

Attended: Estonia (FOC Chair), Denmark, Finland, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland; the Support Unit.

Welcome / Opening Remarks

- The Support Unit (SU) welcomed Members to the fifth Steering Committee (SC) meeting of 2025 under the Estonian Chairship.
- This meeting is the last meeting of the SC before the FOC Strategy & Coordination Meeting on the margins of the IGF (22 June).
- The SU encouraged SC Members to reach out with any questions around the FOC Foundational Learning Program, which was presented in the FOC-wide meeting that took place before the SC monthly meeting.

Housekeeping

- The FOC hosted a series of regional dialogues, including at the Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) *[summary available]* in Lusaka, Zambia, and the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) *[summary available]* in Strasbourg, France.
- Estonia and Armenia co-hosted a panel discussion on “Digital Public Infrastructure for Resilience and Inclusion: Advancing Human Rights Online” as part of the 2025 Yerevan Dialogue.

FOC Outputs & Deadlines:

- The deadline for the first draft of the **Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights** has now passed, and the co-Chairs will be sharing a second draft for redlines shortly.
- Estonia is now consolidating input to the Zero Draft of the **FOC Rights-Respecting DPI Principles**, and will be circulating the next draft in June.

Upcoming Events:

- **4-5 June:** UNESCO Conference on Capacity Building on AI and Digital Transformation in the Public Sector | Paris, France
 - UNESCO has invited an FOC representative to take part in the panel “Data Governance for the Digital Age” to raise awareness of the FOC’s priorities in 2025 and highlight the development of the DPI Principles. Interested representatives are invited to contact the Support Unit (please note UNESCO has a preference for a female speaker).
 - The panel will be taking place on 4 June, 15:30–16:45 CET.
- **5 June:** FOC HRC59 Diplomatic Network Coordination Meeting | Geneva, Switzerland
 - Estonia noted the Estonian president will be in Geneva at the time of the meeting, with Estonia considering how to link the FOC with high-level representation.
- **23-27 June:** Internet Governance Forum | Lillestrøm, Norway (*hybrid*)
 - **22 June:** FOC Strategy & Coordination Meeting
 - The meeting will take place from 9.00 - 16.30 local time. Further information on the meeting schedule, logistics, and input documents will be shared shortly. Members are encouraged to **register for the IGF** at your earliest convenience, via the following link.
 - The following other FOC engagements have been confirmed:
 - Day 2 | Wednesday, 25 June
 - 10.30-11.30 - FOC Open Forum: Shaping Global AI Governance Through Multistakeholder Action
 - Day 4 | Friday, 27 June
 - 9:00-10:00 - FOC Open Forum: How Technical Standards Shape Connectivity and Inclusion

- 10:45-12:15 - FOC Workshop: Universal Principles, Local Realities: Multistakeholder Pathways for DPI
 - FOC IGF Village Booth
- 7 - 11 July: WSIS+20 High-Level Event | Geneva, Switzerland
 - The FOC will be hosting the session “**Global Digital Governance & Multistakeholder Cooperation for WSIS+20**” under the WSIS+20 special track of the event.
- 15-17 July: Estonia will be hosting an intergovernmental dialogue and a multistakeholder dialogue on DPI during the CPDP LatAm conference, taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chairship and Program of Action (PoA) 2025 Updates

- Regarding the implementation of Goal 1 from the 2025 Program of Action (PoA):
 - Netherlands updated on the development of the Joint Statement on AI and Human Rights, noting that they are currently incorporating comments received to the first draft.
 - The aim is to publish the statement during the Task Force on AI and Human Rights (TFAIR) IGF session on 25 June.
 - Should there be no consensus reached on the statement, the statement will undergo an opt-in procedure, and the Netherlands will seek support from Members.
 - Netherlands also updated on the development of the FOC Food for Thought Paper, an internal paper which is meant to capture voluntary guidelines and language for FOC Members to utilise in the upcoming WSIS+20 negotiations.
 - The paper is currently being updated, and the Netherlands will be seeking to facilitate an FOC-wide virtual discussion in the next 2 weeks, as well as at the IGF.
 - Switzerland shared the [WSIS+20 Preparatory Process Roadmap](#), and noted they would be happy to work with the Netherlands on the paper considering their own non-paper, to ensure complementarity.
- Regarding the implementation of Goal 2:
 - In the past month, the FOC hosted several conversations on the FOC Rights-respecting Principles on DPI, including at DRIF and EuroDIG, which brought together stakeholders from regional governments within and outside of the Coalition, civil society organisations, the technical community, and the private sector. The input received will be considered in the development of the next draft of the Principles
 - The Principles are meant to be launched during a Ministerial meeting on 10 October at the Tallinn Digital Summit.
 - Switzerland noted a clash with an EU digital ministers meeting on 10 October
- Regarding the implementation of Goal 3:
 - As part of activities at DRIF (Zambia) and EuroDIG (France), the FOC also used these opportunities to engage with regional governments and discuss both re-engagement of Members and outreach to prospective Members.
 - Estonia noted these dialogues provided a better understanding of the real concerns and needs in the regions, particularly in African countries, and brought alternate approaches to outreach for consideration.
 - Estonia also highlighted a successful informal lunch meeting in Brussels with Kenya, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Namibia on DPI.
 - Estonia has further engaged with several potential countries that are interested in joining the Coalition, including Zimbabwe, Croatia, Greece, Botswana, and is following up with relevant representatives, including presidential contacts, in hopes of initiating the formal application processes.

Discussion Items:

Strategy & Coordination Meeting (SCM) at IGF

- The SU presented the draft agenda of the second FOC Strategy & Coordination Meeting (SCM) of this year, which will take place on the margins of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) on 22 June.
 - The meeting will commence at **9.30 AM** with opening remarks, and housekeeping updates from the FOC SU which will include a presentation on PoA 2025 implementation.
 - At **10.00 AM**, the FOC and AN will hold their joint roundtable meeting, which will be structured based on the advice provided by the AN so far in 2025, including on the WSIS process, the CSW, and undersea cables. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the advice, how it has been utilised, and to explore next-steps.
 - From **11.30 AM**, the government-only portion of the meeting will take place, for which the draft agenda includes two parts:
 1. **Part 1: WSIS+20 alignment**
 - Part 1 will be an opportunity to further align FOC priorities and language proposals for the WSIS process, socialising the food-for-thought paper and to look ahead into the coming year.
 2. **Part 2: FOC Direction of Travel.**
 - Part 2 will be an opportunity to review key themes, priorities, and working methods from the past 5 years of FOC Chairships, and to explore areas of continuity for 2026 and beyond - especially considering we do not have a confirmed Chair for the coming year.
 - SU noted that in absence of a Chair next year, FOC leadership and shaping the FOC's direction through the PoA will be falling to the SC.
 - With this discussion, the SC will get a better understanding of where priorities should lie for the year ahead.
 - The SC will be deciding whether to roll over previous priority areas into 2026 and continue the work under past Chairships.
 - Following a lunch break, at **13.45 PM** FOC Members and the AN will participate in an interactive scenario exercise that will focus on the design, deployment, and governance of digital public infrastructure systems.
 - Following the meeting, Estonia will be hosting a reception, and is currently seeking a co-host.
- Switzerland inquired whether the strategic discussion can be moved to the afternoon; the SU noted it will explore this option.
- Estonia noted the possibility of raising the issue of undersea cables from an Internet connectivity perspective, as well as discussing regional engagement and how to attract interested countries to join the FOC.
 - Estonia noted the SCM as an opportunity for feedback on the DPI Principles, as well as for a discussion on the 2026 Chairship and identifying potential Chairs.
 - Estonia also suggested the FOC engages with the WSIS+20 co-facilitators directly, proposing to invite them to meetings.
 - Switzerland noted that the co-facs can have bilateral meetings at IGF, which can be booked via the IGF website.
 - SU noted that the Joint FOC and FOC-AN Roundtable will cover some of the items raised by Estonia, including a discussion on DPI and undersea cables.

Chairship 2026

- SU noted should there be no formal Chair candidate, there are options of co-Chairing and divided responsibilities.
- Switzerland noted they are open to joint responsibility but lack capacity for the full Chair role, emphasising they would like to see a Global South country as Chair.
- Luxembourg and Switzerland inquired about the cost implications for Chairing, with Luxembourg noting it supports the co-Chairship suggestion.
 - SU will be organising a follow-up meeting on the Chairship with Luxembourg and others that may be interested and require more information.
- Estonia noted chairship costs include both funding and additional event expenses,
 - SU noted that while past Chairs often bore the full costs, it is not mandatory.
 - Members suggested decoupling financial and human resources burdens, but inquired on the potential impact of low financial contributions.

- SU noted it typically uses the PoA to guide internal planning and budgeting, suggesting for a broader discussion at the SCM.