MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY: SUPPORTING BOTTOM-UP AND RIGHTS-BASED SOLUTIONS

"Our pledge should be to empower communities directly affected by the problem so they become part of the solution." Chat Garcia Ramilo, executive director of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

The digital divide is a persistent problem that demands innovative and bold solutions. Its persistence demonstrates that a complementary approach is needed, since the current economic and regulatory models have not been able to overcome structural socioeconomic barriers for digital inclusion, exacerbating inequalities.

Innovative community-centred access models, such as community networks, complement existing commercial efforts to provide meaningful connectivity, while cultivating sustainable approaches to communication technology and strengthening self-determination.

Within the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C), APC was invited to be part of the "Empowering Communities" focus area lead. In that role, we have been highlighting the importance of commitment to policy, regulation and financial mechanisms that enable bottom-up and rights-based initiatives.

Through providing support for 30 community-led initiatives in 16 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with many partners within the Local Networks initiative, APC has witnessed that connectivity becomes meaningful when people and communities can use and shape technologies to meet their own needs.

To keep up to date on this topic, subscribe to the Community Networks and Local Access Monthly Newsletter.

bit.ly/LocalAccessNewsletter

OUR PLEDGES TO ENABLE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

TRAINING AND MENTORING OF COMMUNITY NETWORK FACILITATORS

"APC, in partnership with the UK Government's Digital Access Programme, and together with key partners and stakeholders in each country, commit to train and mentor at least 105 community network facilitators from 35 communities in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia and Brazil by March 2023, to promote inclusive and sustainable digital transformation."

AN OPEN, SUSTAINABLE AND ACCESSIBLE INTERNET FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL, GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

"We advocate for an open, sustainable and accessible internet whose governance should be inclusive, transparent and participatory. To this end, we commit to support women and gender-diverse people and vulnerable groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America to safely connect themselves in ways that respond to their lived realities. We also commit to promote a rights-based, intersectional framework for standards, regulations and policies and to support policy makers in finding solutions that ensure digital inclusion and social, gender and environmental justice."

MECHANISMS FOR FUNDING LOCALLY-OWNED INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

"Connect Humanity, Connectivity Capital, the Internet Society and the Association for Progressive Communications commit to undertake research about innovative financing mechanisms to connect the unconnected, using this research to advocate to relevant audiences to unlock additional funding for community-based networks to connect the hardest to reach communities."

Why are these pledges relevant?

Scan this QR Code to find out more:

bit.ly/APCpledges

ABOUT APC

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is an international network of civil society organisations founded in 1990 dedicated to empowering and supporting people working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment, through the strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

One of APC's strategic priorities is to enable digital inclusion for the most vulnerable. We work for people affected by exclusion, discrimination and inequality to be able to meaningfully use and shape the internet and digital technologies to meet their specific needs.

APC
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