Re: Connecting in my new capacity!

cthanassi@usaid.gov Cara Thanassi Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 9:13:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: [redacted]@twitter.com Neema Guliani
Cc: vzakem@usaid.gov Vera Zakem, [redacted]@twitter.com Nick Pickles, jowalsh@usaid.gov Johnny Walsh, [redacted]@twitter.com, adsiegel@usaid.gov Adam Siegel, mcamilleri@usaid.gov Michael Camilleri, ebuckhout@usaid.gov Emma Buckhout

Hi Neema,

It's a pleasure to be connected with you and your colleagues. At the most recent Summit of the Americas, Administrator Power launched the Voices Initiative. The Initiative is focused on protecting, defending, and promoting civic space in Central America, with a focus on Promoting Digital Democracy and Countering Digital Authoritarianism; Promoting Freedom of Expression and Strengthening Independent Media; and Countering Criminalization and Providing Protection. For the purpose of this initial conversation, we'd like to discuss these issues in the context of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and the role that Twitter does play and can play in the focus areas identified. Examples of some concrete questions include:

1) How does Twitter prepare for and practically address misinformation, disinformation and online threats and harassment in northern Central America, including in the run up to and during elections (recent elections in Honduras and upcoming elections in Guatemala) or efforts that might particularly target women candidates or minority populations, for example?
2) How does Twitter relate to/work with state media outlets, such as in El Salvador, where independent media is increasingly under threat
3) Does/how does Twitter work internally, with civil society organizations and others to fact check and or respond to misinformation/disinformation/and harassment and what are the processes/timelines for content to be taken down or persons to be taken off?
4) What is the best way for USAID missions and our partners in the country to learn more about these processes, increase their capacity to engage in monitoring and oversight, and work with Twitter to address these issues?

I welcome additional input from my colleagues but this may be an overly ambitious agenda for an initial 50 minute call!

Best regards,

Cara

On Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 5:26 PM Neema Guliani <[redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:
> Hi Vera -
>
> In terms of the northern triangle call, are there particular topics that you want to focus on (I just want to make sure we have the right people on the call).
>
> Unfortunately, 5-5:30EST Wed doesn't work. Would Thurs between 3-4 EST or Mon between 10-1 EST work on your end?
>
> Best,
> Neema
>
> On Tue, Jul 26, 2022 at 5:23 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Hi Team Twitter,
> >
> > I would like to propose that we hold a specific call with our folks on Northern Triangle this week, and have a broader call with myself, Johnny Walsh, and Adam Siegel on broader potential collaboration.
> >
> > For the northern triangle discussion, the team proposes this Wednesday, 5 to 550. Is that doable?
> >
> > thanks so much, Vera
> >
> > On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:44 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > Hi All,

I'll get back to you shortly on times, but I actually would love to schedule 2 meetings with you: 1) a general conversion, perhaps wednesday or thursday of this week, and separately, a targeted conversation that the team asked me to set up on the Northern Triangle / Central America.

Can we do 2 separate 30 min calls?

thanks so much, Vera

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 9:35 AM Neema Guliani <[redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:
> It would be great to connect. Would sometime Tues 9-11 EST, Wed 4-6 EST, or Thurs 1:30-3 EST work on your end? If not, what times work the following week?
>
> On Fri, Jul 22, 2022 at 5:27 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > HI Team Twitter,
> >
> > Circling back to see if we can get a meeting between USAID and Twitter on the books?
> >
> > cheers, vera
> >
> > On Fri, Jul 8, 2022 at 8:46 AM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > And forgot to copy Johnny! Here he is.
> > >
> > > On Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 9:37 PM Vera Zakem <vzakem@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > Ok great. Hi Team Twitter -
> > > >
> > > > As a former Tweep, and now in my new role in the admin and at USAID, I'd love to connect on engaging with Twitter in a number of areas, and see how you all are supporting emerging markets, especially where USAID operates in.
> > > >
> > > > Also copying my partner in crime and boss, Johnny Walsh to see if we can all find a time to connect virtually.
> > > >
> > > > Cheers, Vera
> > > >
> > > > On Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 3:04 PM Nick Pickles <[redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:
> > > > > Hey Vera,
> > > > >
> > > > > Congrats on the new role! Our US team leads our work with US agencies, even where their work is global, so copying in Neema and LC to assist.
> > > > >
> > > > > Speak soon,
> > > > > Nick
> > > > >
> > > > > On Thu, 7 Jul 2022 at 07:40, Vera Zakem <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
> > > > > > Hey Nick!!
> > > > > >
> > > > > > How are you?
> > > > > >
> > > > > > So I would love to connect in my new capacity as I joined the admin and USAID to lead democracy / tech / and info related efforts across agency.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Copying my email address! Maybe I can sync up with you and Sineade? USAID is global, so nothing on US domestic policy.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Cheers, Vera
> > > > > >
> > > > > > --
> > > > > >
> > > > > > 
> > > > > > **Nick Pickles**
> > > > > > Head of Public Policy Strategy, Development and Partnerships
> > > > > > Follow me @nickpickles

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Cara L. Thanassi

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