

Freedom Online Coalition Strategy and Coordination Meeting

Internet Governance Forum, Guadalajara, Mexico,

7 December 2016

Attendance: Australia, Austria, Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, US; FOC Support Unit, Freedom House

MINUTES

Presentation by Freedom House on *Freedom on the Net Report*

- Sanja Kelly, Director of the Freedom on the Net, presented the key findings of the *2016 Freedom on the Net Report* recently published by Freedom House. This was followed by a Q&A. The report can be found online [here](#).

Housekeeping

- Updates on implementation of the [San Jose Work Plan](#):
 - The US provided an update on the Terms of Reference Working Group (TORWG).
 - TORWG held their first call shortly before the IGF. As the group looks to update the Nairobi Terms of Reference, they will be particularly looking to review how the FOC engages with non-governmental stakeholders and reviews applications to join the Coalition. The work will build on the [outcomes and recommendations of the Strategic Review](#).
 - TORWG plans to share a draft with the broader FOC and non-governmental stakeholders end of March 2017. In the interim, FOC members are encouraged to follow the progress via minutes of the Friends of the Chair calls.
 - The Funding Coordination Group (FCG) is yet to formally start its work following the FO Conference and therefore there was no update provided on this occasion.
 - Support Unit (SU) gave an update on the three action points from the San Jose Work Plan that have been allocated to the SU.
 - SU is preparing a project plan for the Support Unit's role for 2017, and working on creating an outline for the San Jose action points as part of this.
 - The draft plan will be shared with the Friends of the Chair in January for comments and sign off.
- Updates on status of FOC Chairmanship

Coordination

- Sweden introduced proposal to host an FOC event during the Stockholm Internet Forum (SIF) in May 2017
 - The main conference will take place on May 17th and 18th, with two pre-event days set aside for May 15th and 16th.

Action >> At the beginning of the new year, Sweden and the Support Unit to coordinate and provide FOC members with a more concrete proposal of hosting an FOC meeting in the margins of the Stockholm Internet Forum in May 2017.

Joint Activities

- The US provided an update on the FOC joint statement on network shutdowns.
 - A draft statement being developed by US and Ghana to be shared with members for consultation shortly.

Outreach

- Members gave updates on outreach efforts
 - Germany gave an update on their recent Internet and Human Rights Roundtable, held in Berlin last week, where they proactively shared the outcomes of the FO Conference and updated local civil society on the FOC key activities.

Updates on Working Groups

- SU/WG co-chairs to give update on Working Groups
 - Netherlands gave an update on Working Group 1 (WG1)
 - WG1 held a meeting on the margins of the IGF in Guadalajara, where members discussed activities and priorities for the upcoming period.
 - SU gave an update on Working Group 3 (WG3)
 - WG3 is reviewing its work plan and exploring how it could continue its work around transparency online in collaboration with the OGP.

AOB

- US suggested to expand monthly Friends of the Chair call to include briefings by external experts in order to inform and prompt discussion on opportunities for FOC coordination around emerging issues and processes relevant for the internet freedom agenda.
 - Members were reminded of FOC coordination around ITU WCIT, which was seen as a good example of effective diplomatic coordination, informed by a targeted policy brief. With ITU Plenipotentiary 2018 on the horizon, FOC could consider a similar approach to this and other relevant processes and issues (e.g. encryption, countering violent extremism online, fake news). Briefings by SU or external experts could be solicited to inform FOC action.
 - The suggestion was welcomed by members.

Action >> SU to circulate survey questionnaire responses on priority policy issues from Strategic Review to prompt ideas on potential experts to brief members.

Action >> Members to suggest issues, processes and possible external experts to brief FOC members on key internet freedom trends and issues by December 23rd.