sees the Human Rights and Export Controls Initiative ([Joint Statement on the Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative](#) and [Fact Sheet: Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative Launched at the Summit for Democracy](#)) aligning with the proposed principles.
 - US noted the Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative came out as a deliverable from the first Summit for Democracy, and that the US envisions the proposed principles as a deliverable at the second Summit for Democracy.
 - US noted while the former looks at the development of export controls of surveillance technology, the latter is focused on the use of the technology by governments.
- US noted they see the FOC as a vehicle to have these conversations, and internally identified the FOC as the main starting point to move the proposed principles forward.
- US noted the document is a non-binding set of principles, and a way to build momentum in the world to highlight best- and responsible practices when it comes to surveillance technologies.
- Canada reiterated that the development of a set of surveillance guiding principles was often brought up in the regional consultations to provide greater clarity around the vision for human rights-respecting regulation of surveillance technologies.
- Germany invited the US to present the next draft of the proposed principles at the Task Force for Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights' (TFAIR) monthly meeting in November.
- Netherlands suggested that the US clarify in the document what are already agreed-upon principles and language, and new recommendations.
- US suggested continuing the discussion at the November FotC monthly meeting.

Action>> Friends of the Chair are invited to provide feedback in writing on the Proposed Guiding Principles on Government Use of Surveillance Technologies and Subsequent Data Generation, Management, and Use to the US by Friday, November 11 by emailing the US with a CC to the SU.

Chairship / Program of Action 2023

- US shared their vision statement and the first draft of the 2023 PoA.
- US shared the following key thematic areas of the 2023 PoA:
 - Protecting fundamental freedoms

- Countering growing digital authoritarianism and the misuse of technologies,
- Advancing norms, principles, and safeguards for artificial intelligence,
- Strengthening digital inclusion.
- US noted the following goals for next year:
 - Bolstering existing efforts where the FOC adds unique value;
 - Increasing ties between multilateral policy development and country-level activities including development activities;
 - Strengthening and improving operating mechanisms and outreach efforts.
- US encouraged FotC Members to provide feedback, and noted that they are looking to build on existing work of the FOC.
 - Canada noted they appreciate the focus on national-level activities and noted the value of regional-engagement.
 - UK expressed they view continuity between Chairs as positive and would be supportive of the troika operating measure.
 - UK noted that they welcome further discussions around the idea of including the Declaration for the Future of the Internet (DFI)
 - US noted the importance of including vision-shaping documents into the 2023 PoA.
 - Denmark noted they appreciate the inclusion of a narrative that balances protecting fundamental freedoms and advancing digital inclusion against reducing digital authoritarianism.
 - Denmark also noted that they are supportive of improving greater coordination between capital and local embassies.

Action>> Friends of the Chair are invited to provide written feedback on the 2023 PoA by Monday, 31 October emailing the US and the SU.

Program of Action 2022 *[Please note that these written updates were provided by the SU.]*

- Shaping Global Norms
 - Capital-level coordination
 - Canada is exploring the option of holding an FOC Ministerial-level Meeting in December with further details to be shared soon.
 - Diplomatic networks
 - Geneva (lead by Canada)
 - The side-event 'Digital Technologies and Non-Discrimination Under International Law' was held on the margins of the 51st Human Rights Council session on Wednesday, 5 October.
 - A detailed report by GAC and Global Partners Digital will be produced in the coming weeks. FOC-AN members and external stakeholders have been asked to provide input on the topic through a survey, which will feed into the report.
 - The Permanent Mission of Canada is hosting a lunch meeting with the Tech Envoy on Monday, 24 October, to discuss his mandate and the interplay with the Geneva ecosystem, update progress on the Summit of the Future and the related Global Digital Compact, as well as consider future opportunities for cooperation between the FOC and the Office of the Tech Envoy.
- Promoting Multi-stakeholder Engagement
 - Task Forces / Working Group leads to provide updates
 - Sub-entities have submitted mandate extension requests.
 - Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (TF-AIR)
 - TF-AIR will be submitting its GDC input to Canada in the coming days.
 - Task Force on Internet Shutdowns (TFIS)
 - TFIS helped kick off the drafting of the FOC joint statement on the shutdowns in Iran, and their [page](#) on the FOC website has been

updated with relevant resources about their work on Internet shutdowns.

- TFIS has submitted its GDC input to Canada.
- Silicon Valley Working Group (SV WG)
 - The Working Group has submitted its GDC input to Canada.
- Advisory Network
 - The AN recently submitted proactive advice outlining key concerns and highlighting FOC language regarding the situation in Iran.