



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #17

*Wednesday, 28 January, 2016*

**Attending:** Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Netherlands, US

**Apologies:** Germany, Mongolia, Norway, UK

**Chair:** FOC Support Unit

## **MINUTES**

### Housekeeping

- The US gave an overview of development in the Strategic Review Working Group (SRWG):
  - A useful call with the external consultant (Susan Morgan) was held last week, taking stock of progress on the Review, and next steps. All interviews required have now taken place, with successful one-to-one interviews and a group consultation at the IGF. In addition, the desk study to compare the FOC with other multistakeholder multilateral organisations has been 80% completed.
  - Next steps (2 month timeline):
    - Initial review of draft report and finalisation of parameters for the Report,
    - The report will be circulated to the entire Coalition with a one month silence procedure for approval.
    - A call will be set up with Susan and the whole Coalition to explain findings and ask any questions
    - The report will be considered under a silence procedure in early April and published on the University of Pennsylvania website

**Action Point >>** Members to send details of any network or community mailing list to add to FOC mailing list

**Action Point >>** SU to work on drafts of fundraising letter and liaise with CR to send out

### Annual Conference

- Costa Rica updated members on Annual Conference preparations:
  - Date of Conference tentatively confirmed as 24-25th October 2016
  - CR has been working on the website with Estonia's assistance
  - Capacity will be 350-400 people, with the budget adjusted accordingly
- CR updated participant on feedback received on FO 2016 Conference concept note
  - CR thanked members for the comments received to date, and urged the other members to also send their feedback by COB Monday 8 February

**Action Point >>** Members to give feedback on FO 2016 concept note by **COB Monday 8 February**

### Outreach

- Members/SU gave updates on any outreach activities

### Coordination

- Members gave feedback on a proposal to seek **observer status** for the FOC at the UNGA (**document attached**)
- Members considered dates for Strategy and Coordination Meetings in 2016 and the SU asked for members to submit ideas.
- Members discussed the biennial Human Rights Council resolution on Internet Freedom due to come up in June 2016

**Action Point >>** SU to send round consultative form flagging potential events for a Strategic and Coordination Meeting

**Action Point >>** members to contact the US if they have any information on the HRC resolution

### Joint Activities

- Members gave their final approval on the draft statement on cross border threats to freedom of expression in order to circulate it for silence procedure (**please find latest version attached**)



- Members discussed the communications plan for the joint statement on cross-border threats to Freedom of Expression
  - The US suggested an individual member write a 500 word blog post to promote the statement, linking to current affairs to stimulate interest
  - The US suggested that in the future quick blog posts could be written on issues initiated by individual members, and discussed within the Group as
  - The SU offered assistance on drafting of blog posts as required

**Action Point >>** The US to circulate joint statement to the wider Coalition for approval under a one month silence procedure.