

# Association for Progressive Communications Theory of Change 2016-2019

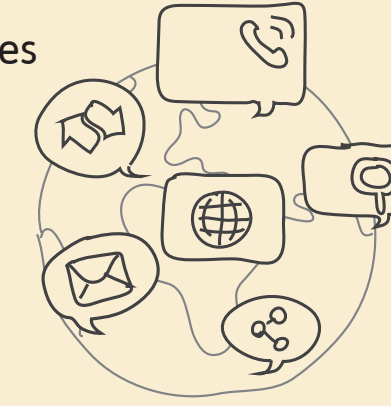
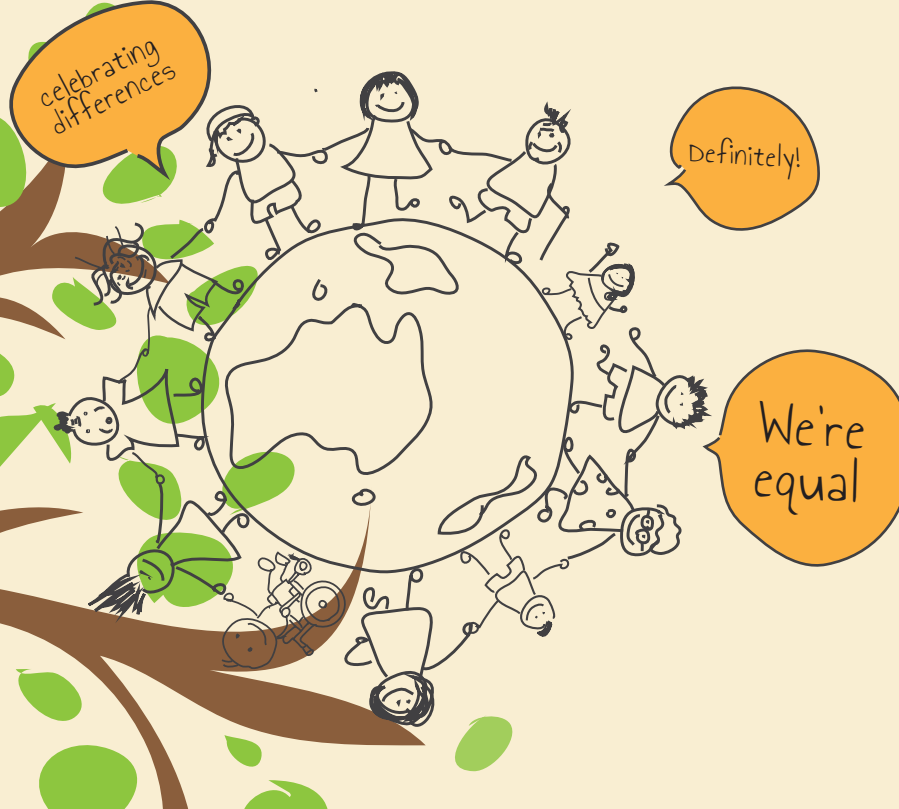
**WHO WE ARE**  
APC is a membership-based network with strong feminist politics that works collaboratively on the internet and ICTs for social justice and sustainable development.

## APC BELIEVES THAT

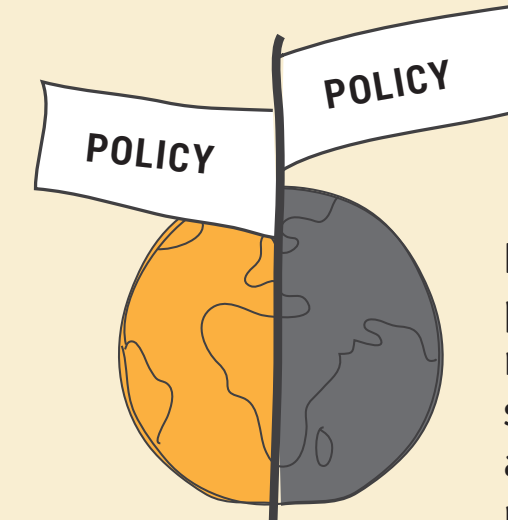
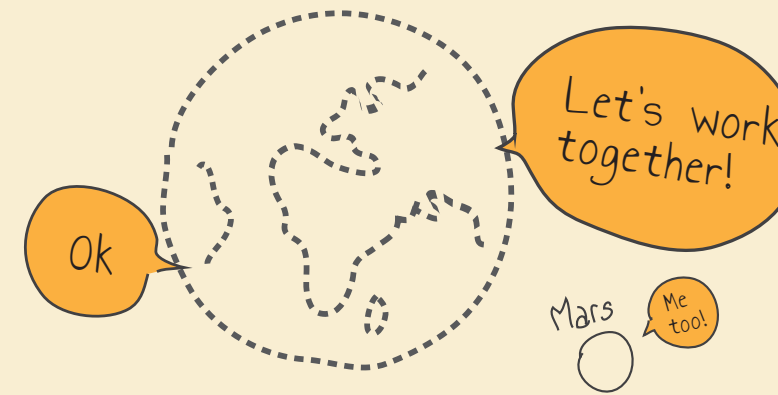
The internet is an enabler of human rights, development and social justice, including gender justice.

It is a global public resource that has transformed human communications and behaviour. It challenges existing structures of power, including gender-based power.

Used strategically, it can amplify the voices and efforts of civil society, social movements, individual activists and excluded groups.



It can strengthen solidarity between movements and across borders and facilitate South-South and North-South collaboration.



Policy matters: Internet-related policy processes at global, regional and national levels can shape the internet in ways that are either positive or negative from the perspective of APC's vision and values.

## BUT... THE REALITY OF THE WORLD IS NOT QUITE LIKE THAT

Access to the internet is not universal. Digital divides echo existing divides. The assumption that the mobile revolution is THE solution to the access divide sidelines people-centred options, e.g. public access and community-based networks.

Civil society working on internet issues is often fragmented, which weakens its influence. Many organisations, including women's rights organisations, often don't know how to use the internet effectively, safely and sustainably. Free and open software solutions are reliable and easier to use but awareness and uptake are limited.

Business models and practices are changing the internet's character away from being a global public good and resource and Increasing digitalisation reduces jobs and can erode worker rights.

Women's rights and sexual rights advocates do not realise that internet policy matters to their work and internet policy processes are complex and difficult for civil society to participate in and influence.

New legislation frequently restricts people's use of the internet for expression and participation.

Non-state actors impact on the internet in ways that violate human rights and exacerbate discriminatory behaviours and norms, resulting in inequality and at times, violence.

## APC's KEY RESULT AREAS AND STRATEGIES

### IMPACT OBJECTIVE

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 for the realisation of human rights.

1



Research and advocate to support innovation and foster a diverse digital media environment.

Conduct research to inform advocacy for policies that prioritise and enable equitable and affordable access.

Advocate for access to information and ICTs as enablers for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Promote and build capacity in innovative and people-centred solutions, e.g. community networks, infrastructure sharing, dynamic spectrum management, open hardware, public access, feminist tech co-ops.

Build strategic networks and share knowledge among practitioners and advocate for people-centred approaches to access.

**All people, irrespective of class, identity, gender or disability, or where they live, have affordable and meaningful ACCESS and use of the internet.**

2



**Internet policy and governance and protocols respect and promote HUMAN RIGHTS and integrate gender and sustainable development.**

Conduct and disseminate research to inform advocacy for rights-respecting policies.

Get national, regional and global human rights bodies to take up internet-related issues.

Counter internet surveillance and censorship by states and corporations through networked research and advocacy.

Promote integration of internet and information and communications rights into development processes, e.g. SDGs.

Strengthen the capacity of civil society actors to identify and respond to internet-related human rights violations.

Make global women's rights mechanisms and processes aware of internet-related issues.

Undertake advocacy, capacity building and research to connect economic, social and cultural rights with internet rights.

3



**Women's rights and sexual rights activists engage with INTERNET and ICT policy and development as FEMINIST issues.**

Build knowledge, influence discourse and 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.

4



**INTERNET POLICY protects the publicness of the internet and internet policy processes are accessible, democratic, transparent, accountable and inclusive.**

Advocate for multistakeholder approaches to internet governance to become more inclusive, gender aware, accountable and rights responsive.

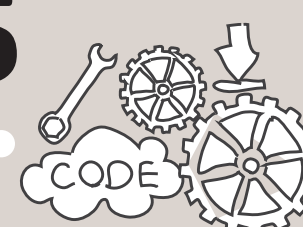
Facilitate the participation of civil society in internet and ICT policy processes, nationally, regionally and globally (including in WSIS and SDG processes).

Research and advocate to counter corporate practices that undermine the publicness of the internet.

Contribute to strengthening national, regional and global Internet Governance Forums (IGFs).

Strengthen the capacity of civil society and policy makers in the global South so that they can participate fully in IG processes.

5



**CSOs and rights advocates USE the internet safely AND confidently, and they engage critically in its ongoing DEVELOPMENT.**

Build the capacity of human rights defenders, including women's and sexual rights activists, to be safe online.

Build capacity for the APC community to increase use of FLOSS<sup>1</sup> and other sustainable, collaborative and privacy-enabling technology.

6



**APC is a strong COMMUNITY and network using the internet collaboratively for social and environmental justice, gender equality and sustainable development.**

Ensure that APC has a diverse, active, happy and empowered membership.

Build the systems and resources APC needs to effectively implement the network's vision and mission.

Make grants to members for implementing APC's strategic plan.

Provide support for member collaboration through the Member Exchange and Travel Fund (METF).

Build collaboration between labour rights and internet rights movements.

Strengthen the APC community's involvement in environmental sustainability related to the development and use of ICT.

Facilitate cross-movement engagement and critical understanding about how ICTs and the internet are used and developed.

1. Free/libre and open source software

For the full version of APC's Theory of Change for 2016 to 2019, please visit <https://www.apc.org/en/TOC2016-2019>