



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #13

Wednesday, 28 February, 2018

Attending: Argentina, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, US; FOC Support Unit (SU)

Apologies: Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Norway, UK

MINUTES

Housekeeping

- Germany provided an update on the FOC Chairmanship
 - The 7th Annual Freedom Online Conference will be held November 28-30, 2018, at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.
 - Germany is currently drafting a protocol to determine the decision-making procedure for Advisory Network inputs on FOC joint statements.

Action Point >> Germany to share draft Conference concept note with Friends by end of March

Action Point >> Germany to draft protocol for Advisory Network input on joint statements

Updates on implementation of the San Jose Work Plan (SJWP):

- Operationalising the Stockholm TOR:
 - SU and Germany gave update on FOC Advisory Network (AN)
 - The AN has been formally set up, and the first call will take place on 2 March.
 - A coordination call between the AN and the FOC (via the Coalition AN liaison) is meant to take place once every quarter. The first Coalition-Advisory Network coordination call is scheduled to take place in the week of 19 March, in the form of an informational call by the FOC Chair regarding upcoming opportunities to engage.
 - Germany invited Members to express interest in being AN liaisons from April onward
 - The AN liaison will be expected to act as the main point of contact for the AN co-chairs to facilitate any inputs that may be proactively submitted, or requested, and to report back to the Friends of the Chair group.
 - SU updated Members on development of the evaluation framework for Member review and termination
 - The SU thanked members for their comments, and have forwarded them to the independent consultant for incorporation into a revised draft of the Evaluation Framework.

Action Point >> All interested Members to express interest in assuming the role of AN liaison by COB Thursday 8 March

Action Point >> Germany to determine allocation of AN liaison role once all expressions of interest are received

Coordination and Joint Activities

- Germany gave an update on Program of Action 2018
 - Objective 1:

- Joint statement on Internet Censorship: First draft will be shared with the Friends of the Chair next week for review
 - Joint statement on shrinking civil society space
 - Objective 2:
 - Joint statement on digital divides: The government of Ghana has expressed interest in co-drafting this statement with Germany.
 - Objective 3:
 - Germany held an informal meeting of the FOC Geneva Network for all delegates involved in the technical aspects of internet governance in order to provide a basis for joint action should relevant issues emerge at the International Telecommunication Union.
- Germany reported back on the Ambassador's lunch reception at expert workshop hosted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to privacy in the digital age 19 February
 - The reception was well attended by FOC Members at the ambassador level. Opening remarks were given by Ambassador Leendertse, representing the government of Germany, and the Director of the Geneva Academy.
 - The meeting succeeded in highlighting opportunities to coordinate around internet-related events in Geneva, and alerted delegates that the Geneva network was a resource to share information and coordinate to promote internet freedom whenever it was at stake.
 - Further coordination of the Geneva network is planned in the run up to the June Human Rights Council session.
- Members agreed to hold next FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting adjacent to RightsCon 2018
 - Three FOC events were agreed to be held at RightsCon 2018:
 - FOC Strategy and Coordination Meeting;
 - FOC Open Forum session
 - Advisory Network physical meeting
 - The Netherlands alerted members that there is a Digital Defenders Partnership donor meeting on 15 May, in order to avoid any clashes when planning the events.