Freedom Online Coalition - Friends of the Chair Call #4
Minutes

Wednesday, 26th April, 2017

Attending: Canada, Estonia, Germany, US; FOC Support Unit (SU)
Apologies: Argentina, Costa Rica, Netherlands, Norway, UK

Housekeeping
- Updates on implementation of the San Jose Work Plan (SJWP).
  - US gave an update on the Terms of Reference Working Group.
    - A silence procedure has been initiated on the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) which will end on 10 May.
  - SU gave an update on behalf of the Funding Coordination Group.
    - Current donors: Netherlands, Germany and Argentina; Raised 45% of FOC budget for 2017.
    - Funding for 2017 remains an urgent priority, with the need to close a funding gap for the year.
- Members discussed status of FOC Chairmanship.

Coordination
- Updates on upcoming FOC events during Stockholm Internet Forum (SIF) in May.
  - Members approved revised template for creation of action plan for 2017-18, once mission statement is updated to reflect revised TOR
  - Members reviewed and signed off list of priority issues and forums
    - List to be drawn up into a survey and circulated to FOC for ranking to gauge the Coalition's priorities and inform discussions at SIF.
    - Friends to follow up with Coalition members to ensure they complete the survey; each Friend to follow up with members they were allocated as part of the follow up process for the Strategic Review members' survey.
  - Members approved agenda and objectives for the stakeholder session, Advisory Network session and FOC Open Forum
    - Stakeholder session (invite-only)
      - 09:45-11:30, 16 May; chair: Andrew Puddephatt (SU).
    - Advisory Network session (invite-only)
      - 14:30-16:00, 16 May; co-facilitated by Matthew Shears –co-Chair of WG1– and a US government representative.
      - Held in parallel to FOC government meeting to inform operationalisation of the proposed Advisory Network and give opportunity to non-government stakeholders to comment on the key questions involved in operationalizing the network.
    - Open Forum Session (open to SIF participants)
      - 16:00-17:30, 17 May; Chair: Andrew Puddephatt (SU).
      - Held as part of the official SIF program to share information about the FOC and progress made on the SJWP.
      - Members approved the proposed list of speakers

- Members suggested that the FOC@5 report be supplied as an input document for the session.
- The next meeting of the Friends of the Chair will take place at 17:30 on 15 May at SIF
- SU alerted members to the [call for Open Forum IGF proposals](#) (21 June deadline)

Action Point >> SU to send out Action Plan template to wider Coalition
Action Point >> SU to circulate survey on issues and forums to wider Coalition
Action Point >> Friends to follow up with members to ensure they complete survey using the process put in place for the Strategic Review
Action Point >> US to draft IGF Open Forum proposal
Action Point >> SU to organise SIF Open Forum Session

Joint Activities
- US reported back on [joint statement on network disruptions](#) and [launch event](#) at RightsCon.
  - The statement was very well received with statements commending it from AccessNow and Global Network Initiative
  - The document, particularly the good practices for governments was seen as a useful tool to counter the trend of network disruptions
- Members discussed recent network disruption in Cameroon and need to explore ways to prepare for occurrences like this in the future
  - Members agreed to holding a learning call with stakeholders who worked on the issue of network disruption in Cameroon, to learn how the Coalition may build on the network disruptions statement and be more responsive

Action Point >> US to follow up on next steps for arranging learning call

Updates on Working Groups
- Update on Working Groups (WGs)
  - SU reported that WGs were finalising their last outputs before their mandates came to an end in May, and were working on input documents to submit to the FOC to inform discussions at SIF. These documents would cover:
    - Achievements of the respective WG
    - Key takeaways from the experience of participating in the WG
    - Recommendations for the FOC going forward

AOB
- SU updated members on a request by reporter from Wall Street Journal regarding the FOC's work on content removal and user data access