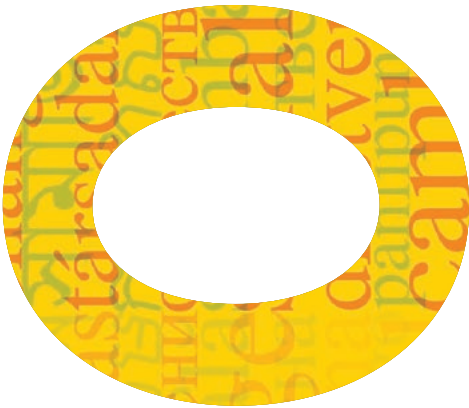




CELEBRATING 25 YEARS  
OF NETWORKING FOR SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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OF NETWORKING FOR SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Association for Progressive Communications  
Annual Report 2015

EDITORS  
Mallory Knodel and Lori Nordstrom



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Graphic design: MONOCROMO  
[info@monocromo.com.uy](mailto:info@monocromo.com.uy)

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APC's 25th anniversary celebrations started with a "birthday cake" at the Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa in September. PHOTO: CIPESA

# From our director

**An organisation does not survive** and grow for 25 years without a lot of help. I therefore want to focus the introduction to this 25th anniversary edition of the APC Annual Report to thank APC's founders and everyone else who has been or is part of APC, or who has supported our work in one way or another.

APC is an enduring collective. Everyone who is in it and who invests in it emotionally or otherwise leaves their mark on it. And the other way round. Someone once said to me, in the context of a discussion about the vastness of the APC network, that "APC is like the Borg"<sup>1</sup>– a fictional "people" from Star Trek: The Next Generation whose slogan is: "Resistance is futile. You will be assimilated."

This is not an entirely flattering comparison, nor is it true. APC might leave its mark on people and organisations that are, or have been, part of the network, but it also respects their independence and individuality.

From modest but ambitious roots dating back to the late 1980s, before its founding in 1990, APC has grown into a strong network with 47 organisational members and 26 individual members, mostly from the global South, as of the end of 2015.

APC started out as a tech innovator: APC built its own networking software, "Pnotes", and founding member in Brazil, IBASE/ Alternex, with support from the broader APC community,

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1 "The Borg are a fictional alien race that appear as recurring antagonists in the Star Trek franchise. The Borg are a collection of species that have been turned into cybernetic organisms functioning as drones in a hive mind called 'the Collective' or 'the Hive.'" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borg\\_\(Star\\_Trek\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borg_(Star_Trek))

provided the first-ever online information sharing and remote participation hub in Rio at the UN Earth Summit in 1992; APC member in the UK, GreenNet, acted as a hub for local networks in more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Central and Eastern Europe; and APC member in the US, IGC, developed the first graphic user interface for using public email and online discussion groups (known as newsgroups at the time) – to mention just a few examples. In subsequent years, it made the transition to providing services, support and training in using ICTs strategically to thousands of activists and civil society organisations, and eventually to becoming a significant actor in internet governance rights arenas, multiplying and amplifying voices from civil society, from developing countries and from marginalised communities in decision-making spaces.

APC and its members, as well as the policy spaces they work in and the governments they interact with, “grew up” together during these many years, reaching a level of dialogue that was unthinkable many years ago. When APC’s founders first dreamt of people connecting and collaborating for peace and justice using electronic communications, it was the mid-1980s and no one imagined that only 30 years later there would be more than three billion people connected to an “internet”. But they did know that they were part of something special, that connecting people, organisations and computers working for positive social change was powerful.

We want to thank each and all of APC’s founders, who took up the challenge 25 years ago to create something new and daring. They believed in the power of solidarity, of people’s movements, of technology being mobilised for social justice – a belief that continues to inspire the APC community today. Thanks also to APC’s many supporters: those who provided funds, those who volunteered their time and ideas and other resources.

But most of all, thank you to APC’s members. Networking is easier these days. In fact, many of us suffer from some form or other of networking fatigue. This is not true for the APC network. Perhaps it is because of the diversity of members – different types of work, different approaches, ages, histories, but with a



shared commitment to social justice. A special welcome to the new members who joined in 2015: the Centre for Information Technology and Development in Nigeria, Fundación REDES in Bolivia, and Media Matters for Democracy in Pakistan.

Thanks to the incredible and indomitable APC staff team who survived another year of long hours, airports, impossible deadlines, and online meetings that keep breaking up due to connectivity hassles.

Last, but not least, thank you to everyone who joined APC in celebrating our first 25 years. It started with a cake baked by our member CIPESA in Kampala at the Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa in September, and became a round-the-world “partying process” in which many APC founders and past staff members participated. Some sent pictures or anecdotes. Others – hundreds of people, actually – attended our rather crazy and noisy party in Joao Pessoa, Brazil during the Internet Governance Forum, including three very special guests: past staff members Edie Farwell, APC’s first ever coordinator and executive director; Karen Higgs, APC’s communications manager for more than a decade; and Vanessa Purper, APC’s events organiser for most of the 2000s. Also with us in Brazil was Carlos Afonso, as vital to our member network today as he was at the founding meeting in Nijmegen in 1990. Another of APC’s founders, Ian Peter, had hoped to join us but was unfortunately kept from doing so for health reasons. It is to them and all of the founders of the APC network that I would like to dedicate this report.

Anriette Esterhuysen  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF APC



Julián Casasbuenas G. PHOTO: FLAVIA FASCENDINI

# From our chair

**I have the good fortune of being** surrounded by many people who have been pioneers and visionaries and who have shown me the power of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for development and social justice. They have always been my support and inspiration to develop the work that we began at Colnodo in Colombia in 1993.

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It was in 1992 that I first met the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) through Carlos Afonso from Brazil. It was during the Interdoc conference held in Epe, the Netherlands, and hosted by Antenna.

A couple of years before that meeting, in 1990, networks in Sweden (NordNet), Canada (The Web, now Web Networks), Brazil (IBASE), Nicaragua (Nicarao) and Australia (Pegasus) were exchanging information with each other and with the Institute for Global Communications (IGC) in the United States and GreenNet in the United Kingdom. In May 1990, these seven organisations founded APC in order to coordinate the operation and development of this emerging global network of networks. No internet platforms were used at that time; all the technology was based on software developed by APC which allowed networks to exchange information. Without any doubt, these organisations were pioneers in the use of ICTs for social justice and development.

After this initial contact, Carlos Afonso encouraged us to start a project in Colombia to establish a “node” linked to the APC networks and to become members of APC. A “node” was a system that allowed providing connectivity and services to NGOs and organisations working for development.

We received support from many APC members, especially from IGC, to solve technical problems and to get the connection to the rest of the network. I also remember that Mike Jensen helped us to tune up our connectivity over very poor-quality telephone land lines.

And so, during the 1990s, we built that network that served NGOs and civil society working for development.

I was part of that experience, and I have to say that it has been an incredible journey in which we have had guidance from APC, helping us to adapt to the continuous changes that occurred when the internet started and after that, when commercial companies began to get interested in using the network for business purposes.

During all these years, we have received numerous recognitions for our work and for the hard work done by the executive director, the executive board, the staff of APC and our members. To mention just a few:

- Anriette Esterhuysen and APC were recognised with the 2015 Pioneer Award by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).
- In 2014, the Feminist Tech eXchange (FTX), one of the most innovative initiatives in APC's history, won the GEM-TECH Award from UN Women and the ITU.
- LACNIC Outstanding Achievement Awards have been presented to Ermanno Pietrosemoli from Venezuelan APC member EsLaRed (2014), APC policy programme manager Valeria Betancourt (2012), and Carlos Afonso from Brazilian member organisation Nupef (2010).
- In 2013, Colnodo and the Colombian Ministry of ICTs were awarded the WSIS Project Prize in the category of "Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content" for the project En mi idioma ("In my language"), while in 2012, APC won the same award for the Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) project, in the category of "The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development".

- In 2013, APC member in India Digital Empowerment Foundation was the winner of the ITU-MCMC Contest to Promote the Transformational Power of Broadband – Connecting at the Roots.
- Also in 2013, APC Executive Director Anriette Esterhuysen and Finance Manager Karen Banks were inducted by the Internet Society (ISOC) into the Internet Hall of Fame and were honoured in the category of Global Connectors as individuals who have made significant contributions to the global growth and use of the internet.
- “Love Letter to the Soldier”, a film by Indonesia-based APC member EngageMedia, won the South to South Festival 2012 Award for Best Documentary.
- PROTEGE QV, our member in Cameroon, was the African winner of the 2010 International Software Freedom Day competition.
- In 2008, EsLaRed received the prestigious Jonathan B. Postel Service Award from ISOC.

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It has been an exciting 25 years, as our seven founding member organisations have developed into a vibrant association of 47 organisational members in 33 countries and 26 individual members in 22 countries.

After 25 years, the networks have evolved, and we now focus our work on internet access, internet governance, transformative technology, ending technology-based violence against women and community networking, which are the five key result areas of our current strategic plan.

I want to thank all the people in APC and beyond who have made our work possible during these 25 years. It is my hope that we can continue working together for a better world.

Julián Casasbuenas G.  
CHAIR OF THE APC EXECUTIVE BOARD

# About APC

## OUR VISION

All people have easy and affordable access to a free and open internet to improve their lives and create a more just world.

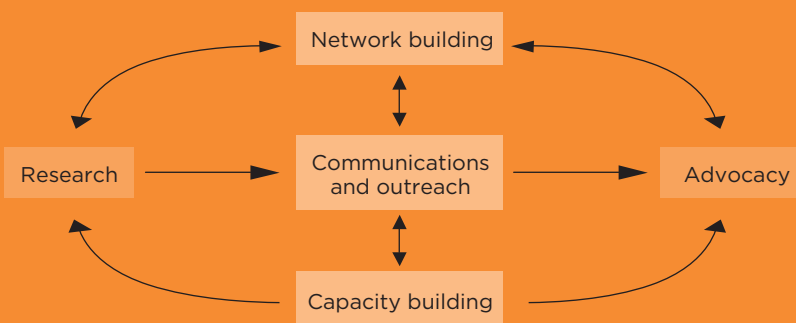
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## OUR MISSION

APC's mission is to empower and support organisations, social movements and individuals in and through the use of ICTs to build strategic communities and initiatives for the purpose of making meaningful contributions to equitable human development, social justice, participatory political processes and environmental sustainability.

## APC'S STRATEGIC ACTIVITY AREAS

We believe that our mission is achieved through five interlinked strategies: research, advocacy, building networks and capacity, communications and outreach. To be instrumental to the APC community, research-based evidence must be communicated effectively in order to support advocacy, which then achieves change as its ultimate goal.



*These are the ways our activities reinforce one another. For example, research will be published in order to influence policy outcomes. Research might also lead to learning materials that can be used in capacity-building interventions. Illustration: APC.*

# APC 1990-2015

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS NETWORKING ONLINE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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During the 1980s, in an increasingly militarised world and in the face of a proliferation of nuclear weapons, a number of people networks emerged to connect activists. They had experience in international collaboration in the non-profit world and a deep commitment to making advances in communications available to movements working to make the world a better place.<sup>2</sup> In 1987, people at later APC member GreenNet in the United Kingdom began collaborating with their counterparts later known as the Institute for Global Communications (IGC) in the United States. By coincidence the two national networks were using the same computer systems. They made the first non-profit transoceanic computer link. Communications focused on peace, human rights and the environment.

By 1989 networks in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Nicaragua and Sweden were exchanging information with each other and with IGC and GreenNet as well as several other networks in the global South. In May 1990, seven organisations founded the Association for Progressive Communications to coordinate the operation and development of this emerging global network of networks.

“Widening the user base to grassroots activists [...] was the priority of [APC],” said Viv Kendon, formerly of GreenNet. “We wanted to show what you could do with email - crisis response to rainforest logging is the most-quoted early success.”

Today APC remains committed to making the internet serve the needs of global civil society and working to ensure the internet is free and open.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.apc.org/en/node/10678>

# THE HISTORY OF APC

APC may have been founded in 1990 but our history begins almost a decade before.

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## 1982

Intensification of the Cold War and the threat of nuclear war



A “documentation for action” movement emerges as NGO International Documentation Centre (IDOC) brings together organisations and activists from four continents – including future APC members – who use information for social change.

The internet is used primarily by the military and academia.

Central America is racked with conflict, often supported by Ronald Reagan’s conservative US government.

Commercially owned email services exist but it is impossible to send email from one network to another.

The activists working with IDOC create Interdoc, a network of like-minded organisations working with information and alternative media. At this point they communicated mainly using fax and regular mail. People physically travelled around transporting and sharing databases of information and software on disks.

The few NGOs that have PCs are using them for documentation only.

## 1985

PCs with 64 kb RAM and two disk drives of 120 kb are the latest technology.

Mitra Ardron, a peace activist, founds GreenNet to pioneer the use of email by the environmental, peace and social justice movements. It is the UK’s fourth ISP.



1986

Powerful Sun computers are considered "military equipment".

Without knowledge of what is going on in the UK and unaware of Interdoc, Mark Graham and Michael Shuman set up PeaceNet in the USA.

Interdoc members begin to communicate electronically with one another, including internationally, using Poptel/Geonet, a progressive but commercial bulletin board and email network.

1987

South Africa is still under apartheid rule.

The Institute for Global Communications (IGC) is formed to manage PeaceNet and EcoNet, the world's first computer network dedicated to peace, environmental preservation and sustainability.

It is the height of repression under state of emergency.

GreenNet and IGC discover that by pure accident they are running the same kind of computer. Scott Weikart, PeaceNet's technical director, packs up a 300 MB disk with all the software and flies to London. The first non-profit-owned intercontinental communications system is created. GreenNet and IGC pick up email, forward it and offer e-conferences (online discussion forums).

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WorkNet in South Africa (later APC member SANGONeT) is providing email and bulletin boards to connect anti-apartheid liberation organisations in exile with people inside the country. The labour movement organises consumer boycotts of South African goods using APC networks.

The name "Association for Progressive Communications" is invented in musician Peter Gabriel's New York hotel room.



Photo via Flickr by Daviddmuir

1988

Mitra Ardron defines the central characteristic of the "typical APC network user" as "a commitment to a future for the planet that works a lot better than the present."

1989

From apartheid South Africa to Asian ecologists, from peace activists in San Francisco to women's groups working in Eastern Europe, the online conferences make it easier and cheaper to inform and take action worldwide.

Through APC conferences CARNet provides alternative information about the wars and insurgencies in Central America.

Collaborations begin between APC and the UN for the Earth Summit in 1992. APC provides e-conferences. The whole idea is that information is enormously powerful, and having access to information and being able to participate in the discussion is crucial.

1990

APC is founded by seven APC members (or nodes) in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Nicaragua, Sweden, UK and USA in May at an Interdoc conference in the Netherlands. What makes APC unique is its founders' vision of global communications free from commercial influences.

Over 200 APC e-conferences deal with a wide variety of subjects. Some only share information, others allow for discussions.

1991

Collapse of Soviet Union



Photo via Flickr by Patlet

Russian activists set up APC node GlasNet, providing the emerging civil society with access to information and cheap communications.

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South Africa begins to repeal apartheid laws.

Email links are set up between Cuba and APC networks. They call the Cuban servers three times a day to deliver and collect email.

War in the Balkans breaks out.

1992

Eastern European NGOs are desperate to connect with one another and abroad, but costs are prohibitive.

An attempted Russian coup is reported on APC networks thanks to GlasNet coverage of the events that change the face of global politics.

UN Earth Summit in Rio influences all subsequent UN conferences and makes the need for environmentally sustainable development acceptable to all governments.

APC node ZTN connects more than 1,700 peace, human rights and humanitarian workers and journalists from all countries in the Balkans war through 150+ e-conferences.

US gov't legalises export of computer chips and software to former USSR.

APC provides first ever online communications centre for NGOs and UN delegates in Rio. Info posted onto APC conferences is accessed around the world and picked up and reprinted in NGO newsletters and magazines worldwide.

1993

The World Bank cancels plans to fund the controversial Namada Dam in India after activists organise throughout India and beyond using APC conferences.

The APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) is founded and prepares for Beijing.

APC nodes encouraged by Jagdish Parikh establish AsiaLink to provide start-up funding and technical support to small hosts in Asia working with social movements.



1994

Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa.

APC networks provide over 17,000 email accounts (an organisation usually shared one email address) and 94 countries are using APC networks.

NGOs use the internet in preparation for the 1995 UN World Summit for Social Development at a time when Bill Gates says "we have nothing to win from the internet."

Over 50 email hosts in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean are providing civil society organisations with email and e-information using the Fidonet gateways in London, Toronto and San Francisco. APC partners with the UN's Sustainable Development Networks Programme to extend these links even further into developing countries.

APC provides email and other e-services at UN International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

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1995

Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

APC receives consultative (Category 1) status to the UN.

Many women's rights activists get their first email training in Beijing from a 40-woman APC team from 25 countries, many from the South. It is a powerful message to the world - there is no innate barrier to women using computer technology.

1997

APC's mission is formalised in South Africa.

1998

The first legal threat to freedom of information online. Two APC members in the UK and South Africa are threatened with legal action by transnational company Biwater for a news article in their online archives. Thirteen APC members mirror the threatened content.

APC makes a formal commitment to free and open source software.

2000

APC WNSP co-coordinates WomenAction 2000 to bring an NGO perspective to the UN Beijing+5 review. They survey 1,000 respondents online to produce a strongly worded NGO declaration. Official declarations promote ICT as a way of enhancing NGO participation in global policy making.

APC continues to highlight the lack of basic access in many regions. We co-lead the "Internet Access" track at the second Global Knowledge conference influencing the agenda of government-related development agencies, companies and NGOs involved in the development and ICT field.

2001

Turning point for the "new economy" and the crash of the internet hype.

New vision statement for APC: "APC works to achieve a world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of the internet to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies."

Internet censorship and government preoccupation with "cybersecurity" mount.

APC women's programme begins testing a gender evaluation methodology (GEM) for ICT initiatives in 25 projects worldwide.



Photo via Flickr by Theadonlens

11 September 2001 attacks

APC organises "internet rights" meetings in Asia, Europe and Latin America. Internet Rights and Policy Monitors are set up and a Rapid Response Network to mirror threatened sites is formalised.

APC and partners launch ItrainOnline, a portal which collects training materials on ICT for social change.

2002

The first APC Africa Hafkin Prize is won by the Fantsuam Foundation, a small microcredit scheme which goes on to be a key reference in Nigeria.

The first APC Internet Rights Charter is published.

APC runs first ICT policy training workshops in Africa and India in the run-up to WSIS.



Photo by APC

The GenARDIS project begins to provide small grants to improve agricultural initiatives by women through the better use of ICTs, eventually disbursing over € 300,000 in direct seed grants over eight years.

2003

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) – Phase One, Switzerland

Maps of internet sites show that APC is the central civil society knowledge-sharing hub in a vast web of WSIS-related websites.



APC publishes an "ICT policy handbook for beginners" together with a trilingual ICT policy training for civil society curriculum with a section on advocacy for positive policy change.

2004

APC moves into specifically national policy advocacy in five countries using "network animators" to stimulate multistakeholder dialogue as part of the Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) programme.

APC begins training 100 technology enthusiasts in Africa to set up community wireless networks.

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Karen Banks and the APC WNSP are awarded the Anita Borg Prize for Social Impact.

2005

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) – Phase Two, Tunisia

APC declares the internet a "global public good" in a seminal paper.

WSIS ends in discord as governments disagree on how to run the internet.

The Tunisian government clamps down on freedom of expression and sabotages civil society events at WSIS. APC and partners enlist the support of foreign diplomats, secure high-profile exposure for local human rights advocates and denounce the attacks in the international press.



Beijing +10

APC women's programme begins to focus on ICTs and violence against women. The change in strategy engages more women in the politics of ICT and deepens our understanding of how ICT policy affects women's rights.

APC is shocked by the scarcity of information on how ICTs impact on women and critical women's rights issues. GenderIT.org, the world's only portal on gender and ICT policy, is launched.

The world's first Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) for ICT initiatives is published in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

2006

There is still no broadband fibre connectivity down the entire East African coast, and access is very expensive.

APC is nominated by peers to address post-WSIS deadlock. The resulting working group proposes the unique multistakeholder format of the Internet Governance Forum, allowing non-government people a voice in discussions like there is in no other UN-run space.

First Internet Governance Forum held.

The second edition of the APC Internet Rights Charter is published and translated into 20+ languages.



First ever Take Back the Tech! campaign to end violence against women is launched.

APC brings together stakeholders to break the potential monopoly on the East African Submarine Cable System and lower the price of bandwidth. The Fibre for Africa website is launched.

UN estimates that 95% of violence online is aimed at women.

CATIA advocates in Kenya triumph as Kenya approves an inclusive ICT policy and legalises voice over IP.

2007

Many Latin American and Caribbean countries elect left-wing governments which take more active roles in telecoms (as opposed to the liberalisation trends of the 90s).

The first edition of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) analyses citizen participation in ICT policy processes in the wake of WSIS.

The community wireless training developed in Africa is replicated in Latin America and the Caribbean, forming a lively eighteen-country network connecting indigenous communities and rural backwaters and promoting university networking courses.

# 2008

A number of APC members who became involved in ICT policy during 2002-2005 have become key players in their countries.

Ecuador enshrines "communications rights" in the Constitution.

APC leads the preparation of proposals and lobbying of the Ecuadorian assembly ahead of the new Constitution.

Survey identifies APC as the most relevant actor in Latin American ICT processes after the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC).

First Feminist Tech Exchange (FTX) trains over 100 women's rights activists.

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First regional IGFs co-organised in East Africa in Kenya and in Latin America in Uruguay.

APC has trained people from 680 organisations in technology for social change and ICT policy since 2004.

# 2009

Peru regulators assure net neutrality.

As a result of APC policy advocacy, Peruvian regulators force operators to drop plans to offer a two-tier internet for those who can and can't pay.

Dominican Republic is first Latin American nation to include a "gender perspective" in all state ICT projects.

The government of the Dominican Republic chooses GEM as the tool to design and evaluate all their ICT policies. The DR is leading the gender and IT track in the regional eLAC2010 plan.

UN talks on climate change at Copenhagen fall apart without agreement.

We begin our biggest ever women's rights and ICT project in twelve developing countries, as part of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3, to promote gender equality and empower women.

APC carries out first-of-their-kind studies of the situation of violence against women and ICTs in twelve countries and how legislation or lack of it hinders or helps women.

# 2010

Every 30 months the amount of information that can be transmitted over a wireless internet connection doubles.

GISWatch 2010 tackles the pressing issues of ICTs and climate change and e-waste.



Prof. Peter Willetts argues that if not for the APC decisions of the 1980s, the internet would not be the public and open platform it is today.

APC begins research into spectrum regulation as a possible way to bring affordable broadband to millions of people currently living with poor connectivity.

APC awards USD 240,000 in small grants to projects working to end violence against women using technology.

Sana Masood is runner up in the International Red Cross Young Reporters competition for a digital story she created about an acid attack survivor at an FTX workshop in Pakistan.

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# 2011



Arab nations overthrow despotic rulers.

Photo via Flickr by Tavker

APC launches the "Connect Your Rights: Internet Rights are Human Rights" campaign, including a dedicated edition of GISWatch and a defence of human rights and women's rights activists working online.

APC publishes EroTICs, our groundbreaking research on the real lived experiences of women around the internet and sexuality.

The internet is frequently filtered or blocked in many parts of the world.

APC and partners publish a gender framework critical for research on filtering and security issues.



# 2012

Dr. Nancy J. Hafkin and 32 others are inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame, for helping to spread internet use in Africa over the course of a 23-year career.



Photo: APC.org

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the People's Summit take place 20 years after the first Earth Summit.

GISWatch 2012 focuses on the internet and corruption.



Photo: ITU

GISWatch project receives WSIS Project Prize from the ITU for achievements in "the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICT for development."

UN Human Rights Council convenes first ever expert panel on freedom of expression and the internet, including Carlos Afonso (Nupef) and Anriette Esterhuysen.

APC publishes *A Practical Guide to Sustainable IT*, a unique and substantive resource on the practices and policies for sustainable use of ICTs written by researcher Paul Mobbs.



APC produces *A Citizen's Guide to the Airwaves*, which explains in accessible language what spectrum is, how it is allocated, why it matters for internet access, and what political and economic interests are at stake.

UN Human Rights Council adopts groundbreaking resolution recognising that the same rights that apply offline must also be protected online.

APC WRP launches the first ever global monitoring survey on sexual rights and the internet

APC designs the Internet Rights Are Human Rights (IRHR) training curriculum to help internet rights activists understand how to use existing human rights mechanisms and the specific challenges related to securing human rights on the internet.

APC is invited to join the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition.

# 2013

Edward Snowden's revelations expose mass surveillance of online communications by government intelligence services.



Photo: Snowden Mural, by SLM Art in Manchester, by Andy Halsall on Flickr

GISWatch 2013 focuses on women's rights, gender and ICTs.

APC releases the APC-La Rue Framework for assessing freedom of expression on the internet, based on the work of UN Special Rapporteur Frank La Rue.

26

UN General Assembly adopts landmark resolution on The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, including a paragraph on digital safety, technology-related VAW and women human rights defenders.

Two milestones in APC's advocacy work against online violence against women: UN adopts a resolution including a key paragraph on online VAW, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women adopts a paragraph mentioning the need to promote technology as a means for women's empowerment and to prevent and combat technology-related VAW.

WSIS launches its 10-year review process (WSIS+10). An APC publication, Communication rights ten years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): Civil society perceptions, is submitted as a formal input to the process.



Photo: APC

A total of 35 participants from 15 African countries attend the first African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) in Durban, South Africa, organised by APC and the NEPAD e-Africa Programme.

#FBrape campaign forces Facebook to step up its efforts to address gender-based hate speech.

APC Executive Director Anriette Esterhuysen and Finance Manager Karen Banks are inducted by the Internet Society (ISOC) into the Internet Hall of Fame.

One Billion Rising 2013 campaign takes place, with many APC staff and members involved.

# 2014

GISWatch 2014 focuses on communications surveillance in the digital age.

Human rights activists and long-time APC partners Alaa Abd El Fattah and Yara Sallam, among others, are arrested and detained in Egypt. APC calls for their release.



Photo: Global Voices campaign #FreeAlaa

APC WRP's Take Back the Tech! campaign wins the GEM-Tech ITU and Prix Ars Electronica awards.

APC and partners launch the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms.

27

Gamergate scandal triggers the explosion of online VAW as a mainstream issue.

First #imagineafeministinternet meeting and birth of the Feminist Principles of the Internet.



Take Back the Tech! launches the What are you doing about VAW? campaign.

Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial).



Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance

## NETmundial

Ermanno Pietrosemoli, from APC member EsLaRed, wins LACNIC's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Photo: LACNIC

APC's Avri Doria is chosen as the first winner of the ICANN Multistakeholder Ethos Award.

Colnodo, APC member in Colombia, celebrates 20 years of outstanding work.

2015

Human Rights Council resolution “Accelerating efforts to eliminating all forms of violence against women: eliminating domestic violence” recognises that violence against women can include acts such as cyberbullying and cyberstalking, both expressions of online VAW.

GISWatch 2015 focuses on sexual rights and the internet.

Take Back the Tech! campaign wins The Bobs award in People’s Choice for English category.

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IGF reaches 10th year and has its mandate extended for another 10 years by the UN General Assembly.

APC organises Gender and Internet Governance eXchanges (gigX) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, prior to the regional IGF meetings.



United Nations appoints first ever Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy.

Anriette Esterhuysen and APC are recognised by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Pioneer Awards.

#FBrape campaign forces Facebook to step up its efforts to address gender-based hate speech.

GenderIT.org turns 10 years old and celebrates by launching a new website design.



Photo: Arturo Bregaglio

Carlos Afonso wins APC’s Betinho Communications Prize, recognising remarkable contributions in using the internet for social justice and development.



**OUR**

**IMPACT**

1.

SECURING  
AND DEFENDING  
INTERNET ACCESS  
AND RIGHTS



GISWatch country report on Romania launch in Bucharest. PHOTO: TÁRSADALOMTUDOMÁNYI TANSZÉK SAPIENTIA EMTE CSÍKSZEREDA

## REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE LAUNCHED IN TEN COUNTRIES

Twenty-five “watchers”, Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) authors, organised local launches in 19 countries to highlight national reports from the 2014 edition, “Communications surveillance in the digital age”.<sup>3</sup> The events brought local awareness of the implications of surveillance in the national contexts of Australia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Hungary, Romania, Senegal and Uganda.

<sup>3</sup> Nachawati Rego, L. (2015, 7 February). GISWatch report on surveillance launched in ten countries. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20153>



# APC LINKS ANONYMITY, ENCRYPTION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ADDRESSING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER

UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression David Kaye reaffirmed the freedom to use encryption technology and communicate anonymously in his 2015 report in which he addresses the use of encryption and anonymity in digital communications.<sup>4</sup> Aspects of our submission<sup>5</sup> are mentioned in the report, specifically formalising the articulation between sexual orientation and gender identity, and anonymity and encryption tools, establishing why an open and free internet is important in the realisation of sexual rights. Kaye's report also states that governments should promote the use of strong encryption technologies and anonymity online and that companies should adopt encryption and other privacy-enhancing measures to safeguard the security of users, points that we reinforced in a joint civil society statement to the Human Rights Council (HRC).<sup>6</sup>

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## UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY IS ESTABLISHED

APC encouraged governments to support the creation of a Special Rapporteur with a mandate to provide guidance on the scope and content of the right to privacy. We welcomed the appointment of Joseph Cannataci as the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy.<sup>7</sup> The appointment of the first UN Special Rapporteur in this area is a historic step to address the right to privacy at the global level.

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4 [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session29/Documents/A.HRC.29.32\\_AEV.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session29/Documents/A.HRC.29.32_AEV.doc)

5 APC. (2015). Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20171>

6 APC et al. (2015). Joint Civil Society Statement to the Human Rights Council: Promote Strong Encryption and Anonymity in the Digital Age. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20580>

7 APC. (2015, 26 March). APC welcomes decision to appoint Special Rapporteur on Privacy. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20304>



Launching of the African Declaration of Internet Rights and Freedoms. PHOTO: @EKBENSAH

## DRAFTERS OF THE AFRICAN DECLARATION ON INTERNET RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

Drafters and promoters of the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms unanimously adopted and issued resolutions to popularise and implement the Declaration.<sup>8</sup> A diversity of civil society organisations in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda, as well as international partners in the United Kingdom, were represented at the March 2015 meeting where the resolutions were reached.

8 African Internet Rights Campaign. (2015, 13 March). Resolutions on the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20258>

## LOCAL, COLLECTIVE INFLUENCE AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

APC, with partners, submitted a statement on the Universal Periodic Review of Egypt,<sup>9</sup> focusing on the situation of women human rights defenders. Together with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and the International Lesbian and Gay Association, we delivered another statement highlighting the importance of encryption and anonymity for sexual rights,<sup>10</sup> particularly for people who face discrimination and persecution based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. And we called for urgent attention to the deteriorating situation in Malaysia<sup>11</sup> with regard to the rights to freedom of expression and association.

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9 ISHR, APC, AWID, & FORUM-ASIA. (2015, 20 March). HRC 28th session: Statement of ISHR, APC, AWID and FORUM-ASIA on behalf of the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20277>

10 International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, & the Association for Progressive Communications. (2015, 17 June). HRC29: Joint statement by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the International Lesbian and Gay Association and the Association for Progressive Communications. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20587>

11 Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER), & the Association for Progressive Communications. (2015, June). HRC29: Joint statement by Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER) and the Association for Progressive Communications. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20592>



New APC book 'Congo's online domestic violence map: Building access to justice, health care and social rehabilitation for survivors'. IMAGE: APC

## JUSTICE, HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION FOR SURVIVORS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Women's rights and ICT for development organisations, UN agencies, health providers, legislators, policy makers and justice enforcement bodies gained access to new learnings and challenges which should guide their next steps in their commitments to eradicate violence against women and

offer support to survivors. These learnings and challenges were identified by all actors involved in APC and AZUR Development's project "Holding government accountable to gender-based violence in the Republic of Congo."<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Higgs, K. (2015). *Congo's online domestic violence map: Building access to justice, health care and social rehabilitation for survivors*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20273>



Press conference announcing the start of a petition campaign in South Korea. PHOTO: JINBONET

## LOCAL ACTORS DEFEND INTERNET RIGHTS

APC gave support to initiatives that responded to threats to freedom of expression, privacy, access and other basic rights on the internet as part of the Local Actions to Secure Internet Rights (LASIR) project.<sup>13</sup> LASIR empowered national activists to defend human rights on the internet in a diversity of countries: South Korea, Brazil, the Philippines, India, Jordan, Uganda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya and Tunisia.

13 APC. (2015, 10 September). LASIR: Empowering national and local actors in their defence of human rights on the internet. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20852>

## SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE ACHIEVES ACCESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

APC's project to promote awareness among policy makers and regulators in Africa regarding the benefits of strategies to promote infrastructure sharing built on the report commissioned from Deloitte<sup>14</sup> by holding three workshops in collaboration with the regional regulatory associations in the respective regions of Southern Africa (CRASA/SADC), West Africa (WATRA/ECOWAS) and East Africa (EACO/EAC). Policy makers and regulators from virtually all the countries in the three regions attended the two-day workshops.

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## STRENGTHENING SEXUAL RIGHTS AND INTERNET RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

APC works with local partners to build stronger relationships between sexual rights and internet rights movements.<sup>15</sup> Together we have supported and deepened existing research on sex and technology, increased understanding of how sexual rights, internet freedoms and democratisation are connected, and helped to advance these across the internet rights ecosystem. In 2015, our work on sexual rights included the participation of two new national partners in Sri Lanka and Nepal, in addition to the continuing work with our partners in Turkey, South Africa, India and Indonesia. A highlight from our partners' work was the meeting "Porn. Panic. Ban", organised by Point of View, which brought together 50 people from different movements to interrogate the policy, discourse and legislative response to content on sexuality in India. APC supported the engagement and participation of our country partners in the Internet Governance Forum, which led to a first-time and well-attended panel on LGBT and the internet that extended the

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14 Deloitte and APC. (2015). *Unlocking broadband for all: Broadband infrastructure sharing policies and strategies in emerging markets*. <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/unlocking-broadband-all-broadband-infrastructure-s>

15 Fascendini, F. (2015, 20 May). Do you know about APC's Sexual Rights Project? *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20489>

discussions at the IGF by bringing in critical absent perspectives.<sup>16</sup> We released the results of a survey on sexuality and the internet and an in-depth analysis of selected case studies. The impact of the Facebook real name policy on the LGBTIQ community was presented at the 2015 IGF.

The second Imagine a Feminist Internet meeting took place in Malaysia in July 2015 as a continuation of the space opened in 2014.<sup>17</sup> A group of 45 activists, researchers, academics and techies deepened the discussion around feminism and technology.

## INTERNET CONTENT REGULATION PROPOSED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD

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If implemented, the Draft Online Regulation Policy proposed by the South African Film and Publication Board would, under the guise of child protection, pose serious threats to online freedom of expression. APC joined the multistakeholder process with the participation of many South African civil society and broader communications sector voices that are expressing their concern about the proposed regulations, debating about their impact on human rights online and advocating around the adoption of good practices for the government to reinforce its rights responsibilities and record.<sup>18</sup>

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16 Fascendini, F. (2015, 16 December). IGF 2015: Diversity, gender, women's and sexual rights. *GenderIT.org*. <http://www.genderit.org/node/4680>

17 Fascendini, F. (2015, 17 July). Imagine a Feminist Internet: The conversation is on! *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20690>

18 APC. (2015, 25 May). APC opposes internet content regulation proposed by South Africa's Film and Publication Board. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20518>



Participants of the Jakarta IRTX programme. PHOTO: APC

## INTERNET RIGHTS TRAINERS MEET IN JAKARTA FOR WEEK-LONG EXCHANGE

Human rights defenders, including activists working on gender and sexual rights, are increasingly experiencing technology-related human rights violations. As a response to these challenges, APC carried out an internet rights training exchange in Jakarta, the first in a series of capacity-building activities for our partners in India, Malaysia and Pakistan.<sup>19</sup> An introduction to the Feminist Principles of the Internet was a major milestone in the integration between women's rights, sexual rights and internet rights work.

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<sup>19</sup> Nachawati Rego, L. (2015, 29 May). Internet rights trainers meet in Jakarta for week-long exchange. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20530>





APC worked with Web We Want to award grants for activities that promote a free and open web.  
PHOTO: BELINDA LAWLEY, SOUTHBANK CENTRE, CC BY NC 2.0

## WEB WE WANT GRANTS PROMOTE AFRICAN DECLARATION ON INTERNET RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN SEVEN COUNTRIES

In 2015, Web We Want, in collaboration with APC, awarded small grants to promote the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms, including one to APC member PROTEGE QV in Cameroon. In addition, the Web We Want campaign worked in collaboration with APC to award five small grants to Asociația pentru Tehnologie și Internet, the Calyx Institute, European Digital Rights Initiative, Nuvem Estacao de Arte e Tecnologia and Proyecto MartAdero, organisations leading local campaign efforts to promote a free and open web.

## CONNECT YOUR RIGHTS: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS ONLINE

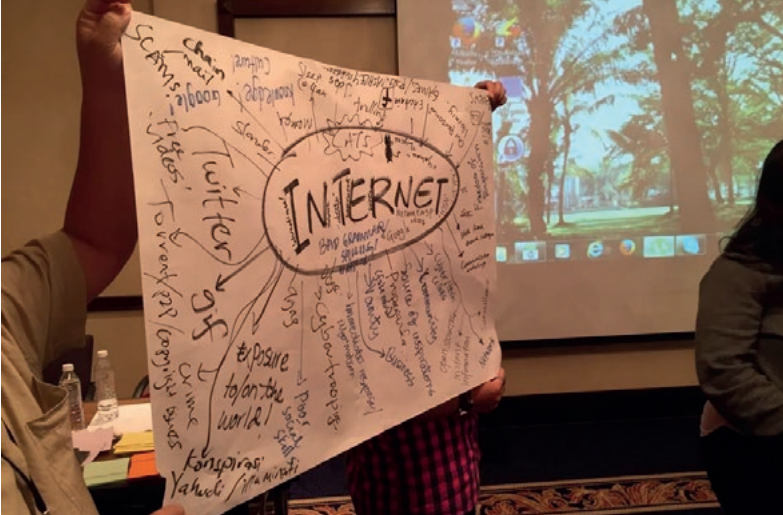
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Those with internet access are more likely to enjoy the potential realisation of rights, while those without access lack such potential. Additionally, the control of technologies is not necessarily in the hands of traditional duty bearers in human rights law. In such a scenario, what is the relationship between access to the internet and the frameworks to allow internet access as a right? The fundamental link between access and economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) are presented in the paper *Internet access and economic, social and cultural rights*.<sup>20</sup> And we discussed the issues surrounding strategies for cooperation with the technical community in the effort to advance ESCRs on the internet in the paper *How the technical community frames the Internet and economic, social and cultural rights*.<sup>21</sup>

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20 Lara, J. C. (2015). *Internet access and economic, social and cultural rights*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21088>

21 Doria, A. (2015). *How the technical community frames the Internet and economic, social and cultural rights*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21455>



The Internet Rights are Human Rights workshop for APC IMPACT project. PHOTO: APC

## RESEARCH ON INTERNET RIGHTS IN INDIA, MALAYSIA AND PAKISTAN

In 2015, APC worked with members and partners in India, Malaysia and Pakistan<sup>22</sup> to protect and promote human rights on the internet by developing a baseline for research into technology-related human rights violations. The reports “India: Limited Access Restricting Expression”,<sup>23</sup> “Status of Freedom of Expression Online: Malaysia”<sup>24</sup> and “Expression Restricted: An Account of Online Expression in Pakistan”<sup>25</sup> found that while violations are commonplace, few human rights defenders and civil society organisations have the capacity to identify and respond to technology-related human rights violations.

22 <https://www.apc.org/en/node/19943>

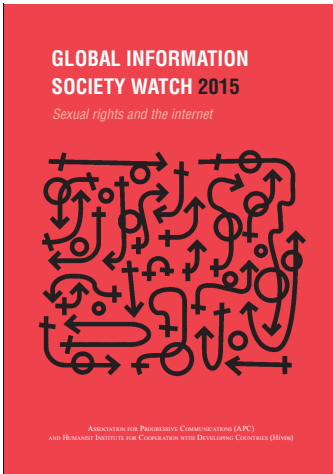
23 Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF). (2015). *India: Limited Access Restricting Expression*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21218>

24 Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER Malaysia). (2015). *Status of Freedom of Expression Online: Malaysia*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21217>

25 Bytes for All, Pakistan. (2015). *Expression Restricted: An Account of Online Expression in Pakistan*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21207>

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS SEXUAL RIGHTS

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APC's 2015 publication of GISWatch: Sexual Rights and the Internet.  
IMAGE: APC

How does the politics of sex and sexual rights activism take place online? How are generally accepted sexual identities, as well as marginalised sexualities, expressed, regulated and moralised on the internet? The 2015 edition of the Global Information Society Watch report<sup>26</sup> highlighted the politics of sex and sexual rights online. It reflected on the way sexual identity is both expressed and marginalised. Stories were submitted on sexual rights and the internet from 52 countries, and explored issues ranging from the

challenges and possibilities that the internet offers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, to female genital mutilation, the right to legal abortions, the rights of sex workers, criminalisation of sexual expression and sex education in schools, among others.

<sup>26</sup> APC & Hivos. (2015). *Global Information Society Watch 2015: Sexual rights and the internet*. <http://giswatch.org/2015-sexual-rights-and-internet>

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNET IN LATIN AMERICA

With member Derechos Digitales in Chile and Coding Rights in Brazil, APC produced a report on the most relevant developments in 2015 with respect to human rights and the internet in Latin America. The report was launched with an event hosted at the Internet Governance Forum in Joao Pessoa, Brazil.<sup>27</sup> The 17-page report and its launch event addressed a comprehensive range of issues including network neutrality, cyber security, freedom of expression, intellectual property and the right to privacy.

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## MOVING ACCESS BEYOND INFRASTRUCTURE

The pre-event called “Unboxing Gender and Access”<sup>28</sup> hosted by APC WRP at the 2015 Stockholm Internet Forum invited over 160 participants to interactively explore the multiple dimensions and intersectionalities of gender and access. It offered an honest and collaborative excavation of the gender access gap in order to understand and upfront the challenges, intersectionalities and barriers.

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27 Nachawati Rego, L. (2015, 9 November). Latin America in a Glimpse, at IGF 2015. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21286>

28 Radloff, J. (2015, 11 December). #Unboxing Gender - Stockholm Internet Forum pre-event: Gender and access. *GenderIT.org*. [www.genderit.org/articles/unboxing-gender-stockholm-internet-forum-pre-event-gender-and-access](http://www.genderit.org/articles/unboxing-gender-stockholm-internet-forum-pre-event-gender-and-access)

## REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON EXPRESSION, OPINION AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS IN ASIA



Tote bag designed for the regional consultation organised by Bytes for All, Pakistan. IMAGE: RABEEA ARIF

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In June 2015, Bytes for All, Pakistan in association with APC and several other partners in Asia organised the Regional Consultation on Expression, Opinion and Religious Freedoms in Asia, held in Jakarta, Indonesia. David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, gave the keynote address at this pioneering regional event, which brought together more than 140 human rights defenders, civil society leaders, journalists, bloggers and specialists on the subject including former UN Special Rapporteur Frank La Rue. A nine-country mapping study was also launched at the event, highlighting gaps in existing laws governing religious expression.

The objectives of the Jakarta consultation included ascertaining future advocacy goals in the region at national levels and at the UN; exploring the role of the internet in promoting religious tolerance; raising

awareness about the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence; and involving stakeholders in the debate on freedom of expression and religion. One of the main outcomes of the event was the development of the Jakarta Recommendations, aimed at different stakeholders including governments, legislators, the judiciary, the media and CSOs.

## MAPPING THE PATH FOR INTERNET FREEDOMS IN AFRICA



Report-back session at the Second Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa. PHOTO: CIPESA

Towards the end of 2015, the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) under the OpenNet Africa initiative convened the Second Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa in Kampala, Uganda. The forum brought together over 200 participants from 19 countries across the continent and beyond to deliberate on internet freedom matters. Over the course of two days, discussions explored the increasing cases of violence against women online; hate speech online; promoting access to information; the nexus between human rights defenders, activists and technology developers; freedom of artistic and

creative expression; violations of freedom of expression and free media, especially during election periods; and the proliferation of repressive laws with limited judicial oversight over surveillance and interception of communications, among others. Participants also discussed the need for increased awareness of digital safety tools and practices in Africa as enablers of freedom of expression and access to information. The forum culminated in a series of recommendations including a call for increased transparency by government and service providers in addressing online crimes such as hate speech, fraud and defamatory cases; the need for the media to play an active role in advocating for internet freedom; and the need to address gaps in existing laws that do not adequately protect citizens from mass surveillance and privacy infringements.

### **DERECHOS DIGITALES: FIGHTING SURVEILLANCE IN COURT - AND WINNING**



"We won! Privacy is our right." IMAGE: CONSTANZA FIGUEROA

In August 2015, residents and visitors in the Chilean municipalities of Las Condes and Lo Barnechea saw their right to privacy seriously threatened,

when the municipalities announced the implementation of an aggressive surveillance programme, with high-definition cameras mounted on balloons floating over the city, recording the daily activities of millions of people. The justification? Fighting crime, through the use of military technology used in conflict zones like the Gaza Strip.

Aside from the fact that municipal governments do not have the legal authority to carry out this kind of arbitrary mass surveillance, and the system would actually be administered by a private sector company in the case of Lo Barnechea, the programme would also violate the constitutional rights to privacy and to the sanctity of the home. This is why Derechos Digitales joined with two other local organisations, Fundación Datos Protegidos and Corporación Fundamental y Libertades Públicas, to file a suit on constitutional grounds before the Court of Appeals of Santiago, to halt this dangerous attack on privacy.

The Court unanimously ruled in favour of the suit, and ordered the immediate cessation of the use of the surveillance balloons. The case was moved up to the Supreme Court, where a final verdict is pending.

## WORKING FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



Digital rights workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. PHOTO: ENGAGEMEDIA

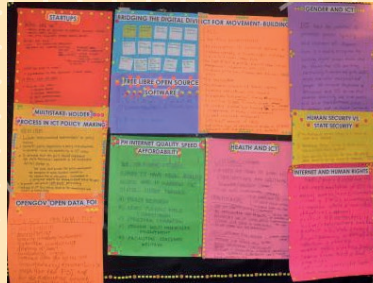
48

Following the success of the RightsCon Southeast Asia event that we co-hosted in Manila in 2015, EngageMedia has been writing, researching and organising to improve the state of digital rights in the region. In partnership with the Sinar Project in Malaysia, we organised a discussion with local civil society organisations about online privacy, freedom of expression and innovation, and particularly threats faced by politicians and activists.

Wanting to create spaces for deeper conversations and strategies on pressing digital rights issues in Indonesia, we conducted a meeting in Jakarta in collaboration with SAFENET, an Indonesian digital rights advocacy non-profit.

In Bangkok, Thailand, a public forum we held with the Thai Netizen Network saw expert speakers presenting their critique of pending internet laws in Thailand, where the junta cabinet passed eight new draft bills under the banner of “Digital Economy”.

## FMA PROMOTES PHILIPPINE DECLARATION ON INTERNET RIGHTS AND PRINCIPLES



Workshop outputs on “the Philippine internet that we want” from the Multistakeholder Forum held on 23 March. PHOTO: FMA

On 4 November 2015, the Philippine Declaration on Internet Rights and Principles was launched after several months of collective drafting and consultations with civil society internet rights groups and the ICT policy community.

The initiative for the creation of the Declaration was launched during the Philippine Multistakeholder Forum on Internet Governance, Human Rights and Development organised by the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA) on 23 March 2015. It was inspired by similar initiatives of a global or national scope (e.g. Brazil). A drafting team consisting of individuals from diverse backgrounds developed the content of the declaration. FMA also conducted broad consultations in Metro Manila, Davao City and Cebu City from August to October 2015 to solicit inputs on the initial draft. The content of the declaration was also made available online for inputs and suggestions from those who could not join the face-to-face consultations.

The Declaration focused on 10 areas: internet access for all; democratising the architecture of the internet; freedom of expression



and association; right to privacy and protection of personal data; gender equality; openness and access to information, knowledge and culture; socioeconomic empowerment and innovation; education and digital literacy; liberty, safety and security on the internet; and internet and ICTs for environmental sustainability.

The Declaration is a reflection of the dreams, hopes and aspirations of Filipinos of what the Philippine internet should be. It hopes to serve as the basis for public education, advocacy, networking and campaigns on ICT, human rights and development. As of end-2015, 23 organisations had signed the declaration, with many more expressing interest.

### THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNICATION SURVEILLANCE IN SOUTH KOREA



Participants wrote down their demands on coloured sheets of paper and presented them on the stage at the Joint Assembly of Cyber Surveillance Victims: Prologue for Counterattack, held on 1 March 2015. PHOTO: URGENT ACTION NETWORK AGAINST CYBER SURVEILLANCE, CC-BY-SA

In 2015, Jinbonet took action on a range of issues related to the communication rights of users in South Korea. One of the big issues was the surveillance of instant messenger services, which had been raised by an incident in 2014, when an investigative agency seized and searched the messages communicated through KakaoTalk, the most popular

messenger service in South Korea. The agency captured the private messages of 2,368 users who had been in the same chat rooms with the target of the investigation. After the incident, a group of 19 organisations including Jinbonet formed the Urgent Action Network against Cyber Surveillance, which launched a campaign to reform current legislation on the protection of users' communication rights. One of the actions undertaken by the network was the drafting of a bill to revise the Protection of Communications Secrets Act (PCSA) or so-called "cyber surveillance prohibition act". They succeeded in getting the bill proposed in the National Assembly on May 2015.

### MAY FIRST/PEOPLE LINK AND THE NET NEUTRALITY VOTE



A Media Action Grassroots Network rally in front of the Time-Warner building in New York City. PHOTO: MAGNET (CREATIVE COMMONS - UNRESTRICTED USE ALLOWED)

In February 2015, the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed a measure guaranteeing the neutrality of the internet and treating internet technology as a common carrier under Title II regulations. That means it is treated like telephone service – without pricing and service tiers – and unlike cable television.

This was an enormous victory for the free internet movement, which organised a grassroots campaign involving millions of people, four million of whom contacted the

FCC urging the granting of net neutrality and combined that with strategic lobbying. Large coalitions of organisations that seldom work together were built around the principle, and large numbers of people who were unaware of these issues were mobilised.

As a leader of the Media Action Grassroots Network, May First/ People Link was one of the leaders in this struggle and organised and participated in grassroots organising, lobbying Congress and the FCC (a critical part of the campaign), and spreading the message nationally through statements, articles and conference presentations. The grassroots work made all the difference: several FCC staff and commissioners credited the street rallies and four million emails with “firming up” their final decision.

The human race is facing a struggle for its own survival and it can't win that struggle without a free and fully accessible internet. It's the way we communicate worldwide: sharing information, support and thinking. This was an important step in guaranteeing the future of that critically important technology.

## MMfD WORKING ON MODEL JOURNALIST SAFETY LEGISLATION WITH UNION OF JOURNALISTS



MMfD, Bytes for All Pakistan and the PFUJ organised a candlelight vigil on 2 November 2015 to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.  
PHOTO: MMfD

With over 115 journalists and media workers killed in the line of duty since the year 2000, Pakistan remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. To date only four cases among 115 have seen any form of conviction, and impunity remains high. To tackle this issue, the Media Matters for Democracy (MMfD) team has been advocating for the adoption of special legislation for journalists' safety.

In late 2015, the Senate took up two private member bills dealing with media safety and welfare. Following that, a senate sub-committee and an inter-ministerial working committee were set up to work exclusively on journalist safety legislation. The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) was officially included in the working committee and invited MMfD team members to become a part of the process. On the government's request, we began the work on drafting model legislation. For this purpose, various consultations were held with media stakeholders, and recommendations were shared with the government. Work on the model legislation continued throughout the year, and will culminate in 2016 with the submission of the draft to the government to feed into an official Journalist Safety Bill.

## EXPLORING THE AFRICAN DECLARATION ON INTERNET RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



Participating students with their prizes and copies of the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms in booklet form. PHOTO: PROTEGE QV

On 17 September 2015, as part of the activities to mark Software Freedom Day, PROTEGE QV organised a contest for secondary school students to promote the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms, held at the École Nationale Supérieure Polytechnique in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Each of the participating students was asked to interpret one of the Declaration's 13 principles in their own words and then share it with the rest of the participants. The goal was to foster deeper understanding and a sense of ownership of the Declaration's contents. The students were awarded prizes for successful interpretations, and all of them also received a copy of the Declaration in booklet form.

## RESEARCH ON CRIMINALISATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In 2015, Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE) closely monitored freedom of expression online, and produced a research report on "Criminalization of the right to freedom of speech", an issue that has been a growing concern in Bangladesh. The study found that that Bangladesh has become authoritative in controlling

the voices of online activists and other internet users, through the ICT Act (Amended) 2013 in particular. Other laws and policies used as the basis for controlling freedom of expression both online and offline include the Penal Code of 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898, the Contempt of Court Act of 1926, the Telegraph Act of 1885, the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1933, and many others.

The motivations behind the control are seen as political, while law enforcement agencies arrest bloggers and social media activists, slap them with criminal charges and put them in jail. The report found that restrictions on online media pose a severe threat to users, thus curbing freedom of expression seriously.

The most significant threats to freedom of expression online are content blocking and targeting by the executive organs and judiciary of individuals who take to the internet to voice critical opinions. Netizens and activists face the significant risk of crossing certain lines in their online posting, such as calling for protests, exploring official and non-official corruption, or criticising high officials, the judiciary or even the "government machinery" including the president and prime minister of Bangladesh.



The VOICE office in Dhaka. PHOTO: VOICE

# 2.

FOSTERING  
GOOD  
INTERNET  
GOVERNANCE



Deborah Brown speaks at UN High Level Event on WSIS+10 in New York. PHOTO: APC

## YEAR-LONG ENGAGEMENT IN THE REVIEW OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and its outcome documents are considered cornerstones of international norms and discourse on internet policy and governance. In 2015 WSIS marked its 10th anniversary and the UN General Assembly set a year-long agenda to evaluate its progress and decide its future, a process in which APC was very active.

We participated in each of the open consultations in collaboration with partners and members, putting people's rights at the centre, in the face of increasing political and commercial control of internet spaces.

Always in collaboration with other civil society groups, we submitted a statement outlining the WSIS goal of a “people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society”, where everyone can create, access, use and share information to fully promote sustainable development and improve their quality of life. We co-organised a side event for non-governmental stakeholders to share and exchange their views and priorities with governments on WSIS+10 in a dynamic, interactive setting. We

published a book on the multistakeholder experiment that helped bring the WSIS to a successful conclusion: the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), reflecting on WGIG's procedural and substantive contributions to the evolving global internet governance dialogue and institutional ecosystem.<sup>29</sup> The WSIS+10 review culminated in a high-level meeting at the UN General Assembly in New York, in which APC participated.<sup>30</sup>

## TENTH ANNUAL INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

APC mobilised for the 10th annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Joao Pessoa, Brazil in November 2015 by leading and participating in workshops and side events and prompting dialogue around internet rights, public access and digital privacy. APC played a key role in influencing internet governance around the world. In particular, we reflect that after nine years of struggling to bring gender and sexual rights issues out of the peripheries, the link between gender and internet governance is increasingly recognised. One major highlight in this is the APC Women's Rights Programme's core participation in the Best Practice Forum on Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women panel,<sup>31</sup> which convened many multisectoral voices to give and receive feedback on the intensive intersessional work process, and in particular on the report developed by the multistakeholder group.<sup>32</sup> Nadine Moawad, APC's sexual rights project coordinator, spoke at the IGF closing ceremony.<sup>33</sup> "Freedom of speech is not the freedom to offend people who are weaker than you; is not the freedom to push

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29 Drake, W. (2015). *The Working Group on Internet Governance: 10th anniversary reflections*. <https://www.apc.org/en/WGIG>

30 <http://www.apc.org/en/node/20842>

31 Fascendini, F. (2016, 7 March). Balancing rights and interests: Best practices to counter online abuse and violence. *GenderIT.org*. <http://www.genderit.org/node/4709>

32 <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/best-practice-forums/623-bpf-online-abuse-and-gbv-against-women/file>

33 APC. (2015, 19 November). "Keep fighting for a free and open internet - if not, we are going to lose it": APC's Nadine Moawad's speech at the IGF closing ceremony. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21325>



Nadine Moawad delivers speech at the closing ceremony of the 10th Annual IGF in Joao Pessoa, Brazil. PHOTO: APC.

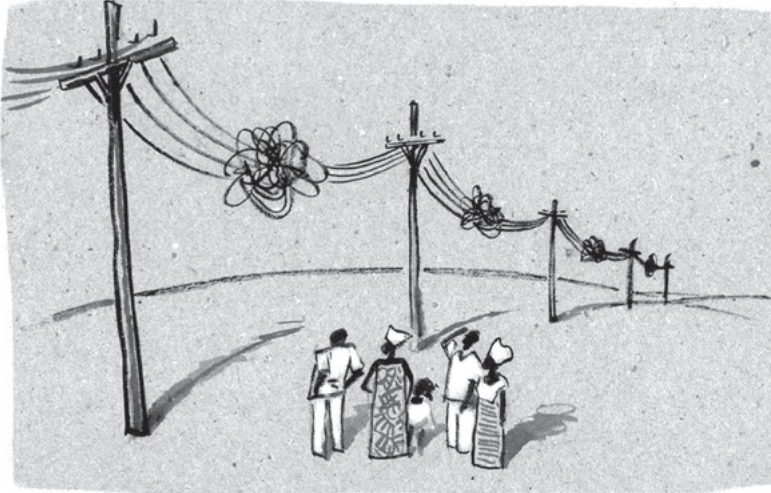
down people who are already battling against complexes of military, war, racism, genocide; (...) Freedom of speech is our right to offend those who are untouchable, those who are protected by media, by banks, by armies," Moawad emphasised to a standing ovation.

The Gender Report Card was fully and formally adopted by the IGF and the results were published on their site.<sup>34</sup> This comes as a successful result of APC's long work piloting and advocating for the formal implementation of a gender report card as a way to monitor and assess the level of gender parity and inclusion in the IGF space, since 2012 at the IGF in Nairobi.

Members and partners such as the Foundation for Media Alternatives and Point of View took over the coordination of the IGF Gender Dynamic Coalition and, among other progressive initiatives, they led a conversation and work towards developing a sexual harassment policy for the forum.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/igf-2016/takingstock/726-gender-report-card/file>



APC network works to improve access to information, and other internet rights, in Africa through a series of meetings and events in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. IMAGE: MATIAS BERVEJILLO, APC

## MOBILISING THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA

In order to contribute to the strengthening of internet governance processes and spaces in the region, APC organised and supported a series of events that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on different dates during September 2015, scheduled around the African IGF. These included the third African School on Internet Governance, organised by APC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as well as a Gender and Internet Governance eXchange (gigX).<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> APC. (2015, 29 August). Mobilising the internet governance landscape in Africa. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20885>



## ALIGNING CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE ARAB IGF

Online challenges in the Middle East and North Africa range from state surveillance to online violence against women. Prior to the Arab IGF, APC and other civil society organisations strengthened alignment and built capacity in internet rights advocacy in Lebanon and the rest of the region through an Internet Policy Camp in Beirut. The participants explored a regionally focused document advocating internet access as a fundamental right and another on the implementation of the 13 Necessary and Proportionate Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance in Tunisia.<sup>36</sup>

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## WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE

APC published an issue paper that addresses the degree to which gender and women's rights feature in internet governance, in multiple interconnected ways including, but certainly not limited to, access, content and representation.<sup>37</sup> Gender and women's rights occupy a largely rhetorical role in today's discussion of internet governance.

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<sup>36</sup> Nachawati Rego, L. (2015, 20 December). The best and worst of the Arab IGF 2015. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21447>

<sup>37</sup> Doria, A. (2015). *Women's rights, gender and Internet governance*. APC. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21266>



Gender and internet governance spaces mapping exercise during the LAC Gender and Internet Governance eXchange, July 2015. PHOTO: FLAVIA FASCENDINI

## LAC IGF

APC and partners used the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) IGF to promote a regional rights agenda, which led to the drafting and signing by civil society organisations of a Latin American declaration on the challenges of internet governance.<sup>38</sup> In addition, APC participated in many events and hosted a Gender and Internet Governance eXchange (gigX),<sup>39</sup> whose participants pushed LAC IGF panellists to examine governance concerns with a gendered lens. Derechos Digitales and APC hosted a panel and dialogue on online harassment immediately after the LAC IGF that drew youth, policy makers and representatives from the private sector. Through a collaborative effort between the eLAC process and the LAC IGF, an internet governance panel was organised for the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean. APC was invited to share a civil society perspective on the challenges of internet governance in the region.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.derechosdigitales.org/internetesnuestra/pdf/desafios-gobernanza%20eng.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> <http://gigx.events.apc.org/es/lac>



Participants at the Asia gigX in the Philippines. PHOTO: APC

## GENDER AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE EXCHANGES IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

APC organised three Gender and Internet eXchanges (gigX) in three regions, prior to the regional IGF meetings. A total of 68 women's rights, internet rights and sexual rights advocates were invited to exchange knowledge on the intersections of women's rights and internet governance. The Asia gigX took place in July in the Philippines, with the Foundation for Media Alternatives as the host for the event. In Latin America, it was held in Mexico City in August, while the Africa gigX took place in September in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.<sup>40</sup>

The gigX in these three regions enabled greater participation and representation of women in the regional IGFs, which resulted in greater visibility of gender, women's rights and sexuality issues in the debates, and significant contributions towards changing the substance of regional discussions on internet governance.

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<sup>40</sup> <http://www.genderit.org/category/tags/gigx>



The #ElephantInTheRoom campaign coincided with the 2015 GCCS to highlight the issue of surveillance conducted by governments involved in the conference. PHOTO: APC

## FACILITATING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON CYBERSPACE

APC created a resource for civil society attending the fourth Global Conference on Cyberspace,<sup>41</sup> which took place in The Hague in April 2015. The guide addressed key issues of cyber security policy relevant to human rights both at the GCCS and in other cyber security policy making spaces. In response to the event, we developed a statement on the issues discussed and what needs to be addressed before the next conference in 2017.<sup>42</sup> Doors to cyber security spaces have recently opened to civil society participation and APC and its members are establishing their commitment to work on human rights issues within this policy space.

41 APC. (2015, 15 April). "What is the Global Conference on Cyberspace?" FAQs on the GCCS, The Hague, 16-17 April 2015. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20372>

42 APC. (2015). APC statement on the Global Conference on Cyberspace, The Hague, 16-17 April 2015. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20482>

# COMMEMORATING HEIKE JENSEN AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEMINIST INTERNET GOVERNANCE THEORY AND RESEARCH

News of Heike Jensen's death from cancer, on 3 February 2014, reached internet governance academic and civil society networks a year later. As Marianne Franklin, friend and colleague from GigaNet, puts it: "The networks and the hands-on work in which Heike engaged are cross-border, cross-sector and interdisciplinary by nature and predilection. This is why news of her death has been a ripple of both physical and virtual proportions." A GenderIT.org edition<sup>43</sup> was produced in tribute to this amazing woman who contributed to our ability to question, interrogate and rebuild the institutions and architecture of the internet in more equitable ways.

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43 GenderIT.org. (2015, 17 June). Pulling apart the patriarchy: Edition in commemoration of Heike Jensen. <http://www.genderit.org/newsletter/pulling-apart-patriarchy-edition-commemoration-heike-jensen>

## CITAD DEEPENS GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNET GOVERNANCE



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Remote site participants in Kano, Nigeria following the IGF sessions in Joao Pessoa, Brazil. PHOTO: CITAD

The internet is a critical resource for development, yet discussion around its governance and policy making at the national level has tended to be limited to a few elites. This is seen in the very fact that the Internet Governance Forum is structured from the national level upward, which means the vast majority of the people have been left out. It was in recognition of this that the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) decided to drive the process down to the grassroots by embarking on an awareness-raising campaign in the northern part of Nigeria. This culminated in the hosting of the first sub-national platform to discuss internet governance. Held on 3 November 2015, in Kano, the North West Zonal Internet Governance Forum brought together over 100 people from all seven states of the zone, covering a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

The Forum, which had the blessing of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum, served as part of the national IGF preparation. One of the key outcomes was that it raised awareness about the IGF, leading to the demand for setting up a remote site in Kano for people to follow the global IGF in Joao Pessoa, Brazil. Consequently, on 11 November 2015, CITAD opened up the site for three days, allowing over 150 people to follow various sessions of the IGF. Learning from the success of this zonal forum, the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum has requested CITAD to organise similar events in the remaining five zones of the country.

## FIRST NATIONAL INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Panellists, strategic supporters and organisers at the first Bosnia and Herzegovina national IGF. PHOTO: ONEWORLD PLATFORM

On 1 October 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina held its first national Internet Governance Forum (IGF), convened by OneWorld Platform (OWP), together with

the Communications Regulatory Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

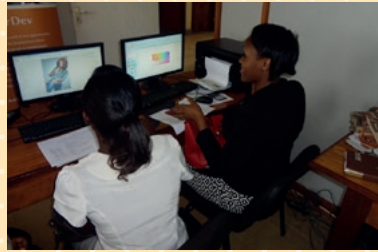
An entire day was devoted to present, discuss and understand what internet governance means at the national level. More than 150 participants, including both local and international experts, engaged in the conversation. The issues addressed ranged from cyber crime and women's experience of harassment online, to surveillance, hate speech, digital identities, and the risks faced by women, LGBTIQ and people with disabilities, among others.

We spoke about mechanisms and possibilities of the state and public institutions to protect citizens while respecting privacy, but we also reflected on the necessity of rapid response in a fast-changing technological environment and the challenge for the state and judicial system to keep up with the pace.

Two elements need to be highlighted: the emphasis on achieving a 50/50 gender balance throughout the event, and the commitment to ensuring an inclusive forum accessible to everyone, because access is the first step to foster participation, promote dialogue and generate changes.

The event was made possible with the strategic support of APC, ICANN, CoE, OSCE, Diplo Foundation, RIPE NCC and CORE Association.

## GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ICTS



WOUNGNET's Web 2.0 workshop in February 2015. PHOTO: WOUNGNET

WOUNGNET's greatest achievement of 2015 was the evidence from our project evaluation and impact assessments that our initiatives, network and platforms continue to impact local communities and citizens for the full realisation of the efficient and effective use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in addressing sustainable development issues. In 2015, our primary efforts were geared towards addressing governance, social service delivery, as well as transparency and accountability challenges at grassroots levels. With funding support from Indigo Trust, Spider and Sida, WOUNGNET was able to make a significant impact on how local service delivery eventually benefits local communities. We are also happy to have built the capacity of many women and girls, men and boys to use ICTs to document and report service delivery concerns and also to hold duty bearers accountable. All these achievements would have not been possible without financial support from our funding partners.

# 3.

STRENGTHENING  
USE AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
TECHNOLOGY





Betinho Communications Prize recipient Carlos Afonso accepting his award on stage at APC's 25th anniversary party. PHOTO: APC

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## BETINHO COMMUNICATIONS PRIZE RECOGNISES USE OF INTERNET FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT

For its 25th anniversary, APC re-launched its Betinho Communications Prize, named for Herbert de Souza (“Betinho”), which is awarded to recognise significant contributions to using the internet for social justice and development.<sup>44</sup> The award ceremony was held at APC’s 25th anniversary party in Joao Pessoa, Brazil during the 10th global IGF. Carlos Afonso was the winner of the Prize for his many years of work dedicated to promoting the internet as a tool for social justice and development.

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44 APC. (2015, 4 November). Betinho Communications Prize: Recognising remarkable contributions in using the internet for social justice and development. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21258>

## APC HOSTS “OPEN WEB” FELLOW

APC hosted Andrea Del Río, a feminist activist and technologist from Peru, as part of the 2015 Open Web Fellows programme.<sup>45</sup> The Open Web Fellowship is an international leadership initiative by the Ford Foundation and Mozilla. For 10 months, Del Río used her cutting-edge technology skills alongside APC policy experts to safeguard the internet as a global public resource.

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## FEMHACK CALLS FOR FEMINISTS TO “OCCUPY THE INTERNET!”

Take Back the Tech! joined an open call for women around the world to take part in #FemHack, a global hackathon to promote feminism online. We used it to amplify women’s voices and continue our #imagineafeministinternet discussion.<sup>46</sup>

## WEB PRESENCE REFRESHED AFTER 10 YEARS OF GENDERIT.ORG

In 2015, GenderIT.org turned 10 years old. In celebration, a new website design was launched,<sup>47</sup> responding to what readers, writers and the team identified as necessary and desired changes. The new site development was done collaboratively between a partner, member and staff, all of them deeply committed to developing technology to meet women’s needs.

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45 Knodel, M. (2015, 2 July). APC hosts “open web” advocate for 2015 Ford-Mozilla fellowship. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20641>

46 Take Back the Tech! (2015, 21 May). May 23: Femhack to occupy the internet! *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/news/may-23-femhack-occupy-internet>

47 GenderIT.org. (2015, 3 June). GenderIT.org turns 10 with a brand new face. Come have a look! *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20538>



Participants of the Gender and Tech Pop-up Institute in Germany. PHOTO: TACTICAL TECH

## GENDER AND TECH POP-UP INSTITUTE: NEW APPROACHES TO PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Tactical Technology Collective partnered with APC to host 76 women and a small group of men – human rights advocates, feminists, techies, activists – in an ageing East German “Schloss” (manor house) near the border of Poland for seven days of training, collaboration, discussion, and knowledge exchange on gender, feminism and technology.<sup>48</sup>

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48 Tactical Technology Collective. (2015, 28 January). Gender and Tech Pop-up Institute: New approaches to privacy and security. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/news/gender-and-tech-pop-institute-new-approaches-privacy-and-security>



Participants at a Disco-tech are exposed to technical aspects of internet policy in a relaxed atmosphere. PHOTO: MALLORY KNODEL; APC

## DISCO-TECH EVENT AT IGF IN BRAZIL FOCUSES ON ANONYMITY

APC hosted its third Disco-tech event at the global IGF to give civil society ICT policy advocates practical advice to protect themselves and their work.<sup>49</sup> The annual event continues to explore issues relevant to policy advocates but in the realm of technology and tools. The 2015 event was hosted in Brazil and the main question asked was whether one can truly remain anonymous in the data society. Answer: Yes.

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49 APC. (2015, 8 November). Disco-tech event at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2015). APCNews. <https://www.apc.org/en/news/disco-tech-event-internet-governance-forum-igf-2015>

**ALIN: SPINNING OFF AN ENTERPRISE**



A farmer in Meru County, where Sokopepe Limited operates. PHOTO: SOKOPEPE

In 2015, the Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) embarked on a new strategic plan aimed at consolidating the experiences gained over the last one and a half decades. The new plan is anchored on supporting agricultural production through information, knowledge provision and supporting the farmers to adapt to new ways of managing the effects of climate change. Under the technology and innovation programme, ALIN aims to support individuals with innovative ideas, developing these ideas from pilot to scale-up.

In the last two years, ALIN has successfully nurtured a social enterprise, Sokopepe Limited,<sup>50</sup> which offers farmers information and knowledge management services, including the Farm Records Management Information Service (FARMIS) tool. FARMIS enables farmers to treat farming as a business, and aim for profit and sustainability. It allows farmers to track the different processes on the farm and keep an accurate record of their expenditure on purchasing inputs, tilling, planting, harvesting, post harvesting and selling. They can then easily compute their profits and use the system to generate a profit and loss statement.

<sup>50</sup> [www.sokopepe.co.ke](http://www.sokopepe.co.ke)

This is essential in developing a farmer profile for access to credit and support services.

With support from USAID through Land O'Lakes, Sokopepe was able to reach 6,300 farmers against a target of 5,000 during the proof of concept stage. The grant has been extended to cover the pilot stage with the aim of reaching 16,000 farmers. During the pilot, Sokopepe hopes to prove a business case that is sustainable.

**CITIZENS OBSERVATORY URGES YOUNG PARAGUAYANS TO "KICK UP A FUSS"**



A poster contest was organised to encourage young people to participate in the 2015 municipal elections.

One of Asociación Trinidad: Comunicación, Cultura y Desarrollo's main activities in 2015 was the project Mirá: Observatorio Ciudadano,

a citizens' observatory aimed at compiling, summarising and disseminating information on the performance of the municipal government councils of Asunción and Mariano Roque Alonso, and their members, during an eight-month period. The objective of the project was to offer quantitative information to the general public, community organisations, social movements, public and private institutions, political parties, business associations, business owners, etc.

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The project also monitored the appearance of municipal government representatives in the press (in print and online), complaints and requests directed to the municipal councils by citizens, and the voting records and absences of council members during regular and special sessions.

A further goal of the Mirá: Observatorio Ciudadano project was to promote active and informed participation by young people in the 2015 municipal elections. The findings of the eight-month monitoring process carried out through the project served as the basis for an informational campaign aimed at young people voting for the first time. The name of the campaign was taken from Pope Francis's message to youth from around the world gathered in Rio de Janeiro: "¡Hagan lío!" ("Kick up a fuss!").

## JUVENTIC: ICT CAPACITY BUILDING FOR YOUTH



Participants in the first JuvenTIC workshop.  
PHOTO: CAROLINA ROBERTO

In 2015 Colnodo, with the support of Google, implemented the JuvenTIC project, aimed at improving the living conditions of young Colombians through the strengthening of ICT capacities and skills, which will allow them to compete more effectively in the job market, earn higher incomes, and therefore be able to pursue higher level studies.

Colnodo has considerable experience in basic ICT training. However, as digital natives, young people demand programmes like JuvenTIC that will enable them to seek better employment, create their own small enterprises, or work in the content production industry.

JuvenTIC is targeted at young people between the ages of 16 and 28 who have not completed higher studies, who live in outlying areas or small municipalities, and who face conditions of vulnerability. The project offers a 120-hour training course that is certified as a diploma programme by a partner university. The subjects covered include online marketing, digital content design and production, and local information systems management.

During 2015, two training cycles were completed, attracting more than 7,000 applicants from throughout the country. Of these, 2,374 entered

the training programme, and 972 were certified. The first graduation ceremony was held in Bogotá, with 120 young graduates from 28 towns and cities. It was attended by the Colombian minister of ICT and Vint Cerf, vice president and chief internet evangelist at Google.

In an evaluation of the programme, 94% of the young participants said JuvenTIC made a useful contribution to their futures, 91% said it had lived up to their expectations, and 98.4% said they would recommend the programme to others.

### DEMOS: CHANGING THE FACE OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA



The call for Guatemalans to take to the streets to protest quickly went viral. PHOTO: DEMOS

In Guatemala, 25 April 2015 marked the date of the first mass mobilisation convened by the middle classes through social media, using the hashtag #RenunciaYa (“Resign Now”). The mobilisation emerged from the outrage sparked when the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) exposed a criminal corruption ring involving government officials, including the president and vice president. The call for Guatemalans to take to the streets and gather in the Plaza de la Constitución in the country’s capital to protest quickly went viral.

One hashtag succinctly described both those who launched the call and those to whom it was targeted: “#Se metieron con la generación equivocada” (loosely translated, “They messed with the wrong generation”). Young women and men seized the initiative and voiced their opposition through social media, sharing messages that ridiculed and satirised the traditional political class in Guatemala. Those who gathered in the plaza took part in a range of protest activities, such as concerts, candlelight vigils, torchlight marches, with participants from both urban and rural areas. But all of the activities had one thing in common: peaceful protest.

Social networking platforms helped to shape a citizens’ movement that changed the face of political participation in Guatemalan society. Information and communications technologies, and particularly internet-based tools, have heightened global awareness of the need for greater transparency in political activity in general.

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### PRESERVING CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE



Under the eHeritage Project, DEF regularly organises heritage walks and story-telling sessions to digitally document the oral history of Old Delhi. PHOTO: DEF

Almost every Indian city is replete with rich culture, traditions, sacred spaces and historical sites that illustrate the

country's unique heritage. At a time of rapid modernisation of public spaces in India – sometimes to the detriment of heritage sites and cultural traditions – it becomes critical to preserve the real heritage, making it accessible to all for the sake of posterity. Since most heritage sites are not featured online, Digital Empowerment Foundation's e-Heritage Project seeks to collaborate with communities to bring heritage and oral history into the digital space.

DEF has launched two pilot websites for Shahjahanabad (as the old city of Delhi is historically known) and Chanderi (in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh) to digitally enhance their heritage and showcase the potential of the areas through rich text, beautiful photographs and interesting videos.

The e-Heritage Project in Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi)<sup>51</sup> is an ongoing initiative under which we document anecdotes and oral history. We also host an annual fellowship for youngsters from Old Delhi and heritage enthusiasts from New Delhi to carry out research on various topics, and regularly organise events and activities like heritage walks and story-telling sessions to involve the community.

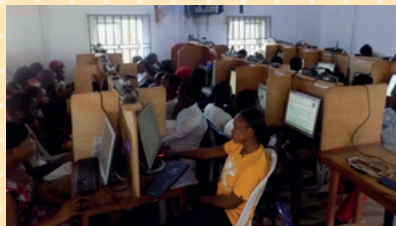
In Chanderi, more than 300 heritage sites have already been given a digital presence.<sup>52</sup> This online visibility of the heritage of Chanderi has played a key role in the decision of the Archaeological Survey of India to undertake the preservation and protection responsibilities of 40 monuments there. A boom in tourism in Chanderi can also be credited to the e-Heritage Project.

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51 [olddelhiheritage.in](http://olddelhiheritage.in)

52 [chanderiheritage.in](http://chanderiheritage.in)

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE FOR A RURAL CBT CENTRE



Students writing exams in the Fantsuam Foundation CBT centre. PHOTO: FANTSUAM FOUNDATION

In April 2015, Fantsuam Foundation took a bold decision which was also a gamble. Our financial resources were drying up and we needed to quickly come up with alternative and sustainable sources of income for the organisation. This pressure helped us to see a possible area of service that could also be profitable: establishing a Computer-Based Test (CBT) centre.

The Nigerian educational system requires that all university applicants sit for a qualifying examination, online. This policy was lauded as timely and critical for the integrity of the examinations, except that not enough thought was given to the level of computer literacy of the students and the availability of relevant infrastructure for rural and remotely-based communities. As a promoter of internet access and skills for rural and under-served communities, this was a challenge that Fantsuam Foundation had to face.

The week of 7 March 2016 was an exciting one for everyone in Bayan Loco, Kafanchan, as the village hosted the largest number of visitors ever: during that one week, the newly opened CBT centre at Fantsuam Foundation hosted almost 3,000 students for the 2016 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). This was a big dream come through.



## DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS



Training participants were taken through practical steps in evaluating the digital security tools and applications available and determining which ones they would need for their daily work. PHOTO: KICTANET

As part of the ongoing efforts to promote both internet and traditional media freedoms, in July 2015 the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) conducted a digital security training event for human rights defenders, journalists and bloggers. The event had 25 participants who were taken through practical steps in evaluating the digital security tools and applications available and determining which ones they would need for their daily work. Ethical issues such as responsible speech and laws touching on digital expression were also covered. This was useful particularly to the journalists and bloggers, as there have been rising incidents of arrests among them over their online content.

KICTANet noted that more training and follow-up workshops need to be conducted. After returning to their daily routines, the participants sometimes stop using these safety tools because they lack people to use them with. There is still little awareness among activists and organisations on digital safety. KICTANet is partnering with more organisations in organising more trainings this year, some of which will specifically address women journalists' safety online.

## TRUTHMETER.MK – HOLDING POLITICIANS AND INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE



With the Truthmeter web platform, the Metamorphosis Foundation is offering one more tool for increasing political parties' responsibility and accountability to the citizens. IMAGE: METAMORPHOSIS

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In order to enable the citizens of Macedonia to hold their politicians accountable and incite public institutions to become more transparent, Metamorphosis has been operating the Truthmeter web platform<sup>53</sup> since 2011. Publishing in Macedonian, Albanian and English, it provides objective analyses of politicians' statements and fulfilment of election promises. Responding to the intensification of the political crisis spurred by the publication of leaked wiretaps at the beginning of 2015, revealing deep-rooted political corruption, the Truthmeter team created an archive of all related materials accompanied by analytical articles explaining the significance of the wiretaps' contents from the perspective of human rights violations and other criminal activity.

In a situation of increased efforts to obstruct justice through use of captured state institutions, and intensified propaganda which includes direct pressure against civil

53 [truthmeter.mk](http://truthmeter.mk)

society and independent media, this public record serves as a resource for civil society organisations and activists, investigative journalists and individual citizens demanding justice and restoration of democracy in Macedonia. In particular it is used as a reference by digital activists advocating privacy and freedom of expression, as well as protesters who need to overcome the spin and media manipulation prevalent in mainstream media.

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The website receives around 5,000 visitors per day. All the content is licensed under Creative Commons and is available for republishing. Moreover, a dozen online media outlets in Macedonia regular republish articles from Truthmeter, increasing its outreach and impact.

### SHINING A LIGHT ON “TRIGGER-HAPPY” POLICE



Portrait of a victim of “trigger-happy” police.  
PHOTO: <https://rosariogatilofacil.wordpress.com>

During 2015, Nodo TAU began to work on the publication of a series of reports about a worrying number of cases of “gatillo fácil” – boys being shot and killed by “trigger-happy” security forces in doubtful situations – in the city of Rosario, Argentina. The stories were covered by a journalist and editor at enREDando, the Nodo TAU web portal that works with social organisations. This is a very valuable initiative that highlights

certain commonalities in these cases, regarding the behaviour of the security forces, and the obstacles that these boys’ families face in access to justice. The stories are presented in a multimedia way, which includes detailed reports featured on a website<sup>54</sup> and micro documentary videos about the stories and the struggle of the families involved. We developed this project in conjunction with a local cooperative of journalists.

### HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY FOR ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY



A pregnant mother receives health information through an automatic call over the IVR platform developed by Open Institute’s SPICE programme. PHOTO: FANI LLAURADO (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)

During 2015 Open Institute continued its work to ensure that technology can be used to facilitate fair and just development in Cambodia. In particular, it completed the Structuring Partnerships for

54 <https://rosariogatilofacil.wordpress.com>

an Innovative Communications Environment (SPICE) programme, designed to promote and deliver a greater diversity of information and services to the Cambodian public; to improve communications in Khmer using mobile devices; and to increase the capacity of civil society organisations and government to use communication technologies for development purposes. Over the two and a half years of the programme, SPICE delivered 37 technology solutions that helped civil society organisations and the Cambodian government magnify the impact of their programmes on their target beneficiaries. The programme, funded by USAID, reached directly or helped these partners reach over 1.2 million Cambodian citizens with information, services and training. It also reinforced the connection of civil society organisations among themselves, and succeeded in creating a strong youth movement centred on technological development, with over 16,000 participants in events organised by the programme.

The interactive voice response (IVR) platform created by SPICE – key to many of the applications developed – was given the award for Best ICT Solution for Development in Asia in 2014. One of the applications supported, a service that automatically calls new mothers and provides pre-recorded messages that are key for the health of the baby – done in collaboration with People in Need – was considered the best NGO application for development in ASEAN in 2015.

## GENERATING AGENTS OF CHANGE WITH GENERATION 3.0



Future agents of change at a training workshop in Los Chiles. PHOTO: SULÁ BATSÚ

Cooperativa Sulá Batsú put its experience in innovation and entrepreneurship based on cooperative values and principles to work for the Generation 3.0 project, implemented in the community of Los Chiles in northern Costa Rica.

The main objective of Generation 3.0, implemented with the support of the Telefónica Foundation, was to generate agents of change in the community by way of hands-on training, developing content and tools to provide digital solutions to the needs identified by the community itself.

More than 120 young people were trained in various courses on ICT use. Each course was made up by six working sessions of six hours each. The young women and men participating in the project learned about the strategic use of basic tools, both computers and mobile phones, in addition to training in specific topics conducted with free applications that enable the design and development of enterprises and business opportunities.

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# 4.

## ENDING TECHNOLOGY- BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

## TAKE BACK THE TECH! CAMPAIGN IGNITES SHARING OF STRATEGIES TO COUNTER ONLINE VAW

APC's Take Back the Tech! (TBTT) campaign was globally recognised by over 4,800 voters who made it the winner of the prestigious Bobs Award in the People's Choice for English category.<sup>55</sup> Yet, despite global attention, technology-related violence against women (VAW) is still minimised and misunderstood. For the 2015 campaign during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, TBTT called for campaign participants to share their strategies and take back the tech!<sup>56</sup>

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## TBTT AND THE OAXACA CYBERFEMINIST FAIR: FEMINIST INTERNET HERE AND NOW!

The Oaxaca Cyberfeminist Fair was fun on overdrive, with stands to dismantle and re-build your computer, play Trans-Hack-Fem Bingo to learn about women in tech and digital security, do-it-yourself collages to question gender binaries, knitting as an intro to programming, the launch of a local mesh network idea and, of course, a machitroll piñata to symbolise the online misogyny that Take Back the Tech! fights against. At the fair women took control of technology via an autonomous cell phone network whose terms of service included the Feminist Principles of the Internet. TBTT campaigner Palabra Radio in Oaxaca organised the fair with feminist techies and activists from Mexico City, Puebla, Guadalajara and Chiapas, and the organisation Rhizomatica in Oaxaca.

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55 Fascendini, F. (2015, 6 May). Take Back the Tech! campaign wins The Bobs award in People's Choice for English category. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20443>

56 Take Back the Tech! (2015, 20 November). Strengthen solidarity: Share your strategies for countering violence against women. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21332>

## #CAMPAIGNERS MOBILISE WHEN TBTT UNDER ATTACK

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Throughout the month of October 2015, misogynists, trolls and a variety of people who associate with the #Gamergate hashtag occupied the #TakeBackTheTech and #ImagineAFeministInternet hashtags by posting thousands of anti-feminist and misogynistic tweets and memes.<sup>57</sup> The TBTT community responded in multiple languages, networking online and behind the scenes, sharing support and strategies. TBTT's strong and diversified network was able to circumvent this deliberate, planned and coordinated effort to silence women's voices. Known for its strong stance on freedom of expression, TBTT favours online dialogue, but like so many attacks against feminism and feminists, dialogue was rejected by trolls and the attack quickly escalated to online violence, with threats targeting individuals in our community including images of physical and sexual violence against women and attempts to dox campaigners.

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57 APC. (2015, October). Facts on #TakeBacktheTech. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/facts-takebackthetech>



Jan Moolman and Jac sm Kee speak at the CSW to present APC's research on technology-related violence against women. PHOTO: APC

## TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE BEIJING DECLARATION

Between 9 and 20 March, APC's Women's Rights Programme (APC WRP) members attended the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York,<sup>58</sup> which focused on the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. APC developed the "10 points on Section J: How technology issues impact women's rights",<sup>59</sup> which described ICT's growing impact on a variety of issues related to women's rights, from access and agency to economics and ecology.

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58 Fascendini, F. (2015, 6 March). APC at the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20187>

59 APC. (2015, 9 March). 10 points on Section J: How technology issues impact women's rights. *GenderIT.org*. <http://www.genderit.org/node/4262>

APC WRP also presented the final findings of the research “From impunity to justice: Exploring corporate and legal remedies for technology-related violence against women”<sup>60</sup> at the CSW session. And, as part of the Steering Committee of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG), led by UNESCO, APC WRP actively participated in an intense social media campaign for #SectionJ.<sup>61</sup>

In the end, the exclusion of women’s rights activists from both the negotiation of the political declaration and the CSW Methods of Work resolution resulted in the failure of the Commission to confront the real challenges that women and girls around the world face.<sup>62</sup> Women and the media is one of those imperative issues. Notably, tech-based VAW, hate speech and misogyny were examined in several high-level and side events, and the Feminist Principles of the Internet sparked debate online throughout CSW sessions.

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60 APC. (2015, 12 March). Research findings on technology-based violence against women to be launched at 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20225>

61 GAMAG. (2015, 30 April). Women and the media: Join the debate in May! *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20429>

62 Fascendini, F. (2015, 20 March). Section J: From footnotes to headlines. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20266>





APC members OneWorld Platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina support the Web We Want campaign. PHOTO: ONEWORLD PLATFORM

## CORPORATE AND LEGAL REMEDIES FOR TECHNOLOGY-RELATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

APC published a series of reports presenting the findings from a multi-country research project on technology-related violence against women.<sup>63</sup> This was the first ever multi-country research on online VAW, both in relation to corporations as well as domestic legal remedies, and all its elements represent a significant contribution to the body of knowledge and recognition of online VAW, particularly from the perspectives of the global South.

The research reveals a lack of access to justice for survivors and highlights the voices and experiences of women who have faced technology-related VAW and sought justice through state agencies and internet intermediaries. The research identifies available legal remedies, and analyses their strengths

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63 Fascendini, F. (2015, 9 March). Research results are out! From impunity to justice: Exploring corporate and legal remedies for technology-related violence against women. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20207>

and limitations. Online VAW<sup>64</sup> is a website that collects all the resources produced as part of this research, which involved partners from seven countries.

GenderIT.org featured the results<sup>65</sup> of the global and national research through eight thematic editions. The research teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan and the Philippines, were interviewed to capture the essence of the challenges faced and the main findings in their local research.

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## STATES URGED TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Human Rights Council resolution “Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: eliminating domestic violence” recognised that violence against women can include acts such as cyber bullying and cyber stalking, both expressions of online VAW that APC’s research and statements at the HRC and CSW spotlighted.<sup>66</sup> During the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women at the 29th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, APC delivered an oral statement<sup>67</sup> calling on all states to develop effective responses to technology-related violence against women as a matter of urgency as part of their existing obligations to uphold women’s human rights.

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64 <http://www.genderit.org/onlinevaw>

65 GenderIT.org. (2015, 16 January). Exploring remedies for technology-based violence against women. <http://www.genderit.org/edition/exploring-remedies-technology-based-violence-against-women>

66 <http://www.genderit.org/resources/hrc-29-resolution-accelerating-efforts-eliminating-all-forms-violence-against-women-elimin>

67 APC. (2015, 17 June). APC’s Oral Statement on Violence against Women at the UN Human Rights Council. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20583>

# DUE DILIGENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

APC and partners organised a two-day expert group meeting on “Due diligence for violence against women online: The role of the state and internet intermediaries” in Florence, Italy in October 2015.<sup>68</sup> The significance of this meeting lies in the fact that it began to unpack key and contentious issues related to online VAW and freedom of expression, focusing on principles to guide states and intermediaries in developing responses.

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68 APC. (2015, 9 October). Expert group meeting: Due diligence and accountability for online violence against women. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21138>

## A LAW FOR THE PREVENTION OF DIGITAL VIOLENCE



Eduardo Rojas of Fundación REDES addressing the Bolivian Chamber of Senators on the subject of digital violence. PHOTO: FUNDACIÓN REDES

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Between May and November 2015, a technical team from the Chamber of Senators of Bolivia and Fundación REDES jointly conducted an analysis of 200 cases of “digital violence” – violations perpetrated through the use of ICTs – reported in the national and international press. Every day there is growing evidence of the violation of human rights in the online environment, involving individuals, businesses and governments. Digital violence has negative impacts on multiple levels – individual and collective, local, national, transnational and global – as well as in both the online and offline worlds.

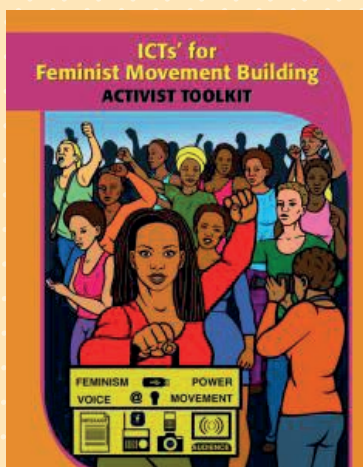
On the basis of a diagnostic analysis of digital violence in Bolivia, Fundación REDES and the Bolivian government will work together to design a National Integrated Multisectoral System for the Prevention of Digital Violence, whose principal aim will be the creation of standards for preventing and responding to digital violence.

The system will involve the participation and interaction of three major sectors: the public sector (public institutions, authorities and officials); the private sector

(telecom service providers, ISPs, web developers); and civil society (CSOs, NGOs, social movements, and indigenous and other local communities).

Fundación REDES is also working with the Bolivian government on the development of a Law for the Prevention of Digital Violence,<sup>69</sup> which will encompass three phases: conducting a national diagnostic analysis, collective drafting of technical recommendations at the national and international level, and finally the drafting and tabling of a bill.

## ICTS FOR FEMINIST MOVEMENT BUILDING: AN ACTIVIST TOOLKIT



The toolkit aims to assist activists to think through their communication strategies in a way that supports movement building.

Women’sNet in partnership with Just Associates and APC produced an activist toolkit – ICTs for Feminist

<sup>69</sup> A video about the law, published on the Bolivian Senate website, is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg212L9i3eA>

Movement Building<sup>70</sup> – as part of the Building Women’s Collective Power Partnership (BWCPP), a JASS Southern Africa project, with the support of Comic Relief.

In this toolkit, we draw on the experience and contexts of women activists in southern Africa and beyond. And while we focus on women’s rights activists, anyone who is part of a movement for social change will find it useful.

The toolkit aims to assist activists to think through their communication strategies in a way that supports movement building. It offers

a practical guide to writing a communication strategy and reviews a number of ICT tools and technology-related campaigns which can be used in organising work.

The toolkit is also about feminist practice and how to use tools and communicate in ways that are democratic and make women’s voices stronger and louder while challenging stereotypes and discriminatory social norms. We hope it will assist activists in making creative, safe and sustainable choices in using ICTs in their communication strategies.

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70 [www.apc.org/en/pubs/icts-feminist-movement-building-activist-toolkit](http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/icts-feminist-movement-building-activist-toolkit)

# 5.

## STRENGTHENING APC COMMUNITY NETWORKS



APC Europe regional member meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria. PHOTO: APC

## REGIONAL MEMBER MEETINGS

Five regional member meetings in 2015 responded to repeated calls for more face-to-face networking and collaboration opportunities, as well as for strengthening APC regional networks.

The Asia members meeting was held in Manila, Philippines on 26-27 March alongside the RightsCon 2015 event. European members gathered in Sofia, Bulgaria on 6-8 June 2015, LAC members in Mexico City, Mexico from 31 July to 2 August, and African members in Addis Ababa on 9-10 September 2015 alongside those regions' Internet Governance Forums. The North America members meeting was held in Philadelphia on 22-24 June alongside the United States Social Forum.

Regional member meetings form an important component of APC's network development strategy. Face-to-face meetings and collaboration among members and APC staff are considered to be key for strengthening links within the network, and they provide space for collective thinking and planning, which is invaluable for any geographically dispersed network. Moreover, regional meetings boost the potential for regional collaboration within APC, which has been identified as a priority for the past several years.

We had greater than 91% turnout for member representation at the meetings, and full participation from members in the African member meeting. Individual members attended regional meetings for the first time and APC staff members were also well represented.

# NEW MEMBERS

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In 2015, APC was joined by three organisational members in Nigeria, Bolivia and Pakistan, profiled below. We also gained seven new individual members: Mario Morales (Colombia), Natasha Msonza (Zimbabwe), Leonardo Maccari (Italy), Inam Ali (Jordan), Stéphane Couture (Canada), William Drake (Switzerland) and Makane Faye (Ethiopia).

## CENTRE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT



Participants in a CITAD workshop. SOURCE: CITAD

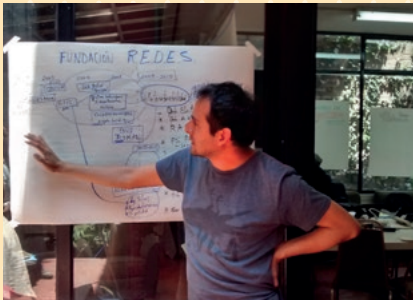
For over 15 years, the mission of Nigeria's Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) has been to promote the use of ICTs to empower citizens for

a just and knowledge-based society that is anchored on sustainable and balanced development. Its main areas of work include empowering women and girls for ICT-based small-scale entrepreneurship, social media-based campaigns for peace and national cohesion, promoting democratic accountability using ICTs, and e-mentoring. CITAD provides a range of services related to development through the use of ICTs.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>71</sup> APC. (2015, 7 August). APC's new member, CITAD, in the words of a founder. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/20763>



## FUNDACIÓN REDES



Eduardo Rojas explaining the different areas of Fundación REDES' work. PHOTO: FLAVIA FASCENDINI

Fundación REDES, an organisation based in La Paz, Bolivia, works both nationally and regionally in various programmes and projects in areas such as local development, integrated knowledge building at the national level, integrated environmental management, and sustainable development in relation to technology, among others, as well as special projects that range from support for migrant communities to training for young university researchers in Bolivia.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Fascendini, F. (2015, 28 September). Introducing Fundación REDES, APC's new member in Bolivia. *APCNews*. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/21096>

## MEDIA MATTERS FOR DEMOCRACY



Connected and safe: Digital safety training for enabling secure access for female journalists in Pakistan. PHOTO: MMFD

Media Matters for Democracy (MMfD) is a small Pakistani non-profit organisation working locally and nationally. Its work aims to foster the independence of both online and offline media, their responsibility and accountability, and their high journalistic standards. The organisation supports media in the incorporation of innovation and technology into their work. MMfD takes a rights-based approach towards media regulation and internet governance.

# INSIDE APC

## APC member organisations

APC has 48 organisational members in 33 countries



ILLUSTRATION: APC

# Our members

In December 2015, APC had 47 organisational members and 26 individual members, with the majority in the global South.

APC added three new organisational members in 2015, and lost one of its older members. In 2015, we were joined by seven new individual members.

## APC INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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AHM Bazlur Rahman, <b>Bangladesh</b>	Michael Jensen, <b>Brazil</b>
Avri Doria, <b>United States</b>	Natasha Msonza, <b>Zimbabwe</b>
Eiko Kawamura, <b>Peru</b>	Patience Luyeye, <b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>
Emma Reade, <b>France</b>	Poncelet Ileleji, <b>Gambia</b>
Florence Bakka, <b>Uganda</b>	Rafik Dammak, <b>Japan</b>
Inam Ali, <b>Jordan</b>	Rashid Saeed, <b>Sudan</b>
Jan Malík, <b>Czech Republic</b>	Rolf Kleef, <b>Netherlands</b>
Jeanette Hofmann, <b>Germany</b>	Roxana Goldstein, <b>Argentina</b>
Jorge Escobar Sarria, <b>Colombia</b>	Serge Ziehi, <b>Guinea</b>
Leonardo Maccari, <b>Italy</b>	Stéphane Couture, <b>Canada</b>
Makane Faye, <b>Ethiopia</b>	Towela Nyirenda-Jere, <b>South Africa</b>
Mario Enrique Morales Rincon, <b>Colombia</b>	Vera Vieira, <b>Brazil</b>
Melaku Girma, <b>Ethiopia</b>	William J. Drake, <b>Switzerland</b>

# APC member organisations in 2015

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## AFRICA

### Cameroon

#### PROTEGE QV

[www.protegeqv.org](http://www.protegeqv.org)

### Congo, Republic of

#### AZUR Développement

[www.azurdev.org](http://www.azurdev.org)

### Egypt

#### ArabDev (until June)

[www.arabdev.org](http://www.arabdev.org)

### Kenya

#### Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)

[www.alin.or.ke](http://www.alin.or.ke)

#### Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet)

[www.kictanet.or.ke](http://www.kictanet.or.ke)

### Nigeria

#### Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) (as of August)

[www.citad.org](http://www.citad.org)

#### Fantsuam Foundation

[www.fantsuam.net](http://www.fantsuam.net)

### South Africa

#### Community Education Computer Society (CECS)

[www.cecs.org.za](http://www.cecs.org.za)

#### Southern African NGO Network (SANGONet)

[www.sangonet.org.za](http://www.sangonet.org.za)

## Women'sNet

[www.womensnet.org.za](http://www.womensnet.org.za)

### Uganda

#### Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

[www.cipesa.org](http://www.cipesa.org)

#### Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)

[www.wougnnet.org](http://www.wougnnet.org)

## ASIA

### Bangladesh

#### Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES)

[www.bfes.net](http://www.bfes.net)

#### Bytes For All, Bangladesh

[www.bytesforall.org](http://www.bytesforall.org)

#### Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (VOICE)

[www.voicebd.org](http://www.voicebd.org)

### Cambodia

#### Open Institute

[www.open.org.kh/en](http://www.open.org.kh/en)

### India

#### Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

[www.defindia.net](http://www.defindia.net)

#### Society for Promotion of Alternative Computing and Employment (SPACE)

[www.space-kerala.org](http://www.space-kerala.org)

## Indonesia

**EngageMedia**  
[www.engagemedia.org](http://www.engagemedia.org)

## Japan

**Japan Computer Access for Empowerment (JCAFE)**  
[www.jcafe.net/english](http://www.jcafe.net/english)

**Japan Computer Access Network (JCA-NET)**  
[www.jca.apc.org](http://www.jca.apc.org)

## Pakistan

**Bytes for All, Pakistan**  
[www.bytesforall.pk](http://www.bytesforall.pk)

**Media Matters for Democracy (MMfD) (as of November)**  
[www.mediamatters.pk](http://www.mediamatters.pk)

## Philippines

**Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)**  
[www.fma.ph](http://www.fma.ph)

## South Korea

**Korean Progressive Network Jinbonet**  
[www.jinbo.net](http://www.jinbo.net)

## Thailand

**Thai Netizen Network**  
[www.thainetizen.org](http://www.thainetizen.org)

## EUROPE

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

**OneWorld Platform**  
[www.oneworldplatform.net](http://www.oneworldplatform.net)

### Bulgaria

**BlueLink.net**  
[www.bluelink.net](http://www.bluelink.net)

### Macedonia

**Metamorphosis Foundation**  
[www.metamorphosis.org.mk](http://www.metamorphosis.org.mk)

### Romania

**StrawberryNet**  
[www.sbnnet.ro](http://www.sbnnet.ro)

### Spain

**Pangea**  
[www.pangea.org](http://www.pangea.org)

## UK

**Computer Aid International**  
[www.computeraid.org](http://www.computeraid.org)

**GreenNet**  
[www.gn.apc.org](http://www.gn.apc.org)

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Argentina

**Nodo TAU**  
[www.tau.org.ar](http://www.tau.org.ar)

### Bolivia

**Fundación REDES para el Desarrollo Sostenible (as of August)**  
[www.fundacionredes.org](http://www.fundacionredes.org)

### Brazil

**Núcleo de Pesquisas, Estudos e Formação (Nupef)**  
[www.nupef.org.br](http://www.nupef.org.br)

### Chile

**ONG Derechos Digitales**  
[www.derechosdigitales.org](http://www.derechosdigitales.org)

### Colombia

**Colnodo**  
[www.colnodo.apc.org](http://www.colnodo.apc.org)

### Costa Rica

**Sulá Batsú**  
[www.sulabatsu.com](http://www.sulabatsu.com)

### Guatemala

**Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios para la Democracia Social (DEMOS)**  
[www.guatemalademos.org](http://www.guatemalademos.org)

### Paraguay

**Asociación Trinidad Comunicación, Cultura y Desarrollo**  
[www.radioviva.com.py](http://www.radioviva.com.py)

**Venezuela**

**Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana de Redes (EsLaRed)**  
www.eslared.org.ve

**NORTH AMERICA\*****Canada**

**Alternatives**  
www.alternatives.ca

**eQualit.ie**  
www.equalit.ie

**Web Networks**  
www.web.net

**USA**

**Institute for Global Communications (IGC)**  
www.igc.org

**LaborNet**  
www.labornet.org

**May First/People Link**  
www.mayfirst.org

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN 2015****Africa**

**ALIN, Kenya**  
James Nguo

**ArabDev, Egypt**  
Leila Hassanin

**AZUR Développement, Republic of Congo**  
Blanche Olga Zissi, Sylvie Niombo

**CECS, South Africa**  
Arnold Pietersen

**CIPESA, Uganda**  
Vincent Bagiire, Lillian Nalwoga

**CITAD, Nigeria**  
Yunusa Ya'u, Asabe Sadiya Mohammed

**Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria**  
John Dada, Kazanka Comfort

**KICTANet, Kenya**  
Alice W. Munyua, Grace Githaiga

**PROTEGE QV, Cameroon**  
Sylvie Siyam, Avis Momeni

**SANGONeT, South Africa**  
Kenneth Thlaka

**Women'sNet, South Africa**  
Sharron Marco-Thyse, Tina Thiar

**WOUGNET, Uganda**  
Moses Owiny, Dorothy Okello

**Asia**

**BFES, Bangladesh**  
Reza Salim, Tahmina Ferdousy (from March)

**Bytes For All, Bangladesh**  
Partha Pratim Sarker

**Bytes for All, Pakistan**  
Shahzad Ahmad, Zoya Rehman (from November)

**Digital Empowerment Foundation, India**  
Osama Manzar, Shaifali Chikermane

**EngageMedia, Indonesia**  
Andrew Lowenthal, Indu Nepal (until April), Dhyta Caturani (from April)

**FMA, Philippines**  
Alan Alegre, Randy Tuano (until April), Lisa Garcia (from April)

**JCAFE, Japan**  
Onoda Mitoye, Okabe Kazuaki

**JCA-NET, Japan**  
Fujino Satoshi, Hamada Tadahisa

**JinboNet, South Korea**  
Oh Byoung-il, Eugene Lee

**MMfD, Pakistan**  
Asad Baig, Sadaf Khan

**Open Institute, Cambodia**  
Chim Manavy

**SPACE, India**  
Raji Praman, Lalitha Prasad

\* Not including Mexico

**Thai Netizen Network, Thailand**

Arthit Suriyawongkul

**VOICE, Bangladesh**

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Farjana Akter

**Europe****BlueLink.net, Bulgaria**

Pavel Antonov, Diana Trifonova (until August), Eva Stoyanova (from August)

**Computer Aid International, UK**

Keith Sonnet

**GreenNet, UK**

Cedric Knight, Liz Probert

**Metamorphosis Foundation, Macedonia**

Bardhyl Jashari, Elena Ignatova (until April), Tamara Resavska (from April)

**OneWorld Platform, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Valentina Pellizzer, Aida Mahmutovic (from June)

**Pangea, Spain**

Leandro Navarro, Lorena Merino

**StrawberryNet, Romania**

Mihaly Bakó, Rozalia Bakó

**Latin America and the Caribbean****Asociación Trinidad****Comunicación, Cultura y****Desarrollo, Paraguay**

Arturo Bregaglio, Mirian Candia Sánchez

**Colnodo, Colombia**

Julián Casasbuenas, Ariel Barbosa

**DEMOS, Guatemala**

Anabella Rivera, Yesenia Sagastume

**EsLaRed, Venezuela**

Edmundo Vitale, Lourdes Pietrosevoli

**ONG Derechos Digitales, Chile**

Claudio Ruiz, Paz Peña

**Nodo Tau, Argentina**

Eduardo Rodriguez, Florencia Roveri

**Nudef, Brazil**

Carlos Afonso, Magaly Pazello (until June)

**REDES, Bolivia**

Eduardo Rojas, Susana Donoso Paz

**Sulá Batsú, Costa Rica**

Kemly Camacho, Vivian Zuñiga

**North America\*****Alternatives, Canada**

Michael Lambert, Catherine Pappas

**eQualit.ie, Canada**

Augie Van Biljow (until June), Hugh Nowlan

**IGC, USA**

Mark Graham, Mitra Ardron

**LaborNet, USA**

Steve Zeltzer

**May First/People Link, USA, Mexico**

Alfredo Lopez, Francia Gutierrez (since August)

**Web Networks, Canada**

Jared St. Jean, Greg MacKenzie

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\* Not including Mexico

# Board of Directors

**Julián Casasbuenas**, Colombia (chair)  
**Valentina Pellizzer**, Bosnia and Herzegovina (vice-chair)  
**Liz Probert**, United Kingdom (secretary)  
**Osama Manzar**, India (treasurer)  
**Chim Manavy**, Cambodia  
**John Dada**, Nigeria  
**Lillian Nalwoga**, Uganda  
**Anriette Esterhuysen**, South Africa (executive director)

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## Staff team in 2015

### STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

**Executive director:** Anriette Esterhuysen, South Africa  
**Deputy executive director:** Chat Garcia Ramilo, Philippines  
**Network and membership building coordinator:** Karel Novotný, Czech Republic

### FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

**Finance manager:** Karen Banks, Australia/United Kingdom  
**Accountant:** Maya Sooka, South Africa  
**Senior finance officer:** Fatima Bhyat, South Africa  
**HR and finance officer:** Misty Tanner, United States (until 31 May)  
**Administrative officer:** Eunice Mwesigwa, South Africa





The APC staff team in Hermanus, South Africa. PHOTO: MALLORY KNODEL

### COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

**Communications manager:** Mallory Knodel, Canada

**WRP communications associate:** Flavia Fascendini, Argentina

**CIPP communications associate:** Leila Nachawati Rego, Spain

**Technical and systems coordinator:** Sarah Escandor-Tomas, Philippines

**Technical support assistant:** Adolfo Dunayevich Garber, Mexico

**Publications coordinator:** Lori Nordstrom, Uruguay

**Ford-Mozilla Open Web fellow:** Andrea Del Rio, Peru\*

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROGRAMME (WRP)

**WRP manager:** Jac sm Kee, Malaysia

**WRP senior project coordinator:** Janine Moolman, South Africa

**WRP project coordinator:** Jennifer Radloff, South Africa

**WRP project associate:** Erika Smith, Mexico

**TBTT campaign coordinator:** Sara Baker, United States (from April)

**GenderIT.org and research coordinator:** Katerina Fialova, Czech Republic

**PARM and GEM services coordinator:** Dafne Plou, Argentina

**Sexual Rights Project coordinator:** Nadine Moawad, Lebanon

**End Violence project administrative assistant:** Tarryn Booysen, South Africa (from April)

**EROTICS project assistant:** Caroline Tagny, South Africa (until June)

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\* Volunteers

## COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY PROGRAMME (CIPP)

**CIPP manager:** Valeria Betancourt, Ecuador

**Internet access specialist:** Mike Jensen, Brazil

**Senior national internet rights advocacy project coordinator:** Deborah Brown, United States

**GISWatch project coordinator:** Roxana Bassi, Argentina

**ESCR project coordinator:** Alan Finlay, South Africa

**LASIR project coordinator:** Cristiana Gonzalez, Brazil

**MENA internets rights project coordinator:** Mohammed Tarakiyee, Jordan

**Africa project coordinator:** Emilar Vushe, South Africa

**CIPP administrative assistant:** Shawna Finnegan, Canada

**CIPP volunteer:** Avri Doria, United States\*

**CIPP assistant:** Yolanda Mlonzi\*\*

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\* Volunteers

\*\* Interns

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

# FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

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## GRANTS

### Access Now

- African School of Internet Governance

### AmplifyChange (agreement administered by Mannion Daniels Ltd)

- Building EROTICS networks in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka

### European Union, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

- Networking for freedom online and offline: Protecting freedom of information, expression and association on the internet in India, Malaysia and Pakistan

### Ford Foundation

- Local Action to Secure Internet Rights (LASIR)
- Mid-term evaluation of the outcomes resulting from the implementation of APC's 2013-2016 strategic plan
- Support to research a feminist perspective on internet policy issues and build cross-movement collaboration with women's rights groups in the global South

### Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)

- Core contribution to APC's 2013-2016 strategic plan
- Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch)
- Internet Governance in the Middle East and North Africa

### International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

- A rights-based approach to internet policy and governance for the advancement of economic, social and cultural rights

### Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) FLOW Grant

- Women leaders who combat technology-related violence: Defending a safe, secure environment for women and girls

### Open Society Foundations

- Digital media policy in Latin America
- Surveying internet freedoms in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Sigrid Rausing Trust

- Core support for APC Women's Rights Programme 2015-2016

**Swedish International  
Development Cooperation Agency  
(Sida)**

- Core support for APC's 2013-2016 strategic plan
- Mid-term evaluation of the outcomes resulting from the implementation of APC's 2013-2016 strategic plan

**COMMISSIONED SERVICES**

**Aestrea**

- Research activity and participation in Media, Communication and Technology Lab strategy workshop

**Alternatives**

- Contribution agreement: Building a culture of online human rights and digital security through the capacity building and networking of human rights defenders in the Maghreb-Machrek region

**Civicus**

- Essay on the Take Back the Tech "Map it!" initiative for The Big Development DataShift

**Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM)**

- Secure online communications training

**Counterpart International**

- Interactive meeting for LGBTI activists and community members

**DW Akademie/MISA**

- Internet governance workshop facilitation

**Enterprise to Empower (EN2EM)**

- Secure online communications training

**Global Partners and Associates**

- African IGF pre-event: Africa WSIS+10 Review
- South African WSIS mapping chapter for WSIS+10 Country Mapping Report

**Google**

- African School of Internet Governance
- Broadband infrastructure sharing policies and ownership models in emerging markets, research and associated advocacy
- Google Policy Fellowship Program
- Sponsorship of African participation in the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

**Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)**

- Making All Voices Count (MAVC)

**iRights Lab**

- African internet governance workshop pre-event to global Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

**KvinnaTillKvinna (KTK)**

- Secure online communications training

**Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights (RFSL, Riksförbundet för homosexuellas, bisexuellas, transpersoners och queeras rättigheter)**

- Secure online communications training

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)**

- WSIS+10 research

**Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAFWHR)**

- Secure online communications training

**WomensNet**

- Feminist Technical eXchange (FTX) Toolkit

**World Association for Christian Communications (WACC)**

- Contribution to 2015 Global Media Monitoring Project report.

**OTHERS WHO PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO APC DURING 2015**

**Afilias plc**

- African School of Internet Governance

**Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**

- Production of the publication "The Working Group on Internet Governance: 10th Anniversary Reflections"

**Internet Society (ISOC)**

- African School of Internet Governance

**Mozilla Foundation**

- Disco-tech pre-event at the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

**New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) - Planning and Coordinating Agency**

- African School of Internet Governance (support originally from Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa)

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- African Internet Governance Forum

# APC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2015

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<b>BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2015</b>		
	<b>2015 (USD)</b>	<b>2014 (USD)</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>1,195,637</b>	<b>2,013,747</b>
Non-current assets	2	2
Equipment	2	2
Current assets	1,195,635	2,013,745
Accounts receivable	81,461	251,399
Accrued income - grants	200,028	50,000
Cash and cash equivalents	914,146	1,712,346
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,195,637</b>	<b>2,013,747</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,195,637</b>	<b>2,013,747</b>
Reserves and sustainability funds	447,082	843,821
Sustainability funds	446,848	683,823
Retained income	234	159,998
Current liabilities	748,555	1,169,926
Accounts payable	81,219	55,293
Deferred income from grants	617,339	1,114,633
Provision for leave pay	49,997	
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,195,637</b>	<b>2,013,747</b>

<b>INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015</b>		
	<b>2015 (USD)</b>	<b>2014 (USD)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>3,003,896</b>	<b>3,439,097</b>
Grants	2,654,924	3,017,414
Earned income	348,972	421,683
Commissioned services	313,729	383,274
Interest	435	481
Membership fees	24,356	27,507
Sales and sundry	10,452	10,421
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3,400,635</b>	<b>3,426,313</b>
Governance, Programme Development, Monitoring and Evaluation and Administration	572,968	677,246
Communications and Network Development Unit	388,339	348,974
Communications and Information Policy Programme	1,470,905	1,298,143
Women's Rights Programme	968,423	1,101,950
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>-396,739</b>	<b>12,784</b>

Note: Detailed information is available in the audited financial statements for 2015.

