



Freedom Online Coalition - Coordination and Strategy Meeting

Sunday, 3 May, 2015, 17:00-19:00

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

MINUTES

FOC members in attendance: Austria, Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK, US

Chair: FOC Support Unit (GPD)

FOC internal review

- Following the presentation of the draft internal review framework at the Strategy Meeting in the Hague, the UK and the US presented the rationale for a review of Coalition processes given the growth of the Coalition and its increased activities;
- The proposed review set out a number of structural and procedural questions for the Coalition to address and review as it expands and grows, including questions around membership, application processes, arrangements for Chairing the Coalition, the functioning of the working groups, the Secretariat function and funding;
- Members decided to set up a working group to work on the review and develop recommendations;
- Australia, Canada, Estonia, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, UK, and US to form part of the review working group;
- Austria, Finland and Mongolia expressed interest to follow the review and contribute, while leaving it to the core group to lead;
- FOC members agreed that the review process should be run in an open and transparent way, allowing all members to follow and contribute to the discussion;
- Members agreed that there was a role to be played by other stakeholders in the review process; format of this engagement is TBD;
- Timeline: it was agreed to aim to have a first draft of the review by the IGF in November;
- It was agreed there would be a blog post announcing the internal review;

Action >> Internal review working group to hold preliminary call by the end of May and report back to broader Coalition with information about review modalities

Chair/Friends of the Chair mandate

- As the FOC Chair function undergoes annual rotation, the FOC identified the need to review the mandate of the Friends of the Chair group;
- The group, set up at the FOC Coordination and Strategy Meeting in Stockholm 2014, consists of the outgoing Coalition Chair and a group of self-nominated FOC members who stand ready to assist the incoming Chair; the members connect monthly via conference calls; minutes of the calls are logged and shared with the broader Coalition;

- Current group members were asked to express interest to stay on as members of the group – Estonia, Germany, UK, Costa Rica and US re-affirmed their commitment; In addition, Mongolia, Canada and Norway expressed interest to join the group in the next mandate iteration;
- It was decided that the Friends of the Chair would act as the FOC care-takers until the next Chair is confirmed and that this would be announced during the Conference Closing Session;

Working groups (WG) mandate renewal

- FOC Support Unit presented the updated terms of reference (TOR) and the recommendations for mandate renewal submitted by FOC working groups
- The US had language suggestions for the TOR update;
- It was noted that the level of consistency across working groups should be reviewed as part of the broader internal review process, including status of WG products in relation to the broader Coalition, approach to membership, and termination of groups' mandate;
- Following presentation of FOC members that are co-chairing the working groups, FOC members agreed to renew the mandate of all three groups, as per their respective recommendations;
- Greater government participation in working groups was encouraged and members were asked to express interest in joining the groups until the end of the month;
- Members encouraged greater collaboration and information sharing across the three working groups.

Action >> Support Unit to liaise with US and amend WG TOR;

Action >> Any members interested in joining FOC working groups to let Support Unit know by end of May;

Action >> Support Unit to look into setting up WG calls every two months with all WG co-chairs to increase information-sharing among working groups.

AOB

- It was suggested that the next FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting takes place on the margins of the June Human Rights Council session in Geneva;
- Members expressed their appreciation for the work on the FOC Newsletter and decided to make it a public product, to be published on the FOC website;
- It was decided that the minutes of this meeting would be made public and posted on the FOC website.

Action >> Support Unit to follow up with members to determine the date for the next FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting in June

Action >> Support Unit to publish next issue of FOC newsletter on the FOC website

Action >> Support Unit to publish these minutes on the FOC website