FREEDOM ONLINE COALITION STRATEGY AND COORDINATION MEETING
Internet Governance Forum, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Tuesday 19 December

Attending: Argentina, Austria, Australia, The Czech Republic, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Latvia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, The U.K, The U.S; Chaired by the FOC Support Unit.

<u>Minutes</u>

<u>Housekeeping</u>
- The SU formally welcomed Germany as the 2018 FOC Chair, and Members wished them well for the year ahead.

<u>Updates on implementation of the San Jose Work Plan (SJWP):</u>
- SU gave overview of outstanding SJWP goals
  - See Annex 1 below for details
- Updates on operationalisation of the Stockholm Terms of Reference (TOR):
  - SU and Germany gave an update on the FOC Advisory Network
    - The Advisory Network open call for applications has gone out, with a deadline of Thursday January 11, 2018. The Advisory Network (FOC-AN) Chartering Group (CG) will then be responsible for processing the applications and finalising the selection.
    - The SU invited Matthew Shears and Katharine Kendrick (non-governmental members of the CG and interim FOC-AN co-chairs) to provide an overview of the CG's work and share their key takeaways:
      - The Terms of Reference for the FOC-AN is the result of both in-person and online consultations, resulting in a strong foundation for the establishment of the network.
      - The CG will conduct outreach on the open call at the FOC Open Forum, and will make efforts to encourage applications from a diversity of geographic regions.
      - They alerted members that the FOC-AN can be a candid resource for the FOC to raise the knowledge and understanding of both the FOC Members on emerging issues, and the FOC-AN members in terms of the complex considerations governments need to take into account for policy decisions.
        - Based on the experience of co-chairing the former FOC Working Groups, the FOC-AN will be most constructive and successful if there is a foundation of trust, based on good dialogue and an open relationship between the Coalition and the FOC-AN.
  - SU updated Members on the development of the Evaluation Framework for Member Review and Termination (EF):
    - The SU was mandated under the Stockholm ToR to develop an evaluation framework for Member review and termination. To aid its development, the SU commissioned an external consultant who specialises in monitoring and evaluation (Rebecca Zausmer).
    - The first draft of the EF has been submitted to the SU and forwarded on to Members for review.
  - SU reported there were no further updates on FOC internal finances.
    - The Netherlands raised the issue of donor coordination in the field of internet freedom:

- Proposed FOC Members regularly coordinate and share information on which projects on internet freedom they are funding in order to identify gaps and better allocate resources and strengthen the field.
- This coordination already occurs in terms of media freedom projects, which is a related issue.
- Members agreed that the FOC provided a trusted environment in which programming and funding could be discussed and proposed, and decided that more thinking was needed on the modalities for this.

Action Point >> Members to consult internally on evaluation framework for Member review and termination and provide any written comments to the SU **by January 22, 2018**, ready for discussion by Friends of the Chair on the January call.

Action Point >> Members to submit any ideas for modalities for donor coordination in the field of internet freedom to the Netherlands.

Coordination and Joint Activities
- SU reported back on the implementation of the Program of Action 2017
  - Over the last 7 months there has been a step up in the activities of the Coalition, resulting in good progress across the Program of Action, with all outstanding activities feeding into the German chairmanship and Program of Action 2018.
- Ambassador Thomas Fitschen from the German government provided an overview of Germany's Program of Chairmanship 2018. Priorities included:
  - Hosting of the FO Annual Conference in Berlin in the last quarter of 2018:
    - International conference involving representatives of government, private sector, academia, technical community.
  - Diplomatic coordination:
    - Focus on UNESCO, Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe to improve diplomatic coordination.
  - Promote joint statements in multiple fora as needed
    - Support coordination and re-activation of diplomatic networks to ensure where programmatic work is undertaken the FOC is present and can take position as needed.
    - Germany to lead on one to two local diplomatic networks.
  - Focus on the three target areas through Program of Action 2018:
    - State-Sponsored Restrictions of Human Rights
    - Supporting Civil Society Voices Online
    - Cyber Security and Human Rights
  - Follow up on San José Workplan and Stockholm Terms of Reference
    - Support the implementation of the new FOC Terms of Reference adopted in 2017 in Stockholm to strengthen the FOC.
    - Support implementation of mechanism for multistakeholder engagement, the FOC Advisory Network as a key priority.
  - Lead the Coalition's outreach efforts
    - Approach potential new members with the aim of increasing membership in underrepresented regions to further increase the FOC's geographic diversity.
- The German Program of Chairmanship has full backing of all Ministries, with points of contact established in all other units in the German Foreign Office. The German Chairmanship team will include:
  - Ambassador Thomas Fitschen, Director for the United Nations, Cyber Foreign policy and Counterterrorism
  - Karsten Gaier, Head of Cyber Policy
  - Peter Stentzler, International Cyber Policy Coordination Staff
  - Florian Szamocki, International Cyber Policy Coordination Staff
- Ambassador Fitschen thanked the FOC Support Unit for their assistance throughout the year and for their role in keeping the Coalition working smoothly for the activities to come.
- Members discussed priorities for Program of Action 2018.
- Members discussed the internal coordination schedule for 2018 and agreed it would be useful to collate events Members will be attending in 2018 to aid planning.

Action Point >> Estonia to liaise with Germany and SU to identify best way to capture which events FOC Members will attend in 2018

AOB
- The Netherlands raised the upcoming report and annex being negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation which could have an expansive impact on internet governance and roles of states.

ANNEX 1: Overview of Outstanding San Jose Work Plan Goals

OBJECTIVE 1: Increasing effectiveness, coherence and credibility while sustainably and strategically expanding Coalition membership:
- COMPLETED ACTIVITIES:
  - Goal 1.1: Revise and clarify membership criteria and procedures to ensure that new members are committed to the Coalition's objectives and commitments: *First draft of framework now under review.*
  - Goal 1.3: Clarify member responsibilities, including vis-a-vis engagement with domestic stakeholders and international bodies, as well as participation in Coalition conferences, strategic meetings, and other activities: *Clarified in Stockholm Terms of Reference.*
  - Goal 1.4: Establish internal procedures to promote adherence to these commitments and responsibilities: *Clarified in Stockholm Term of Reference.*
- OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES:
  - Goal 1.2: Develop and achieve Coalition agreement on an outreach plan based on these reviewed criteria.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve the Coalition's ability to cooperate strategically and cross-regionally among members to develop and promote norms and coordinate activities:
- COMPLETED ACTIVITIES:
  - Goal 2.1: Clarify the roles of the Chair, Friends of the Chair, and Support Unit; *Clarified in Stockholm Terms of Reference.*
  - Goal 2.2: Develop a plan to formalize and strengthen networks among FOC member missions in key multilateral forums: *SU completed stated report in May 2017.*
  - Goal 2.5: Form a standing funding coordination group to help ensure the financial sustainability of the Coalition and coordinate donor activity to support Coalition aims and objectives: *Funding Coordination Group created in October 2016.*
- OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES:
  - Goal 2.3: Develop a consistent structure and operating procedure to improve planning for and enhance the value of the Coalition's Annual Conference: *Stock-take completed with qualitative research planned for 2018.*
  - Goal 2.4: Develop clear procedures for the development and promotion of Coalition statements.

OBJECTIVE 3: Clarify and enhance external relationships
- COMPLETED ACTIVITIES:
  - Goal 3.1: Produce options and recommendations on how best to structure engagement with non-state stakeholders. In the interim, co-chairs of the existing multistakeholder Working Groups should extend their mandates with a view to conclude their current work plan deliverables; *Clarified in Stockholm Terms of Reference and institutionalised through development of FOC Advisory Network.*
- OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES:
  - Goal 3.2: Explore opportunities to maximize the impact of local FOC networks and coordinate and collaborate with similar organizations that share the Coalition's objectives.