

Dear Ian, and present members of the CSCG

Thank you again for the invitation to delegate a representative from the Just Net Coalition (JNC) to the Civil Society Coordination Group (CSCG), which we hereby accept.

JNC will like to be represented by Norbert Bollow <nb@bollow.ch> who is a co-convenor. In the case that at any given time, Norbert is not available, Prabir Purkayastha <prabirp@gmail.com> (the other co-convenor) and Parminder <parminder@itforchange.net> will be alternates.

However, we believe that it would be important to have greater clarity and transparency with respect to the mandate and the work of this group, which should continue to feel and acknowledge its ad hoc purpose and nature.

In particular, the group should develop some basic principles on the basis of which it allocates its membership to different groups including specific and publicly accessible criteria as to inclusion within the group, such criteria to also apply to those who are already included within the CSCG.

Regarding the process to consider new members, it is important to note that the decision of admitting new members is one of highest significance because prima facie it is a decision that affects the powers of the current members, causing a kind of conflict of interest, and thus must have very high safeguards built into it. It should be based on clear principles, and a deliberative process around them, and if needed be, using external referees.

We would suggest that, as a first item of business, CSCG adopt the working principle of transparency in relation to all matters related to the composition of CSCG and to the mandate that CSCG sees itself as having, in that all positions that CSCG members take in relation to these matters should be made public. Such transparency is a necessary precondition for any kind of accountability, even quite informal accountability, to civil society as a whole.

We expect to offer in due course other suggestions to make the process more legitimate, accountable and transparent.

With best regards
Just Net Coalition
<http://JustNetCoalition.org>
August 5, 2014

The Just Net Coalition (JNC) is a global network of civil society actors committed to an open, free, just and equitable Internet. Founded in February 2014, the coalition engages on topics of the Internet and its governance, with the goal to promote democracy, human rights and social justice. Our founding principles and objectives are contained in the Delhi Declaration <http://justnetcoalition.org/delhi-declaration> .