



## **Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair Call #22**

*Wednesday 27th July, 2016.*

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

Apologies: Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway.

### MINUTES

#### Housekeeping

- US/UK gave an update on the progress of the Strategic Review.
  - US gave an update on the status of the survey circulated among FOC members.
  - Various documents produced as part of the Strategic Review will be framed by a covering document outlining the strategic review mandate from Mongolia, describing the methodology and highlighting the key findings.
  - UK informed the Friends that a face to face meeting of the SRWG will be held at the British residence in Strasbourg to finalise the SRWG outputs.

#### Annual Conference

- Costa Rica (CR) gave an update on the Annual Conference preparations.
  - CR and the Support Unit are continuing to work on the Conference program.
  - Conference registration is expected to be launched in the next few weeks.
  - CR clarified that all government invites have been sent out. Non-governmental invites are due to be sent once the online registration process is launched.
  - Information on the Zika virus situation in San Jose will be made available on the Conference website. CR also mentioned that San Jose is a low risk area due to its high elevation from sea level.

#### Outreach

- There were no updates on outreach activities.

#### Coordination

- It was agreed to hold the next FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting at Costa Rica Conference.

#### Joint Activities



- US gave an update on HRC Internet Freedom resolution.
  - Emphasis on bridging the digital divide, particularly based on the gender gap.
  - Positive language on enhancing connectivity with a human rights based approach.
  - Strong language on the importance of protecting internet users from human rights violations
  - Language pushed by civil society relating to network shutdowns got into resolution. This mirrors joint-statements made by FOC on social media, and demonstrates reciprocity.
  - Four negative amendments put to the floor were voted down by the Council.
  - The resolution is to last for a two year cycle.

**Action>>>** Include update on the HRC Internet Freedom resolution in the upcoming FOC newsletter - Support Unit (SU) to coordinate with the US.

**Action>>>** US to circulate the Resolution to members of the FOC.

#### Updates on Working Groups:

- SU gave an update on Working Groups.
  - WG1 - Endorsement phase for recommendations continues.
    - Canada informed the group that the first draft of a statement of support by FOC governments highlighting the WG's work will be ready to be shared with the FOC shortly.
  - WG2 - Work continuing on the blog series.
  - WG3 - Hosted a transparency workshop on 27 July at the APriGF, in partnership with Hong Kong Transparency Report, Korea Internet Transparency Report, Taiwan Association for Human Rights, and Open Net Korea.

#### AOB

**Action>>>** SU to include update on SRWG in August newsletter.