



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair: Call #14
Wednesday, 21 March, 2018

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

Apologies: Costa Rica, Finland, Norway, UK

MINUTES

Housekeeping

- Germany provided an update on the FOC Chairmanship:
 - FO Conference: Germany is in the process of setting up the programme team and drafting the concept note for Conference.

Action Point >> Germany to share draft Conference concept note with Friends of the Chair and FOC Advisory Network for comments.

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

- Operationalising the Stockholm TOR:
 - SU and Germany gave an update on the FOC Advisory Network (AN)
 - AN is currently developing working modalities; they are expected to provide input on FO Conference concept note and upcoming statement on shrinking civil society space.
 - First Quarterly Coordination Call between AN and FOC (represented by the German Chair) to take place at 16:00 UTC on March 23th; the call is an opportunity to share information and identify opportunities to engage.
 - Consultant Rebecca Zausmer updated Friends on development of the evaluation framework for member review and termination (EF)
 - Rebecca introduced version 2.0 of the EF and the accompanying explanatory document, outlined key changes made, and asked members to provide comments on the new draft.

Coordination and Joint Activities

- Germany updated members on Program of Action 2018:
 - Objective 1:
 - Joint statement on Internet censorship: Germany gave update on the status of the statement:
 - Friends were invited to submit any pending comments on the draft statement as soon as possible and no later than COB March 23;
 - Canada and Argentina still planning to submit comments;
 - Friends suggested setting up dedicated call to discuss consolidated draft on Wed/Thu w/c March 26.

Action Point >> Friends to submit pending comments on Internet censorship statement by COB March 23;

Action Point >> Germany/US to circulate revised draft beginning of w/c March 26.

Action Point >> Friends to hold dedicated call to discuss revised draft on w/c March 26; SU to circulate doodle poll for March 28/29 to help determine time for call.

- Objective 2:
 - Joint statement on shrinking civil society space: Canada and Netherlands to lead drafting and coordinate with other members who have expressed interest (US, Germany, Argentina, Ireland), with view to have text ready by June for engagement at the Human Rights Council.
 - Question was raised about how the FOC AN would contribute to the process of developing the statement. Germany noted that they were planning to raise this on the upcoming quarterly coordination call with the AN. Ideally, the AN would be invited to comment at an early stage.
 - Germany raised question about appropriate mechanism to receive and consider input from stakeholders that may not be part of the AN:
 - Members agreed that efforts should be made to ensure an inclusive approach;
 - It was suggested that AN should consider developing an appropriate mechanism as part of their working modalities.

Action Point >> Canada and Netherlands to liaise with all interested members to start drafting process for joint statement on shrinking civil society space.

Action Point >> Germany to suggest to AN to consider how to involve other (non-AN) FOC stakeholders as part of their working modalities on upcoming quarterly coordination call.

- SU gave overview of tentative schedule for FOC-related events at RightsCon 2018
 - Netherlands noted DDP donor meeting scheduled to take place on same day in the morning. SU to liaise to avoid clash with other FOC-related events.
 - FOC Open Forum session will take place as part of official RightsCon schedule. Germany and SU to liaise with organisers to confirm time and date.

Action Point >> Members to RSVP to FOC-related RightsCon meetings; SU to circulate RSVP form closer to the date.