

FREEDOM ONLINE COALITION

PROGRAM OF ACTION 2017

FOC Mission Statement*: The Freedom Online Coalition is a group of governments deeply committed to the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We also believe that the human rights that people have offline must also be protected online. We commit to working together, and with all others who share these views, to support Internet freedom and protect fundamental human rights – free expression, association, assembly, and privacy online – worldwide. The FOC aims to be a proactive coalition that ensures Internet freedom issues are on the international policy agenda as a way to drive concrete policy changes and outcomes.

Objective 1: To promote global norms that seek to prevent and limit state-sponsored restrictions to human rights online

Rationale

- Increasing trend of Internet sovereignty regimes and state-sponsored restrictions to human rights online.
- Network disruptions continue to increase.
- The FOC has made meaningful contributions to the global debate on network disruptions, restrictive data localization laws, cross-border attacks on freedom of expression online, and state-sponsored restrictions to human rights online, which makes it well-placed to leverage this work in future global fora

Objective 2: To support civil society voices online

Rationale

- There is a continuing trend of closing of civic space, both online and offline
- Digital divides (both north-south and gender) remain acute globally
- There is a need for global collaboration between countries to support civil society voices online

* To support the above-stated mission statement, Members agreed in the [Stockholm Terms of Reference](#) to prioritize three primary activity areas:

- Strengthening coordination and cooperation among Members, as well as with outside stakeholders who share the Coalition's objectives, with added focus on fostering cross-regional diplomacy through employing local networks;
- Shaping global norms on human rights online through joint statements;
- Holding periodic convenings with Members and other stakeholders.