upcoming meeting with DA Coleman on disinformation

vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 8:00:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: aplitt@usaid.gov, ayastishock@usaid.gov, emckee@usaid.gov, dputman@usaid.gov Diana Putman, mescobari@usaid.gov Marcela Escobari, mabarry@usaid.gov Maura Barry, kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher, scharles@usaid.gov, agawande@usaid.gov, rjenkins@usaid.gov Robert Jenkins, msumilas@usaid.gov Michele Sumilas, jherman@usaid.gov Jodi Herman, jvoorhees@usaid.gov John Voorhees
Cc: jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh, drg.troika@usaid.gov DRG Troika, dblack@usaid.gov David Black, emgreen@usaid.gov Emily Green, mkaran@usaid.gov Meral Karan, lakirby@usaid.gov Lauren Kirby, dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik

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Thanks so much, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Vera

kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 9:26:50 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Brendan Walsh

Johnny

Further to Vera's message below, who are you thinking of as the senior POC for DRG, and would that be the same or an additional person for the rest of DDI? Would Vera be the POC for the former, or you, Ro or someone else?

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USAID (Acting) Assistant Administrator,
Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI)
(Office) [redacted] **| (Mobile)** [redacted] **kfickenscher@usaid.gov**

jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 10:01:14 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher

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Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI)
(Office) [redacted] **| (Mobile)** [redacted] **| kfickenscher@usaid.gov**

--
Johnny Walsh
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development

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kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 10:23:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh

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Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development

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jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 10:39:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher

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kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 10:41:32 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh

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jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 10:41:52 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: kfickenscher@usaid.gov Karl Fickenscher

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vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 5:09:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: jvoorhees@usaid.gov John Voorhees
Cc: bmcgill@usaid.gov Brian McGill, lruth@usaid.gov Leo Ruth, jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh

Fabulous! One of the things that I want to do is get funding for a really good social media analytics capability, both to address risk and also for programming. I'm going to ask Logically AI to do a demo and Zignal Labs. Both are very good.

On Thu, Aug 18, 2022 at 4:59 PM John Voorhees <jvoorhees@usaid.gov> wrote:

Vera -

Brian McGill (Deputy DIR SEC) will be the person to represent SEC in these forums.

Also ... we are in the process of bringing on a specialized contract disinformation Intel analyst to help bring in IC products/information into the Agency and help us have a better operational picture of what is occurring.

I hope to do this quickly -- before the end of next month, but OCT at the latest.

R/ John

On Thu, Aug 18, 2022 at 8:00 AM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:

Dear All,

We look forward to seeing you on Friday with DA Coleman, where we will discuss the Agency's efforts to address disinformation. By way of background and for those who I have not had a chance to meet yet, I joined the DRG Center about three months ago as the Senior Advisor for Tech and Democracy to help lead the Agency's efforts on digital democracy and combating mis/dis/malinformation.

The purpose of this meeting will be to begin a discussion on how the Agency can better respond to the ever growing threat of disinformation, and share more information about the "Information Resilience Council" we are seeking to stand up. The Administrator has urged us to explore such a Council as quickly as possible, and you will all receive an Action Memo for clearance in the next week or two proposing its basic parameters. After initial introductions and opening remarks from DA Coleman, I will provide an overview of key lines of effort and initiatives we hope this Council will take on and coordinate across the Agency. We will then open the floor to your insights and questions.

As this process gets underway, we would like to request your input on the following items:

- Please ID a senior level POC (either you or a DAA) to attend roughly bimonthly senior level meetings like this one.
- Consider who in your Bureau at the technical level who can give a portion of their time to participate in the working group that will carry out much of the Council's substantive work.
- Consider what the main challenges to your bureau are related to this issue, and how an optimal Council might meaningfully address them.

Thanks so much, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Vera

--
John Voorhees
USAID, Director of Security
[redacted] **(ofc)**
(cell)
jvoorhees@usaid.gov

jvoorhees@usaid.gov John Voorhees Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 6:10:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem
Cc: bmcgill@usaid.gov Brian McGill, lruth@usaid.gov Leo Ruth, jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh

Vera, that would be great! We are all in on this effort. John

John Voorhees
USAID, Director of Security
[redacted] (o)
(c)
jvoorhees@usaid.gov

On Aug 18, 2022, at 5:09 PM, Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:

Fabulous! One of the things that I want to do is get funding for a really good social media analytics capability, both to address risk and also for programming. I'm going to ask Logically AI to do a demo and Zignal Labs. Both are very good.

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Thanks so much, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Vera

--
John Voorhees
USAID, Director of Security
[redacted] **(ofc)**
(cell)
jvoorhees@usaid.gov

---

vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:25:32 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: rjenkins@usaid.gov Robert Jenkins
Cc: nshelat@usaid.gov Neilesh Shelat, akaplan@usaid.gov Adam Kaplan, jdrude@usaid.gov Julia Drude, jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh

Hi Rob,

Great! Thank you so much.

The AM will be reaching you soon, so more to follow!

Warmly, Vera

On Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 12:46 PM Robert Jenkins <rjenkins@usaid.gov> wrote:
Vera, Thank you for Friday's productive meeting. DAA Neilesh Shelat will be our senior lever POC and OTI's Adam Kaplan will be our technical rep.

Have a fantastic afternoon.

Regards, Rob

On Thu, Aug 18, 2022 at 8:00 AM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
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Thanks so much, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Vera

--

Robert W. Jenkins
Assistant to the Administrator
Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization
U.S. Agency for International Development
[redacted]