

**Attendance:** Estonia (FOC Chair), Finland, Germany, Ghana, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USA; FOC Support Unit.

## Minutes

### Welcome / Opening Remarks

- The Support Unit (SU) welcomed Members to the seventh Steering Committee (SC) meeting of 2025 under the Estonian Chairship.
- A new point of contact for the US, Alice Lau, was introduced, as well as a substitute representative for Germany, Thorsten Clausing.

### Housekeeping

- The FOC hosted a Day-0 event in advance of the [CPDP LatAm](#) Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The event facilitated a dialogue on regional trends related to the FOC's mandate, sought input to the rights-respecting DPI principles, and included a workshop on transformative AI policy by Derechos Digitales.
- The updated draft of the [Proposals for FOC Engagement in the WSIS+20 Process](#), developed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, has been circulated and reflects recent inputs, including contributions from recent FOC-AN Proactive Advice, as well as discussions in the FOC and developments across the broader multilateral digital policy landscape. It was noted that members are welcome to share this document with their colleagues.
- The FOC Support Unit continues to facilitate the FOC Foundational Learning Program, with the third live webinar hosted last week. The cohort of current participants in the program has now reached 27, from 16 Member States and 1 Observer. Members were asked to reach out to the SU ([nusa@gp-digital.org](mailto:nusa@gp-digital.org)) to register for the program.

### FOC Outputs & Deadlines:

- **11 August:** Deadline to provide input to the First Draft of the **FOC Rights-Respecting DPI Principles**.
  - The draft was first introduced during the SCM in June, and Members are now encouraged to provide any further written input.
  - The next version of the document will be circulated in late August/early September, with the aim of publishing during the Tallinn Digital Summit.
- **Ongoing:** The search for a 2026 Chair of the FOC is ongoing. Should Members wish to put forward a bid for Chairship or to ask any questions, please reach out to the Support Unit ([nicholas@gp-digital.org](mailto:nicholas@gp-digital.org); [nusa@gp-digital.org](mailto:nusa@gp-digital.org)).

### Program of Action / Chairship 2025 Updates

- Regarding the implementation of the [2025 Program of Action](#), Estonia highlighted the success of Global South outreach during their Chairship so far, and recommended these types of activities continue next year.
- The SU updated on activities of the FOC Advisory Network (FOC-AN), noting that it is looking to hold two briefings following the summer break, including on:
  - Subsea Cables
  - WSIS+20, with a focus on perspectives from the Global Majority.

## Discussion

### Q3 & Q4 Events - Estonian Chairship

- The Support Unit gave an update on the upcoming schedule of events for the remainder of the year, including the key themes and topics to be addressed at each:
- **25 September:** FOC UN General Assembly High-Level Week Side-Event | New York, United States
  - Scheduled for 10-12PM on Thursday 25 September, the event will feature high-level remarks and a panel discussion focusing on open, inclusive, and resilient Internet

infrastructure. The concept note is currently being finalised and will be shared with all members with the save the date.

- **9-10 October:** Tallinn Digital Summit | Tallinn, Estonia
  - On 9 October from 10-12PM, high-level representatives of FOC Member States and the broader multistakeholder community will convene for the FOC's Ministerial Meeting, which will focus on advancing digital inclusion with a spotlight on rights-respecting DPI.
  - Estonia is exploring holding the 3rd SCM of the Chairship during the Tallinn Digital Summit, and Members are invited to provide input and note availability.
  - Save the dates have been sent and official invites will be sent out at the end of August.
  - A capacity building event is also being planned on 8th October; an official invitation will be sent in the coming week and requests for travel support will be opened.
- **11-14 October:** Asia Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF) | Kathmandu, Nepal
  - With support from FOC Observer Taiwan, a panel session on the resilience of Internet infrastructure has been submitted to the program (*yet to be approved*).
- **4-6 November:** Global DPI Summit | Cape Town, South Africa
  - Estonia is exploring ways to engage in the summit, and to promote the DPI principles which will have been launched in October.
- **16-17 December:** WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting | New York, United States
  - There are currently no plans for engagement, but this is an opportunity that has been flagged by Members and AN representatives.
- There were no additional comments or remarks from Members.

#### AOB

- **August SC Call**
  - The next SC call is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 August.
  - Members from Luxembourg and Switzerland confirmed they will be unable to attend, USA confirmed they will be available to attend.