Freedom Online Coalition // Tunis Conference
Conference Themes and Preliminary Agenda

As indicated in its founding declaration, the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) is committed to advancing internet freedom – free expression, association, assembly, and privacy online -- worldwide. In its first year, the Freedom Online Coalition has pursued this mission in the U.N. Human Rights Council, in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, at the International Telecommunications Union, at the Internet Governance Forum, and elsewhere, and has worked to elevate the voices of civil society in these forums. While the FOC continues these efforts, we identify three themes for discussion in Tunis which will inform the Coalition's work going forward. These are areas where the focus of a rights-based group of governments working with other stakeholders can add to the global effort to advance Internet freedom.

Theme 1: Towards an internet free and secure

Coalition members support the principle that all people enjoy the same human rights online as they do offline. In recent years debates about digital rights and internet freedom have highlighted the need for an internet both safe and secure in balance with the free exercise of those rights. While threats of cybercrime and cyber security are real, some approaches to counter those threats could potentially undermine civil liberties and balkanise the internet. It is necessary to pursue approaches to cyber security which uphold human rights standards and values. This thematic discussion will explore how governments and other stakeholders can assure ample cyber security measures to protect citizens operating online, while working from the basis of an open, accessible and transparent internet

Theme 2: Digital development and openness

For human rights to be exercised online, people need affordable access to the internet. If the internet is to sustain democracy and human rights, governments and civil society organizations committed to these principles must step up their efforts to push the digital development agenda to ensure the inclusion of all voices in shaping the Internet's future. In doing so, it is important to consider what approaches to development will support and protect human rights and an open Internet. This thematic discussion will look at digital development issues through this human rights lens, addressing concerns of those in the global south who currently feel excluded from policy debates on the national and international level.

Theme 3: Supporting privacy and transparency online

As the instigators and builders of the technology and infrastructure that form ICTs and the internet, industry has a large and growing impact in debates about rights online. Companies increasingly have access to a wide range of user data. They respond to government requests on law enforcement and lawful interception, which can raise important questions about transparency and civil liberties protection for users. There are also important questions about how privacy can be integrated into the development and innovation of technology. This thematic discussion will explore the roles and responsibilities of companies in interacting with users and governments.

Training workshops

Alongside sessions falling under the above themes, the conference will include a series of training workshops. Support for civil society is one of the key principles of the Freedom Online Coalition and important steps have already been taken towards providing support for individuals facing online repression through the Digital Defenders Partnership (DDP). However, there is a wider issue in the lack of capacity among human rights defenders and democracy activists in understanding how the internet environment affects them, how to protect themselves online, and how to use digital tools to promote human rights and democracy more effectively. While many member states already support capacity building programmes, this is an opportunity to share knowledge and explore needs and gaps with civil society groups and industry representatives at the Conference.

Theme 1: Towards an internet both free and secure

Workshop 1.1: Cyber security and human rights
Description: This session will explore the notion of basing our idea of cyber security upon human rights standards and values and how this reframing of the issues could apply to the MENA region/Africa/Tunis.

Workshop 1.2: Promoting standards – the role of civil society and intergovernmental organisations
Description: This session will look at the various soft law standards and approaches that have been established to protect human rights online and the challenges in realizing them (with an emphasis on how these could apply to regulatory challenges in the region).

Workshop 1.3: An Internet Declaration for Africa
Description: This session will argue for the need to establish normative standards within the framework of the African Union and will explore the basis for such a standard and the likely reaction of states.

Workshop 1.4: Government and surveillance
Description: When governments monitor online communications, what constitutes arbitrary interference – what is justified and not justified in human rights terms? What safeguards are needed for government surveillance to be lawful under international human rights law? This session will look at examples of best practice that could serve as models for policy makers.

Workshop 1.5: Positive actions to combat intolerance
Description: This session will look at questions of hate speech from the point of view of building a culture of tolerance rather than imposing restrictions upon speech; of the challenges in learning to live with diverse viewpoints that some may find offensive.

Workshop 1.6: Dealing with an authoritarian past
Description: Many countries undergoing transformation into democracies have to deal with an authoritarian legacy. This session will explore ways to assess that legacy, deal with the pervasive history of surveillance and repression, what records to keep, and how to respond to past perpetrators.

Theme 2: Digital development and openness

Workshop 2.1 Access and affordability – perspectives from the South
Description: This session will provide a Global South perspective on digital development. Speakers from developing countries will highlight issues specific for their environments and explore ways to tackle them.

Workshop 2.2: Access and affordability – defining roles and responsibilities
Description: For the internet to benefit everyone there is a need for access to an internet that is open for innovation. This session will explore the respective roles of governments, the private sector, technical developers and civil society and the partnerships between these different actors to address the barriers to affordable access.

Workshop 2.3: Accessibility and inclusion for women
Description: This session will look at the barriers facing women seeking to use the internet and the means by which they can be overcome. An emphasis will be given to challenges facing women in Africa and the MENA region.

Workshop 2.4: Development and innovation: making the case for net neutrality

Description: This session will look at why net neutrality is a crucial development issue. Does network neutrality help, or hinder, development? Are there any examples we can draw upon? What are the current challenges to network neutrality and how should we respond to them?

Workshop 2.5: Barriers to innovation in development – the problem of copyright

Description: This session will look at copyright and its complex relationship with broader development issues. What is the role of copyright protections in enabling economic, social and cultural development? Which copyright protections undermine development? This session will argue for a re-conception of copyright interests which ensures that development is a primary concern.

Theme 3: Supporting privacy and transparency online

Workshop 3.1: UN guiding principles on business and human rights - state duty to protect, corporate responsibility to respect, and access to remedy

Description: This session will look at benefits of, as well as possibilities and challenges in implementing the Ruggie framework in the ICT industry through local and international initiatives.

Workshop 3.2: Privacy and data protection: the challenges of big data

Description: The mining of data by companies is a pervasive feature of current business models on the internet. But while big data presents opportunities for businesses, it also poses new challenges for protecting user rights online. This session will look at best mechanisms for protecting privacy and explore the value of national regulation, self–regulation, and normative standards. What are the lessons that can be learned internationally and how do they apply to the region?

Workshop 3.3: Emerging technologies and future challenges to upholding human rights online

Description: We are seeing an emergence of new technological capabilities – IMSI catchers, nation-wide interception capabilities, hacking tools, and Trojans – that pose new challenges to upholding human rights online. This session will explore different ways to tackle these challenges and protect human rights online and look at the value of legal solutions, as well as responsibilities of engineers to design systems that enhance data protection.

Workshop 3.4: Transparency reporting: private and public sector roles and responsibilities

Description: A small but growing number of Internet companies are publicly reporting data on requests for user data from law enforcement agencies and content removal requests from governments and copyright owners. What are the respective roles and responsibilities of public and private sector actors for transparency reporting on takedowns and data requests, and how can civil society organizations most effectively use publicly available data to advocate for effective legislation and regulation?

Training workshops

Alongside sessions falling under the above themes, the conference will include a series of training workshops. Content of the workshops is to be decided in discussion with conveners, but these are likely to include:

Workshop 4.1: Advocacy training – Engaging in internet policymaking at for Tunisian civil society
Workshop 4.2: Security and privacy protection training
Workshop 4.3: Showcase of new ideas and innovation
Workshop 4.4: Un-conference
Workshop 4.5: Market place of ideas

Coalition for Online Freedom

Conference Agenda
TUNIS

Working themes

Theme 1	An internet both free and secure
Theme 2	Digital development and openness
Theme 3	Privacy and transparency
	Training and capacity building

Monday, June 17, 2013

8:00 am – 4:00 pm		Registration			
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Exhibits Open	**Opening Ceremony** Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. F Timmermans Tunisian government representative (TBD) Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Mr Urmas Paet Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden **Kairouan**			
10:45 am - 12:00 pm		Cyber security and human rights **Kairouan**	Access and affordability – perspectives from the south **Marhaba1**	Implementing the UN guiding principles on business and human rights **Marhaba2**	Advocacy training (TBC) **Amilcar**
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm		LUNCH			
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm		Promoting normative standards – the role of civil society and IOs **Kairoaun**	Access and affordability – best practices and challenges **Marhaba1**	Privacy and data protection: the challenges of big data **Marhaba2**	Security online (TBC) **Amilcar**
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm		**Plenary Session – Challenges and Opportunities** **Kairouan**			

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration			
09:30 – 11:00	An Internet Declaration for Africa **Kairoun**	Accessibility and inclusion for women **Marhaba 1**	Modern surveillance capabilities and new privacy challenges **Marhaba 2**	Innovation Showcase (TBC) **Amilcar**
11:00 – 11:30	MORNING BREAK			
11:30 – 13:00	Government and surveillance **Kairoun**	Development and innovation: making a case for net neutrality **Marhaba 1**	Transparency reporting **Marhaba 2**	Unconference (TBC) **Amilcar**
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH			
14:00 – 15:30	Positive actions to combat intolerance **Kairoun**	Barriers to innovation in development – the problem of copyright **Marhaba 1**	Dealing with an authoritarian past **Marhaba2**	Marketplace of Ideas (TBC) **Amilcar**
16:00 – 17:00	**Plenary Session - Conference wrap-up**			
17:00 – 18:00	**Closing Ceremony** Head Information Society Division at the African Union Commission, Mr. Moktar Yedaly Tunisian government representative **Kairouan**			

Map of Conference Center Location and Floor Plan

Room Kairouan (for plenary): max 400 persons
Room Marhaba1 (for Workshop-1): max 110 persons
Room Marhaba2 (for Workshop-2): max 180 persons
Room Amilcar (for Workshop-3): max 90 persons

FLOORPLAN
CONFERENCE CENTRE

Main conference center entrance

Marhaba

Kairouan

Le Patio

EL Majless

Amilcar

P 400

Desk

Walima

Business Center

Sidi Bou Said

Carthage Monastir

Boutique

Harry's Pub

Reception

Boutique

Garden SPA

Banque   Boutique

Garden SPA entrance

LOBBY BAR

Main hotel entrance

Hemingway

AZZURRO

L'OLIVERAIE

Fish Market

Terrace

Oasis Pool