Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #13
Wednesday, 30 September, 2015

FOC Members in attendance: Canada, Costa Rica (GoCR), Estonia, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, UK, US; Support Unit (GPD)

Apologies: Mongolia

MINUTES

Housekeeping
- The UK, US and Support Unit (SU) gave an update on the progress of the internal review
  - The Strategic Review group have retained Susan Morgan as an external consultant. This was arranged through an existing grant between the state department and the University of Pennsylvania. Susan will be producing a report looking into FOC structure, membership processes, objectives, activities and funding. She will conduct interviews and carry out a consultation at the IGF in November (participation funded by Norway).
- Canada gave an update on cross-coalition calls
  - Confirmed that they are ready to host the call in addition to the Friends of the Chair call and will look into scheduling it next month. The will do a test run and send out details within the next few weeks.
- Support Unit discussed current application process for the FOC
  - In light of the growing interest in the Coalition, the SU highlighted the need for a streamlined and consistent approach to the application process. To this effect, the SU have created a note for aspiring members, however have recently detected some inconsistencies with information in the website and Nairobi ToR. Friends agreed to give feedback on the note, and agreed that this should be reviewed as part of the overall strategic review.

Action Point >> SU to feed comments on application process to Strategic Review Group and share note for aspiring members with Friends.
Action Point >> Friends to give feedback on Note for Aspiring members by Friday 9th October.

Annual Conference
- Costa Rica gave update on Annual Conference preparations
  - The project team is composed of members from the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - The GoCR plans to manage the Conference internally, and are suggesting to hold the event in the first two weeks of October 2016.
  - The project team has circulated a non-paper defining the concept for the Conference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science and Technology. They expect to share this document with the Friends of the Chair in early December.
  - Estonia congratulated the GoCR for their proactive planning and will look for theopportunity to contribute to the next annual conference by donating the Estonia's FOC Conference website template to Costa Rica as they did for Mongolia. Estonia expressed their support to GoCR and readiness for assistance.

Action Point >> Estonia to make the decision regarding the website template and inform GoCR and SU asap.

Coordination
- Canada reported back from the FOC New York Network meeting, held on 10 September in partnership with GoCR
  - The event was positively received, with Latvia giving a debrief on the WSIS, allowing good engagement on issues in the field. Canada hopes the network will develop and emulate other FOC networks.
- The US reported that the FOC UNESCO Network had a meeting last week, and is now becoming a regular monthly meeting.

- Support Unit gave overview of FOC activities at the IGF in November
  - Friends approved the scheduling of the FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting for 18:30 on Day 0 (November 9th)
  - The FOC Open Forum has been scheduled for Day 3 (November 12th) at 12:00 and Working Group 1 has a formal workshop (WS 186 A multistakeholder and human rights approach to cybersecurity) scheduled on Day 4 (November 13th) 11:00-12:30.
  - SU asked members' assistance in finding a venue for the Strategy and Coordination meeting at the IGF.

Action Point >> SU to send round IGF schedule once confirmed
Action Point >> SU to liaise with US to look into their hotel as a venue for the Strategy and Coordination Meeting, as well as look into other options.

Joint Activities
- US gave an update on the draft statement on cross border threats to freedom of expression
  - The joint statement on cross-border threats to freedom of expression is still being drafted
  - The statement on data localisation is up on the FOC website and will be featured in this month's newsletter

Updates on Working Groups
- Support Unit gave an update from WG co-chairs coordination call
  - WG1 met at a Face-to-Face meeting in New York from 10-11 September, with financial support provided by the Dutch government. The Group created a final draft of the normative recommendations output. The next step is to carry out an informal consultation on the recommendations. Earlier this month, the WG also published a blog explaining the rationale for a new definition of cybersecurity that WG1 outputs are based on.
  - WG2 convened two calls over the summer to discuss the work of the two sub-groups: (A) Rule of Law and Freedom of Expression and (B) Rule of Law, Privacy and Data Protection. Sub-group A is working on the first draft of their workplan, and Sub-group B has produced a memo outlining their scope of work and division of tasks. The co-chairs from Folke-Bernadotte Academy have also been working on a concept note for WG2, and the WG is planning a blog series based on this in the near future.
  - Following its new membership call, WG3 welcomed Professor K S Park, Lokman Tsui and Alexandria Walden as its new members. Building on a scoping exercise with WG members over the summer, WG3 will shortly hold a coordination call to develop its agenda for the upcoming period. The Group has identified government transparency and qualitative transparency as areas of focus under the new mandate. In addition, WG3 is finalising for publication their paper on transparency about government requests to companies.

AOB
- Estonia asked who might be available for an informal meeting at the Stockholm Internet Forum
  - US, UK, Canada, Norway, Netherlands, Germany and the SU will be attending the SIF.

Action Point >> SU to liaise with Estonia to plan informal meeting at SIF