APC Theory of Change for 2016 to 2019

Who we are

APC is a membership-based network of organisations and activists who work collaboratively on the internet and ICTs for social justice and sustainable development, with strong feminist politics.

Basic assumptions

- The internet is an enabler of human rights, development and social justice, including gender justice.
- It is a global public resource that has transformed human communications and behaviour and that challenges existing structures of power, including gender-based power.
- If used strategically, the internet and other information and communications technologies (ICTs) can amplify the voices and efforts of civil society organisations, social movements, individual activists and excluded communities and groups.
- It can strengthen solidarity between movements and across borders and it facilitates South-South and North-South collaboration.
- The nature and outcomes of internet development and policy processes at global, regional and national levels can shape this global public resource in ways that are either positive or negative from the perspective of APC's vision and values.

And the problems we address

- Access to the internet is not universal. Access divides often reinforce existing divides based on geographic location, gender, income, and level of education.
- Civil society movements working on internet issues are fragmented, which weakens their influence.
- Business models and practices are changing the internet's character away from being a global public resource (or global public good).
- Governments are introducing legislation that restricts people's use of the internet for expression and participation.
- Civil society organisations, including women's rights organisations, lack the awareness and skill needed to use the internet effectively, securely and sustainably.
- Internet-related development and governance do not include gender equality and sexual rights perspectives.
- Women's rights and sexual rights advocates do not see internet policy and regulation as part of their agenda, which contributes to this lack of integration of their issues.
- Non-state actors are impacting on the internet in ways that violate human rights and exacerbate discriminatory and fundamentalist behaviours and norms that result in inequality, oppression and at times, violence.
- Increasing digitalization means more jobs are temporary, which risks eroding the rights of workers, and the interconnectedness of the global economy directly pits workers in the developed world against workers in less developed countries who earn less. Many workers are tethered by the internet to their workplace for up to 24 hours a day.
- Free and open software solutions are easier to use and more reliable but awareness and uptake by civil society organisations is limited.
- Most policy makers assume that increases in mobile penetration has addressed the 'access' gap. Few consider public access or community-based solutions as viable solutions.
- Internet policy and governance processes are complex and difficult for civil society to participate in and influence many in civil society are not aware of the importance of these processes to their work.

Impact objective for 2016 to 2019 strategic plan

People affected by repression, discrimination, exclusion and inequality, in particular women, are able to access, use, shape and defend a free and open internet for their needs, priorities and the realisation of human rights.

Key Result Areas (pre-conditions) we will focus on towards achieving the 2017-19 impact objective

KRA 1: Access	KRA 2: Rights	KRA 3: A feminist internet	KRA 4: Governance	KRA 5: Use and development	KRA 6: APC community
KRA 1 People who are digitally excluded on the basis of where they live, gender, class, disability or identity, have affordable and sustainable connectivity that allow them to share and communicate.	Human rights norms and standards integrate gender and development, and are respected and promoted in internet and ICT policy, governance, development and practice.	Women's rights and sexual rights activists engage with internet and ICT policy and development as feminist issues.	Internet-related and ICT policy processes protect the publicness of the internet and are accessible, democratic, transparent, accountable and inclusive.	Civil society actors and rights advocates have the capacity to confidently use the internet and ICTs, and engage critically in their development.	The APC community of members, allies and partners are strengthened as a network and work collaboratively to use the internet and ICTs for social and environmental justice, gender equality and sustainable development.

Strategies to achieve the 2016-19 key results

Research, advocacy and support for innovation to ensure diversity and plurality in the digital media environment. Research to inform policy advocacy to enable equitable, affordable and sustainable access. Advocate for access to information and ICTs as enablers for achieving the Sustainable	Conduct and disseminate rights related research to inform policy and advocacy. Engage with national, regional and global human rights mechanisms to take up internet and ICT rights-related issues (including ESCRs). Campaigning, research, advocacy and network building to counter internet surveillance and censorship by states and corporations.	Build knowledge and influence discourse towards a feminist internet to raise awareness about the relevance of women's rights issues to internet and ICT policy. Engage the women's movement in internet and ICT policy processes. Build the skills and capacity of actors within women's movements on the politics and practice of technology.	Engage critically and constructively with multistakeholder approaches to internet governance, making them more inclusive, accountable and rights and gender responsive. Facilitate participation of civil society in internet and ICT policy processes, nationally, regionally and globally (including in WSIS and SDG processes). Research and advocacy to counter corporate	Build capacity of women human rights defenders, sexual rights activists and other human rights defenders to be safe online. Build capacity of APC community and partners to increase the use of FLOSS[1], sustainable, collaborative and privacy-enabling technology. Facilitate cross-movement engagement and critical understanding about how ICTs and the internet are	Ensure that APC has a diverse, engaged, active and empowered membership. Strengthen the organisational capacity, systems and resources APC needs to effectively implement the network's vision and mission. Implement an APC grants programme that strengthens member contribution to the implementation of APC's strategic plan.

[1]Free Libre and Open Source Software

Development Goals (SDGs). Promote innovative and people-centred approaches (including in areas such as digital migration, community networks, infrastructure sharing, dynamic spectrum management, open hardware, public access, and access for women) through awareness raising and capacity building. Build strategic alliances and facilitate networking and knowledge sharing among practitioners and advocates for people-centred approaches to access.	Engage with SDG and other development processes to promote integration of internet, information and communications rights. Strengthen capacity of civil society actors to identify and respond to internet-related human rights violations. Engage global women's rights mechanisms and processes to integrate internet-related issues. Advocacy, capacity building and further research to integrate economic social and cultural rights into the internet rights agenda.		practices that undermine the publicness of the internet. Contribute to strengthening national regional and global Internet Governance Forums (IGFs). Strengthen capacity of civil society and policy makers especially in the global South to influence internet governance processes.	used and developed.	Build collaboration between labor rights activists and internet rights activists in the APC community. Strengthen the APC community's involvement in environmental sustainability related to ICT development and use.