

Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair Call #1

Thursday, 1st December, 2016

Attending: Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Netherlands, Norway, US, UK.

Apologies: Estonia, Germany

MINUTES

Housekeeping

- SU introduced and welcomed new members
 - SU welcomed Argentina to the Friends of Chair group.
- Friends were updated on the implementation of the San Jose Work Plan by the Terms of Reference Working Group (TORWG), Funding Coordination Group (FCG) and Support Unit (SU):
 - TORWG: US gave an update on the TORWG, outlining the timeframe for developing the new terms of reference.
 - First draft of revised Nairobi Terms of Reference created by December 22nd
 - The second draft will be circulated by early February.
 - Civil society partners and Friends of the Chair will receive the revised version by the end of March.
 - Final output to be released by May 2017
 - Fundraising Coordination Group: no major developments to report
 - Support Unit:
 - SU is preparing a project plan for the Support Unit's role for 2017, and is working on creating an outline for the 3 action points from the San Jose Work Plan that have been allocated to the SU.
 - The draft plan will be shared with the Friends of the Chair in January for comments and sign off.
- Friends discussed and approved the suggested call schedule.
 - Friends agreed that the call scheduled for the 21st December is no longer necessary, as many representatives will be meeting at the IGF in Mexico in early December.
- Friends discussed the FOC Chairmanship

Coordination

- Members discussed agenda for upcoming Strategy & Coordination Meeting at the IGF
 - Members agreed that a draft agenda for the IGF meeting will follow a similar structure to the Friends of the Chair call agenda.
 - SU suggested an agenda point to discuss the Swedish Government's proposal to host a FOC event during the Stockholm Internet Forum in May 2017.
 - Friends agreed to include space on the agenda for a presentation by Freedom House on their Freedom on the Net report.

Action Point >>> SU to share updated list of gov't attendees at IGF Mexico with Friends of the Chair

Joint Activities

- US gave a progress update on the draft of the joint statement on internet shutdowns

Updates on Working Groups

- SU/WG co-chairs gave an update on Working Groups
 - WG mandates have been extended to May 2017.
 - All groups are working to this timetable.

- WG3: Will be working with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) to draft a model commitment regarding transparency of government requests to companies for user data. Georgia and the US have already demonstrated their commitment. SU will support WG by looking into which FOC countries could serve as test cases to further this work.

AOB

- Members to sign off December edition of the FOC newsletter
 - The US requested to include a reference to the blog post on network shutdowns by US Assistant Secretary of State