



## Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair Call #17

*Tuesday 3 July 2018*

**Attending:** Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, US; Support Unit (SU);

**Apologies:** Argentina, Costa Rica, Norway

- Housekeeping
  - Following the proactive drafting of an Internet Censorship statement by the FOC Geneva Network, Members discussed initiatives for the drafting of statements by local networks.
    - Members supported the future drafting of statements by local networks if the statement is a) constructed by using agreed language from existing FOC statements; and b) delivered in the name of the FOC local network or the countries who formally endorse the statement.

**Action >>** Support Unit to inform local networks of approved method of drafting statements.

- Updates on FOC Chairmanship
  - Annual Conference: Germany provided an update on preparations for the FO Conference 2018.
    - The conference program will have slots for sessions proposed by the FOC and the Advisory Network [FOC-AN], enabling Germany to follow up on topics suggested by the FOC-AN in their input on the concept note and include a multistakeholder perspective.
    - Germany will issue governmental invitations and the SU will be coordinating invitations to non-governmental stakeholders. Germany agreed with the Netherlands' proposal to send governmental and non-governmental invitations in parallel. Germany welcomed suggestions for government invitations, and the Netherlands and the UK offered to assist Germany.
    - Following the issuing of invitations, there will be an 'open call' for interest, where expressions of interest in attending the conference can be submitted online.

**Action >>** Germany to circulate governmental invitation list to the Friends of the Chair; Members to provide suggestions on governmental invitations.

**Action >>** Germany/ SU to send first set of Conference invites in July.

- Implementation of the San Jose Work Plan
  - Operationalising the Stockholm TOR
    - Members discussed the final draft of the Evaluation Framework for Member Review and Termination (EF)
    - Update on Advisory Network [Canada]
      - Canada welcomed the FOC-AN's submitted advice on the upcoming Shrinking Spaces statement.
      - The FOC-AN submitted proactive advice on the ITU on Monday 2 July to the FOC. The AN offered to discuss the

advice with the FOC via a call. Members were invited to provide suggestions on how to engage with the submission on the next Friends of the Chair Call. The Netherlands noted they regularly include non-governmental representation within their delegation, and will be doing so this year.

- Update on finance [SU]
  - The SU had signed the contract with Germany for the FO Conference.
  - The SU will be managing financial support from the US for civil society travel 2019-2020. SU thanked the US for their contribution.
  
- Program of Action 2018
  - Objective 1:
    - Canada is continuing the drafting process of the Shrinking Spaces statement with the submitted input from the FOC-AN.
    - The Netherlands raised the Internet Resolution at the Human Rights Council, and noted the resolution would have benefitted from better FOC coordination. The Netherlands encouraged members to provide support to the core group and improved coordination in the final days of the HRC.
      - Germany will follow-up on convening a meeting of the FOC network in Geneva. The UK informed members that the UK's internal coordination on the resolution had kept FOC language in mind.
      - Estonia encouraged members to learn from this occasion and ensure better coordination on future resolutions. Estonia additionally suggested for the future that the lead of the resolution could always get together the members of the FOC Network and ask for their support and assistance for the outreach in order to ensure a positive outcome.
  
  - Objective 3
    - FOC engagement at the ITU Plenipotentiary
      - Members of the FOC took part in an ITU learning call which took place before to the Friends of the Chair call on Tuesday 3 July. SU will be circulating key notes from the conversation via the FOC mailing list.
      - Members expressed interest in FOC coordination. Germany proposed engaging with colleagues in Geneva to encourage FOC coordination at the ITU and organise a meeting of experts in September.

**Action >>** SU to circulate takeaways from ITU learning call to the FOC.

**Action >>** Germany to look into arranging an FOC meeting of Geneva experts in September.

- Diplomatic Networks
  - Germany held a meeting of the Paris FOC Network in UNESCO, co-hosted by Canada. The meeting covered the priorities of the German chairmanship, provided an overview of current FOC

activities and introduced Moez Chakchouk, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, to the network.

- Outreach
  - n/a
- AOB
  - The US raised concern on the possible implementation of a law regulating social media in Nigeria, and proposed that the FOC could work on this issue. The Netherlands offered to share updates on this with the US.