Becoming a supporter of the Christchurch Call

Background: on the nature of the Call

1. The Christchurch Call is an initiative based on a text containing voluntary commitments by Online Service Providers and Governments. The Call is not a Treaty and has neither a formal accession process nor 'signatories'. It is based on expressions of support and practical good-faith cooperation.

2. The Call's commitments are fulfilled through individual actions and joint efforts by Governments and Online Service Providers working with each other and with Civil Society.

3. All actions under the Call must be consistent with the principles of a free, open and secure internet, without compromising human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression. They must also recognise the internet's ability to act as a force for good, including by promoting innovation and economic development and fostering inclusive societies.

Background: on the Call Community

4. The practical implementation of the Call takes place as much as possible in a multi-stakeholder Community, involving governments, companies, Civil Society, technical experts, and other organisations such as the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), which is an integral part of the Call Community.

5. The Call Community has a goal of increasing its diversity, including integrating a wider range of cultures and languages, more technical expertise, and Online Service Providers covering a wider range of users, to help support its work.

6. Collaboration, openness and trust are important to make this work effective. Governments or Companies wanting to become supporters need to foster and uphold the values of respect and trust, working in collaboration with civil society and the technical community.

Becoming an acknowledged supporter

7. The Community welcomes expressions of support and assistance. In some instances, Governments or Companies have unilaterally declared support for the Call.

8. A detailed conversation occurs before a Government or Company is eligible to be formally acknowledged as part of the Call Community, listed as a supporter on the Call website, and invited to contribute to work programmes, meetings and Summits.

9. The conversation is led and facilitated by New Zealand and France on behalf of the community and will include civil society and the technical community having the opportunity to engage and ask questions about policies and intentions.

10. The conversation helps stakeholders to cover a range of topics of interest, including:

    - Specific areas of policy interest for the aspirant;

- Intentions of the aspirant to work proactively and transparently with the Community to help carry out the Call Commitments;
- Commitment to respect and uphold human rights & fundamental freedoms online;
- Commitment to a free, open, and secure internet that is globally connected and interoperable;
- Intention to work constructively and commit the necessary time and energy into the shared effort of implementing the Call; and
- Understanding that working within the Call Community will mean engaging openly and regularly with Civil Society and the technical community.

11. The following additional questions and considerations may be important to assessing an aspirant:

For Governments:

- Commitment to open, transparent government, upholding the rule of law and international human rights including freedom of expression;
- A willingness to engage constructively with the Community on Call implementation, including conversations that may examine consistency of policy settings with Call commitments;
- Membership of the Freedom Online Coalition.

For Online Service Providers:

- Membership of the GIFCT and/or engagement with Tech Against Terrorism and/or in initiatives such as the Global Network Initiative or the EU Internet Forum;
- A clear and transparent ownership structure;
- Maturity of trust and safety settings.

Recognition of International Organisations

12. In some cases, an international organisation may have the capacity to fulfil Call Commitments. In other cases, it may be desirable to include International Organisations in the Community's work because of their expertise or capabilities.

13. The involvement of organisations will be subject to full consideration of the range of issues outlined above, and - subject to a discussion with the Community -their participation in the Community will also be recognised on the Call website.

The Advisory Network

14. The Call recognises an important role for Civil Society, including the technical community. Supporters are committed to working with them in an open and transparent way, including:

- drawing on expert advice to implement the commitments in the Call in a manner consistent with a free, open and secure internet and with international human rights law;
- Working with them to increase transparency; and support community-led efforts to counter violent extremism.

15. The Christchurch Call Advisory Network (CCAN) was formed in 2019 to assist with this effort and is supported by a secretariat function.