



Freedom Online Coalition Strategy and Coordination Meeting

Stockholm Internet Forum. Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday 16 May 2017

Attendance: Argentina, Austria, Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United States; FOC Support Unit

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Welcome and introductions

(Open to FOC members only)

- Swedish Human Rights Ambassador–Annika Ben David–addressed members with welcoming remarks
- Support Unit gave an overview of the meeting and its objectives
- The US government gave an overview of the Stockholm Terms of Reference

Stakeholder Session

(Open to invited non-governmental stakeholders)

- The session was kicked off by a presentation of the Stockholm Terms of Reference (TOR), followed by a round of feedback by stakeholders. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of transparency across the newly established procedures, particularly around termination.
- The rest of the session focused on discussing FOC priorities in light of key challenges in the field of internet freedom. Stakeholders highlighted the issues of cybersecurity, encryption and algorithms as key issues for human rights, and emphasized the continued need to focus on press freedoms and gender as a cross-cutting issue. It was also suggested to consolidate issues into broader categories, to account for the fact that many issues are interrelated.

Working Session: Action Plan 2017-18

(Open to FOC members only)

- Based on the results of the survey questionnaire to rank issues and forums, a recap on the previous session's stakeholder input, and an overview of FOC's previous engagement prepared by the Support Unit, FOC members discussed priority issues for FOC engagement in 2017-18.
- Members agreed to merge and streamline issues presented in the survey, and to focus on the following three areas for potential action:
 - a) State-sponsored repression of human rights online;
 - b) Support for civil society voices online;
 - c) Cybersecurity and human rights.



- Accordingly, members were split into three breakout groups and asked to develop the objective, rationale for FOC action, and a set of activities for each issue area. Each breakout group reported back on the outcomes of their discussion, which were discussed in plenary.
- It was agreed that the Support Unit would capture the outcomes of the working session and present them in form of a draft Action Plan ahead of the next Friends of the Chair (FotC) call.

Consultation on Multistakeholder Engagement

(Open to invited non-governmental stakeholders)

- This consultation session was held parallel to the FOC Strategy and Coordination meeting and acted as an opportunity for stakeholders to review relevant sections of the Stockholm Terms of Reference and discuss key areas that will inform operationalisation of the FOC's approach to stakeholder engagement.
- The session was co-facilitated by the US Government and Matthew Shears. The key points raised included the need for the Coalition to provide greater clarity on defining the Advisory Network concept and its aims and objectives - particularly what the Coalition hopes to achieve from the participation of network members, and what role they can expect to play within the Coalition's work. *[Please find raw data form session attached]*
- Key takeaways were reported back to the government only session on practical next steps.

Practical next steps & wrap up

(Open to FOC members only)

- Operationalising the Stockholm Terms of Reference:
 - Support Unit to work on relevant protocols, as prioritised by the FotC.
 - Support Unit to follow up on suggestions from the consultation on multistakeholder engagement.
- Building on the day's discussions, the Support Unit will develop a draft Action Plan for 2017-18, which will be presented to the FotC ahead of the next call. Following agreement by the FotC, this will be shared with the FOC for silence procedure.
- It was agreed that the FOC would meet on the margins of the next Internet Governance Forum (Geneva, December 2017); it was also suggested to explore the possibility of holding a meeting on the margins of the Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS 2017) in India in November.