



Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair Call #20

Wednesday 26 September

Attendance: Canada, Germany, Estonia, The Netherlands, the US; Support Unit (SU)

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

Minutes

- Housekeeping
 - Members provided updates on Chairmanship for 2019

- Updates on FOC Chairmanship
 - Annual Conference
 - Germany provided an update on preparations for the FO Conference 2018
 - The FO Conference [website](#) had been launched and shared with the FOC network via the newsletter. A [registration form](#) has been launched alongside the website, which will enable anyone who is interested in attending the conference to register their interest online.
 - The US requested for an update on the proposed inaugural meeting of diplomatic networks, and noted this would compliment Germany's Chairmanship priority of diplomatic coordination. Germany stated they will follow up on this session with the US directly.
 - Germany informed members that Ministerial invitations will be sent out imminently to FOC and non-FOC members.
 - Session Leads provided an update on Conference program development
 - SU will be contacting all session leads with next steps for session development and speaker invitations within the next week.
 - Estonia informed Members that they are liaising with Finland on leading the session 'Security and Human Rights in the Digital Age'.
 - The US noted that it would be useful to liaise with Canada on the session they are leading, 'Defending Civic Spaces in the Digital Age', particularly in incorporating elements of the upcoming statement and identifying potential speakers from the Advisory Network.
 - Members signed off the first draft of the Strategy and Coordination Meeting agenda
 - SU introduced the Strategy and Coordination Meeting agenda. The meeting will be taking place on Day 0 of the conference, and will be a closed-door session for FOC members. The SU noted that the key focus of the meeting will be formulating the Program of Action for 2019.

- SU noted that they are engaging with the Netherlands on the 'Peer Learning' session, in order to incorporate best practice from the EU.
- The US expressed their interest in increasing FOC attendance at the Freedom Online Conference, and proposed a demarche to embassies of FOC Members.
 - Germany noted that invitations are initially going to the ministers of FOC countries, and noted that they would follow up with the US once these had been sent.

Action >> Members to share the [link to the registration of interest form](#) with their networks.

Action >> SU to provide an update on the Peer Learning session on the next Friends of the Chair Call, taking place on Wednesday 24 October.

Action >> Germany to provide the US with an update on inaugural meeting for local networks and invitations to FOC members.

- Implementation of the San Jose Work Plan
 - Operationalising the Stockholm TOR
 - SU provided an update on the Evaluation Framework (EF)
 - The Netherlands is consulting internally on possibility of volunteering as the test case for the EF.
 - SU informed Members that in the event of a review or test case of a Member, the SU would conduct the research and oversee the implementation of the framework, which would reduce the time commitment required from the Member under review. The Member may be requested to supply some information to assist SU, however the review would predominantly be conducted by SU. The SU additionally noted the protocol in the EF that outlines responsibilities and division of work within the review.
 - The US proposed that other Members supplement additional information in the process, such as resources from their relevant embassies, an initiative supported by Canada and Germany.
 - Update on the Advisory Network
 - SU reminded Members that the 'ITU Strategy Call with the Advisory Network' is taking place on Thursday 27 September at 2pm UTC.
- Program of Action 2018
 - Objective 1
 - Canada will be circulating the second draft of the Defending Civic Spaces with the Friends of the Chair next week.
 - Objective 2
 - Germany is coordinating with Ghana on the Digital Divides statement, and aims to finalise the statement ahead of the FO Conference.
 - Objective 3
 - FOC engagement at the ITU Plenipotentiary
 - SU will circulate revised second draft of the ITU statement to the Friends of the Chair alongside the minutes of this call.
 - Members agreed that a expedited time frame for the FOC-wide silence procedure would be welcome to ensure that the statement is finalised in time for the ITU Plenipotentiary. Germany is looking into

organising capital level coordination which would complement the finalised ITU statement.

Action >> Germany to inform the Friends of the Chair of any coordination updates on the ITU via the SU.

- Diplomatic Networks
 - n/a
- Outreach
 - n/a
- AOB
 - n/a