



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #16

Wednesday, 16 December, 2015

Attending: Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, UK, US

Apologies: Mongolia, Norway

Chair: FOC Support Unit

MINUTES

Housekeeping

- UK/US gave an update on the progress of the Internal Review
 - The UK reported that the external consultant's work at the IGF had gone very positively
 - A call between the consultant and the whole Review Group will be set up in the new year
- Members discussed the "upcoming events" section of the newsletter and gave feedback on the revised format - see last edition [here](#).
 - Canada raised that there was no agreed process for selecting events to feature in the FOC newsletter
 - Members agreed going forward, this section will focus on events where there will be some kind of FOC presence - through the Paris, Geneva, New York Networks, multilaterals by Coalition members at events, the Annual Conference etc.
 - If there are other events of interest that members wished to include in the newsletter, this can come under an "other cyber events" section if needed

Annual Conference

- Costa Rica/Support Unit gave a brief update on Annual Conference preparations, clarifying that they are still waiting to hear the date of the IGF before finalizing the Conference dates.
- Members thanked Costa Rica for putting together the concept note

Action Point >> Friends to send written feedback on concept note and suggestions for invitations by **15 January**

Action Point >> Costa Rica to let the SU know the total budget for the Conference that needs to be raised

Outreach

- Members/SU gave updates on outreach activities:

Joint Activities

- US updated members on the draft statement on cross border threats to freedom of expression, reminding them that the deadline for comment is COB Thursday 17th December
- Members discussed a suggestion raised by the Netherlands to involve the Working Groups in the drafting process of future joint statements

- Members agreed that the Strategic Review should look into ways to better draw upon the expertise of and engage with the Working Groups in a meaningful way
- SU presented a suggested communication strategy for joint statements
 - Members approved the strategy, but flagged that it would be useful to know what aspects were essential, and which ones were desirable to increase the ease of the communications procedure.
 - Members agreed to implement the strategy for the next joint statement

Action Point >> Friends to send written feedback on joint statement communications strategy by **Monday January 4**