



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #12

Wednesday, 29 July, 2015

FOC members in attendance: Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Germany, UK, US

Apologies: Mongolia, Norway

Chair: FOC Support Unit

MINUTES:

Housekeeping

- Costa Rica (CR) opened the call as the new FOC Chair with welcoming remarks, expressing its commitment to chairing the FOC and reiterating that the values of the Coalition reflect their own core principles.
 - Other governments extended their warm welcome to CR.
- US and UK gave an update on the progress of the internal review.
 - Following calls there was now broad agreement on the outline of the review circulated in Mongolia. There were discussions about the possibility of engaging outside assistance to help with strategic review.
 - The IGF and RightsCon 2016 were identified as two important staging posts and opportunities to engage the broader community on the review.
- Canada gave an update on coordination of Coalition-wide calls.
 - They had identified a facility to host the calls in Canada for up to 200 people, including with an operator who could track requests to speak.
 - There might be costs issues for some governments and it was agreed that Canada and the Support Unit liaise in August on how best to utilise the system in time for a Coalition-wide call in September.
- Costa Rica (CR) gave an update on preparations for the FO Conference 2016.
 - CR and the Support Unit had held initial briefing discussions and have set up monthly briefing calls.
 - The internal coordination of the Conference will be between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - The Conference is scheduled to take place during the second half of 2016 (June-December), and CR was checking to make sure there was no overlap with other relevant events.
 - CR was giving consideration to the format and to identifying specific needs, budget and venue. The Conference will be in the metropolitan area - close to the capital and a short distance from the international airport and main government facilities.

Action >> FOC Support Unit and Canada to liaise during August on setting up a Coalition-wide call in September

Outreach

- Support Unit and members gave an update on outreach activities in the past month

Coordination

- Support Unit gave an update on the next Strategy and Coordination Meeting to be held at the IGF in Joao Pessoa, Brazil, in November.

- Members discussed timing mentioning that there was a high level segment on day 0 between 2-6pm which should be avoided.
- There are also plans to hold an open FOC session, meetings of FOC working groups, and a civil society consultation.
- Canada gave an update on the upcoming meeting of the FOC network in New York
 - The event will be hosted jointly with Costa Rica
 - The provisional date for the meeting is September 11

Action >> FOC Support Unit to prepare and circulate a draft schedule for FOC activities at the IGF allowing enough time for members to plan accordingly

Joint Activities

- US gave an update on the status of the draft statements on data localisation and cross border threats to freedom of expression
 - Data localisation - first round of members' comments had been incorporated and the second draft would be sent around for comment shortly
 - Cross border threats to freedom of expression - Draft to be circulated for first round of comments shortly

Action >> US to circulate updated drafts of both statements to FOC for feedback

Updates on Working Groups

- Support Unit referred to minutes from the WG co-chairs coordination call that were circulated to the broader Coalition last week. A public update on the working groups will be included in the upcoming FOC newsletter.

AOB

- Canada raised the draft Chinese Cyber security law, which is currently open for consultation until Aug 5th. Members are encouraged to submit their comments directly to the Chinese process. FOC could consider a short statement, even after the deadline.
- Support Unit reported that the Dutch government had given consideration to its membership in the Friends of the Chair, which it had been reviewing since Mongolia, and had decided it would like to rejoin the group. Members on the call warmly welcomed this decision.