



FINNISH CHAIRSHIP OF THE FREEDOM ONLINE COALITION 2021

Ulkoministeriö
Utrikesministeriet



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

Finnish chairship's Freedom Online Coalition priorities in 2021

The Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) is the most important intergovernmental organisation that promotes free, open and safe internet. The year 2021 marks the FOC's 10th anniversary. Finland will serve as the Coalition Chair in 2021 and is committed promoting the following actions:

1. We will develop the FOC's activities as part of the promotion of human rights and democracy

An open, safe and global internet and digital inclusion strengthen democracy and human rights. Digitalisation is used to strengthen authoritarian regimes, too. In the 2020s, the importance of the FOC and other advocates of human rights is more pronounced than ever before. We support the implementation of the FOC's Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights. Our aim as FOC Chair is to promote a stronger, more visible and geographically balanced coalition that serves as a global trailblazer. We will make good use of the FOC's statements and develop its diplomatic networks. In December 2021, we will organise a conference in Finland to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the FOC.

2. We will support the open internet as part of sustainable development — especially in Africa

We support the implementation of the FOC's Joint Statement on Digital Inclusion. An open, reliable and well-functioning internet must be accessible to as many people as possible. Freedom of speech and access to information are key elements in democratic and economic development. Reducing the digital divide helps to strengthen the right to participation and other universal human rights. It is of vital importance to strengthen the organisation's visibility and effectiveness in developing countries, especially in Africa, and to enhance collaboration relating to UN processes.

3. We will continue the fight against disinformation and promote a safe internet for all

The FOC has adopted a Joint Statement on Spread of Disinformation Online. We support its use for defending human rights, democracy and the rule of law. We promote the FOC's activities aiming at strengthening cyber security. The use of the internet must be safe to all, including women and girls and the most vulnerable groups of people. Finland aims to strengthen the FOC's presence in the UN in its global cyber security, innovation, and digital development processes.

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