Attendance: Estonia (FOC Chair), Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States; FOC Support Unit.

Minutes

Welcome / Opening Remarks
- The Support Unit (SU) welcomed Members to the eighth Steering Committee (SC) meeting of 2025 under the Estonian Chairship.
- Welcomed the new FOC focal point from the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maya Aumaj.

Housekeeping
- The SU continues to facilitate the FOC Foundational Learning Program, with the fourth live webinar in the series on "Technical Standards and Human Rights" held in early August. The next webinar, focusing on Digital Inclusion and DPI, will take place in early September.

FOC Outputs & Processes
- **Output (*Forthcoming*):** Second Draft of the FOC Rights-Respecting DPI Principles.
  - Members were invited to provide input to the First Draft by 11 August. Estonia is currently reviewing input received, with the next draft expected to be circulated for redlines in the coming week.

- **Upcoming Events & Meetings**
  - **2 September:** Geneva Network Pre-HRC Coordination Meeting | Geneva & Online
    - In response to a query from the U.S., the SU clarified that this meeting will highlight updates from capital, facilitate information sharing on the upcoming HRC session, and include a presentation to highlight the recent Joint Statement on AI & Human Rights.
  - **3 September:** Discussion on the WSIS+20 Outcome Document Zero Draft | Online
    - This meeting will provide an opportunity for FOC Members (including representatives from capital, New York, and Geneva), FOC Advisory Network, and external non-governmental stakeholders by invitation, to exchange views on the Zero Draft of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document, which is expected to be published on 29 August.
  - **25 September:** FOC UN General Assembly High-Level Week Side-Event | New York, United States
    - This high-level side-event will bring together representatives from government, the technical community, civil society, academia, and the private sector to examine how to strengthen resilience, mitigate risks such as Internet shutdowns and attacks on critical infrastructure, and promote meaningful connectivity, particularly for marginalized communities.
      - In response to a query from the U.S., the SU provided further details of the event "Building on the Foundation: Securing the future of the open Internet", for which the run of show is still being finalised, but will broadly include opening remarks, a keynote speech, remarks from high-level representatives, and a multistakeholder panel discussion.
  - **9-10 October:** Tallinn Digital Summit (TDS) | Tallinn, Estonia
    - **Ministerial Meeting**
      - 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. Official invitations to the meeting are forthcoming.
        - In response to a query from the Netherlands, the SU noted a number of RSVPs are still pending, however Luxembourg, Ghana, Mexico, and Zambia have confirmed attendance.

- - **Strategy & Coordination Meeting III**
    - 8 October: The Day 0 in advance of TDS will feature capacity-building sessions commencing from midday, including an interactive simulation exercise
      - In response to a query from the U.S. the SU clarified that the Day 0 is targeted at working-level representatives, however high-level attendees are welcome to participate in all sessions.
    - 10 October: The SCM is scheduled for 10AM - 4PM on Day 2 of TDS, with discussions primarily focusing on WSIS engagement and the development of the 2026 PoA
- **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. *[Update: As the session has not been accepted into the program, the Chair and SU are re-exploring potential engagement]*
- **4-6 November:** Global DPI Summit 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa
  - Estonia is exploring opportunities to engage in the Summit, and to further amplify the Rights-Respecting DPI principles. Further details on possible FOC activities are forthcoming.
- The Netherlands inquired whether Estonia as FOC Chair was planning for the Coalition to engage in the United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime Signing Ceremony & High-level Conference, taking place in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 26 October
  - Estonia noted they are not currently planning any engagement, referencing previous discussions with the AN on the topic and suggesting that it may be preferred for the FOC to not have any engagement or signify the process.
  - Estonia welcomed suggestions should Members have ideas for engagement.

Program of Action 2025 Updates
- Estonia noted ongoing efforts to develop the Rights-Respecting Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Principles, for which the 2nd Draft is currently being finalized and will shortly be circulated for redlines.
  - Estonia invited members to share any red lines or significant concerns with the current version of the document, should they have not had a chance to do so before the previous deadline.
- Estonia welcomed Members to reach out with any questions related to the upcoming Ministerial Meeting or broader Tallinn Digital Summit, noting the Summit's significance as a major annual event that typically has a strong private sector presence and covers a broad range of digital topics beyond human rights and FOC-related issues.
- SU noted that the Advisory Network (FOC-AN) will host a learning call on Subsea Cables on 12 September, for which the calendar invitation is forthcoming.

Discussion Items
FOC Strategy & Coordination Meeting III and WSIS Engagement

- The SU provided an overview of the draft agenda [attached] for the upcoming SCM in Tallinn, noting that it will be the last FOC-wide convening under the Estonian 2025 Chairship. The agenda features:
  - Two government only sessions, one to workshop the 2026 Program of Action (PoA), and a second to recap recent discussions on the WSIS process and to discuss areas of focus in the upcoming negotiations.
  - A stock-taking session to reflect on the year's activities and look ahead at key trends for 2026 and beyond, which also has the opportunity to invite key experts attending the broader Tallinn Digital Summit.
  - The Joint Roundtable, where the AN will reflect on key pieces of advice provided to the FOC, and we expect will include a focus on WSIS and next year's priorities.
- The UK passed on their thanks for the WSIS coordination efforts over the summer, and in regards to the WSIS session, requested that specific questions for the discussion are shared in advance so they can prepare responses with relevant colleagues and departments engaging in the process.

- ○ The Netherlands confirmed questions will be shared in advance, and noted the beneficial timing of the SCM discussions which will come before virtual stakeholder consultations and the first consultations with Member States on the WSIS outcome document.
  - ○ The Netherlands noted that they will be reviewing the forthcoming Zero Draft of the WSIS Outcome Document in the coming weeks to provide preliminary feedback based on the FOC Proposals resource, and will welcome input from FOC and AN Members.
- ● The SU also noted that as part of the Day Zero event which precedes the Tallinn Digital Summit, a capacity-building session is being planned, likely in the form of a simulation workshop focused on how malicious actors attempt to disrupt or manipulate information flows across different layers of internet infrastructure. The aim is to provide participants with a more practical, hands-on understanding of these challenges and how the Internet functions in such contexts.
- ● The SU encouraged Members to provide input on the SCM agenda, including any suggestions on the format, contents, and outcomes, with the final agenda to be shared in the coming weeks.