



**Freedom Online Coalition's Strategic Review Working Group Joint Statement on
Independent Report by University of Pennsylvania**

The Freedom Online Coalition's Strategic Review Working Group issued the following statement on the report released on 4th May 2016 by Ms. Susan Morgan, contracted by the University of Pennsylvania, based on her external assessment of the Coalition's membership, governance and structure, efforts and activities, and funding:

On behalf of the Freedom Online Coalition, the Strategic Review Working Group would like to thank the author and editorial team of this independent report for their work and the contribution they have made to the ongoing discussions around the future direction of the Freedom Online Coalition. The 6th Freedom Online Conference, to be held in Costa Rica later this year, will provide an opportunity to reflect on five years of the Freedom Online Coalition.

Since its founding in 2011, the membership, direction, and activities of the Coalition have grown and diversified, though its core aims remain consistent and ever more relevant. As part of our Strategic Review of the Coalition, which was endorsed by the Ministerial Conference in Mongolia in May 2015, we will be reflecting on existing challenges and opportunities to further strengthen the Coalition. The work of the author of this report, in assessing how the Freedom Online Coalition is perceived by a range of stakeholders both within and outside the Coalition will be valuable in allowing us to assess those challenges and opportunities and understand the added value the Coalition can bring to promoting internet freedom. We will consider this report, and the author's recommendations, alongside a number of other sources and inputs as our Strategic Review progresses, with a view to further discussion at the 6th Freedom Online Conference.

We encourage all Freedom Online Coalition members to incorporate the independent report into internal discussions and external consultations with domestic stakeholders on the Strategic Review, and to help integrate these inputs into a unified vision on how to move the Coalition forward.