IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: OF: Protecting Human Rights Online: the Freedom Online Coalition

- Date: 20 December 2017

- Time: 17:20-18:20

- Session Organizer: Freedom Online Coalition

- Chair/Moderator: Andrew Puddephatt, Head of the Freedom Online Coalition Support Unit

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Aditi Gupta, Project Manager, Freedom Online Coalition Support Unit

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

Ambassador Thomas Fitschen, Director for the United Nations, Cyber Foreign policy and Counterterrorism, Government of Germany

Piret Urb, Counsellor (FOC, UNESCO, UNAOC, CD, OGP, Internet freedom issues), Division of International Organisations, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Katharine Kendrick, Former co-Chair FOC Working Group 3 "Privacy and Transparency Online"; International Public Policy Manager, Airbnb, Inc.

Matthew Shears, Former co-Chair FOC Working Group 1 "An Internet Free and Secure"; Independent policy consultant; ICANN Board

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

At this IGF Open Forum, as incoming Chair of the Coalition Germany outlined the FOC's plan for 2018.

The FOC's new mode of multistakeholder-engagement, the Advisory Network, was presented by the non-governmental members of the FOC Advisory Network Chartering Group, and officially launched.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

Piret Urb from the Estonian government outlined the context and history of the FOC as a former FOC Chair. She remarked on the progress that has been achieved since the last Fo Conference in Costa Rica in 2016, namely:

- Rapid development of the Coalition's institutional strength and capacity through implementation of the San Jose Work Plan and revision of the FOC's Terms of Reference. The revised Terms of Reference dedicates efforts to member responsibilities, and efforts are being made to develop an evaluation framework for member review, with a dedicated space at FO Conferences for peer learning.
- Efforts have also been dedicated to bolstering the FOC's multistakeholder engagement, with the development of a new body, the FOC Advisory Network.
- The FOC Program of Action for 2017 is the first institutionalised attempt by the Coalition to leverage its joint influence in a more strategic way, that is part of an effort to make the Coalition a leading force in global norm development on human rights online. Efforts are now underway to finalise the Program of Action for the year ahead.

As incoming Chair of the Coalition Germany outlined the FOC's plan for 2018:

- The FOC aims to be a proactive Coalition that ensures freedom issues are on the international policy agenda as a way to drive concrete policy changes and outcomes. It will have three thematic areas of focus:
  - promote global norms that seek to prevent and limit state-sponsored restrictions to human rights online
  - To support civil society voices online
  - To promote and protect human rights online in the context of cybersecurity
- Emphasis will also be placed on implementing the San Jose Work Plan and new Stockholm Terms of Reference

- Finally, Germany will dedicate efforts as Chair to revitalise the FOC Diplomatic Networks in geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna

The FOC's new mode of multistakeholder-engagement, the Advisory Network, was presented by the non-governmental members of the FOC Advisory Network Chartering Group, and officially launched:

- The terms of reference for this network was developed through in-person consultations at RightsCon and SIF, as well as a public online consultation, resulting in a document which we hope reflects the view of the community.
- The Advisory Network will serve as a key mechanism for the coalition government to engage with nongovernmental Internet stakeholders on a regular basis to support the FOC's mission of advancing human rights online, and to be instrumental in ensuring multistakeholder engagement in the work of the FOC broadly.
- It's important to note that this network is not meant to be a gatekeeper for Civil Society engagement with the FOC government. Rather, it's a standing resource to those governments sort of recognizing the value of having an established structure for that engagement. But it will be complimented by engagement by others outside of the advisory network.
- The relationship between the FOC and the advisory network is expected to be ongoing and collaborative.   There will be opportunities for the Advisory Network to input on the FOC government's activities as follows:
  - To provide advice and recommendations on any and all substantive issues and procedures and relevant matters that are within the FOC's mandate.
  - To contribute to and participate in subordinate entities such as ad hoc or ongoing working groups
  - Suggest specific policy topics for development of FOC statements.   It's an important development and and that didn't exist before now, with opportunity to input into the drafting process
  - Participate in the annual conferences and meetings and other events and also assist with the organization and dissemination on information on the FOC.

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

Panelists and participants discussed the FOC's process for review and termination of its members. The panelists clarified that it was agreed in the Strategy and Coordination Meeting adjacent to the Stockholm Internet Forum in May 2017, that a mechanism for member review and termination would be established. Work has now been commissioned on such a process and criteria.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Government of the netherlands stated their commitment to the issue of safeguarding space for civil society, to strengthen and support the FOC diplomatic Networks and support the Digital Defender's Partnership.

Participants raised the importance of the FOC's work on Network Disruptions, and the need to carry on advocating on this issue. The German government explained that the strengthening of the FOC Diplomatic Networks is to enact these joint statements and get more engagement on them.

Participants suggested outreach to more African countries to become members of the FOC. Germany confirmed that outreach to countries in Africa and in the Global South will be a priority for the year.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 50

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 25

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment? Not the emphasis of the session

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion: The FOC's work for 2018 includes work on addressing gender and geographical digital divides through the creation of a joint statement.