



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #10
Friday, 29 April, 2015

FOC members in attendance: Canada, Estonia, Germany, Norway, UK, US.

Apologies: Costa Rica, Mongolia

Chair: FOC Support Unit

MINUTES:

Follow up to FO Mongolia

- Videos of all sessions are now live on the FO Mongolia [Youtube channel](#). They can be accessed via links on the [Conference](#) website and will be accessible on the [FOC website](#) shortly.
- Feedback from Friends of the Chair members on the Conference was generally positive, noting the good degree of dialogue and interaction, and benefits of hosting the Conference in Mongolia, offering an opportunity to engage with local and regional stakeholders.
- It was also noted that the Coalition now feels like a more dynamic organisation with good momentum reflected in the increase in membership;
- It was felt that the pragmatic and action-oriented focus of the 2015 FO Conference was successful and should be reflected in the next year's Conference programme
- Suggestions for next FO Conference:
 - More debate-oriented approach to panel discussions;
 - Greater outreach to neighbouring countries;
 - Encouraging governments that are less sympathetic to the Coalition to participate in the Conference;
- Comments and feedback on the Conference is being collated by the FOC Support Unit and will be shared with the 2016 Conference host.

Action >> FOC Support Unit and Government of Mongolia to wrap up pending activities.

Action >> Members wanting to provide written comments on the FO Conference 2015, or suggestions for next year, to write to the FOC Support Unit by **COB Friday 5th June**.

Working Groups

- Update on revised TOR for Working Groups:
 - Canada has submitted revisions to the TOR.
 - Coalition members are encouraged to send their comments on the revised TOR taking into consideration the following points:
 - Suggestion to create a consistent process across all Working Groups on membership changes e.g. selection of co-chairs and members.
 - The need to leave some flexibility for each Working Group (WG) to tailor their procedures to their needs and activities;

- Canada will be the contact point on suggested changes to the Working Group TOR.
- Update on Working Groups:
 - WG1 and WG2 are in the process of selecting new co-chairs;
 - In addition to its standing activities, WG3 is developing a proposal to expand their mandate to act as a resource for governments to help them through the challenges they face. This proposal is based on WG's role in the run-up to the 2015 FO Conference in providing advice for the Mongolian government on privacy and transparency. This new role would work towards making the Coalition as a whole a more functional organisation, not just a policy forum. The full proposal that will be presented to the Coalition once ready.

Action >> Canada to be the contact point on suggested changes to the Working Group TOR. **Members** to send Canada any proposed amendments, as well as views on changes to language on working group memberships, including co-chairs.

Action >> UK to come back to the Coalition with a finalised proposal from WG3 shortly.

Outreach

- Members updated the Group on the status of outreach activities, including the official application from Poland which will be circulated to the broader Coalition shortly.

Schedule of future Friends of the Chair Calls

- Members approved the following call schedule for 2015-2016. **NB: time is in UTC.**

Date (last Wednesday of every month)	Time (UTC)
24th June	14:00
29th July	14:00
30th September	14:00
28th October	14:00
25th November	14:00
16th December	14:00
27th January	14:00
24th February	14:00
30th March	14:00
27th April	14:00
25th May	14:00

- Canada proposed that in addition to the Friends of the Chair calls, 2-3 calls for the whole Coalition should be organized to discuss issues with the wider group.
- There was general agreement in the value of engaging the whole Coalition, and views and further suggestions on management of the logistics of calls were welcomed.

Action >> Members to express interest in participating in 2-3 Coalition-wide phone calls per year.
Action >> Estonia and **US** to check with their IT departments for technological solutions to hosting the Coalition-wide call

Next Coordination and Strategy Meeting

- Members agreed to hold a Coordination and Strategy Meeting on the margins of the IGF in Brazil in November;
- In order to give time to discuss the Strategic Review, it was suggested that another physical meeting be held before the IGF in September, possibly in New York.

Action >> Friends of the Chair to keep this under review.

FOC Internal Review

- The US and UK have a call on the FOC internal review this week. They will be in touch with the rest of the Review Group (Australia, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden) on the next steps shortly.

Action >> US and **UK** to get in touch with the Review Group to outline next steps.

FOC New York network

- Canada is considering holding a physical FOC information-sharing meeting in New York
- It was concluded that a September meeting would work best. Canada has suggested the week of the 8-11 September.

Action >> Members to provide feedback on holding an FOC meeting in New York during the week of 8-11 September.

AOB

- FOC Support Unit noted the receipt of recommendations to FOC members sent on behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Dialogue and speakers of FO Mongolia workshop "Good policy practices in online freedoms". Friends of the Chair were asked to advise on next steps.
- The US raised the question of preparing joint statements on two issues that surfaced during the Mongolia meeting - one on data localisation and one cross border threats to freedom of expression.

Action >> US to prepare first drafts for circulation and follow up with members.