

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CTSD)

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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in
2012 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

Association for Progressive Communications

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on “Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels” (to the 16th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors’ and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

HIGHLIGHTS OF APC'S WORK AS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WSIS ACTION LINES, TARGETS AND THEMES

January 2013

APC's efforts in the post WSIS phase have been focused generally on advocating for affordable internet access for all; making technology work to sustain the environment; using emerging technologies for social change; building the "information commons"; defending human rights in the internet sphere; securing gender equality and women's rights, particularly in relation to ending violence against women; and improving governance, especially internet governance.

APC engages in five interrelated areas: research, advocacy, network building, capacity development and strategic communications and outreach. The application of this approach, combined with our long standing prioritisation of linking 'practice' to policy advocacy, and linking local (through our network of national and programme members and partners) to regional and global work, makes APC's work unique.

The following contributions to implementation of the WSIS outcomes can be highlighted:

1. The Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch)

In 2007 APC, in partnership with Third World Institute, and with HIVOS in 2008, launched an initiative called Global Information Society Watch. GISWatch is a space for collaborative monitoring of implementation of international (and national) commitments made by governments towards the creation of an inclusive information society, and for building national level civil society awareness of WSIS goals. It focuses on monitoring progress made towards implementing the WSIS action agenda and other international and national commitments related to information and communications. It also provides analytical overviews of institutions involved in implementation. Each year, GISW focuses on a different theme, all of which relate to the WSIS action lines – 2007 (participation), 2008 (access to Infrastructure), 2009 (access to information and knowledge), 2010 (ICTs and environmental sustainability), 2011 (internet rights and democratization), 2012 (internet and corruption). In 2013, GISWatch will be focused on women's rights online.
<http://www.giswatch.org/>

2007 – Participation: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2007>

2008 – Access to infrastructure: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2008>

2009 – Access to online information and knowledge: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2009>

2010 – ICTs and Environmental Sustainability: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2010>

2011 - Internet rights and democratization: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2011>

2012 – The internet and corruption. Transparency and accountability online:
<http://www.giswatch.org/2012-internet-and-corruption>

On 2012, GISWatch was awarded the WSIS Project Prize. The 2012 edition is focused on the internet and corruption with an emphasis on transparency and accountability online, whose preview

was launched in November 7th in Baku during the IGF. Two special editions of GISWatch were also launched in the IGF: a) Update on internet rights and democratisation with focus on freedom of expression and association online; and b) the Strategies for Action on internet rights and democratisation with focus on freedom of expression and association online.

<https://www.apc.org/en/news/giswatch-has-won-itu-awarded-wsis-project-prize-20>

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/giswatch-2011-special-edition-1>

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/giswatch-2011-special-edition-2>

2. Affordable internet access for all

Our work in Africa and Latin America around researching and advocating for alternative ways to use and regulate the frequencies of the spectrum and underscore the potentialities and challenges developing countries face with digital migration contributed to address other dimensions of disparities in access to the internet. Our work included the development of the 'Citizens Guide to the Airwaves', a guide to understand how spectrum is managed, how it should be managed and how to open advocacy opportunities around open spectrum.

<http://spectrum.apc.org>

<http://digmig.apc.org/>

3. Secure and defend internet rights

Since its creation in 1990, APC is committed to making the internet serve the needs of global civil society and working to ensure the internet is free and open. APC has systematically worked to shape its rights approach to internet based on the belief that the ability to share information and communicate freely, safely and securely using the internet is vital to the realisation of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976) and the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1980). APC has also continued to respond to the increasing trends to restrict free expression, association and the free flow of information on the internet which deeply impact not only in countries lacking a culture of democracy or strong human rights regimes.

The work undertaken in the framework of the 'Internet rights are human rights' project has contributed enormously to make internet rights a bigger and more visible issue in several key global spaces (such as the Internet Governance Forum and the Human Rights Council), and an issue not primarily related to freedom of expression but to a broader range of human rights, including civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights and the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Not only our engagement with the Universal Periodic Review process but also our focus to build capacities of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders on secure online communications, have been key to build networking among internet activists, national human rights institutions, mainstream human rights organisations and human rights defenders.

<http://rights.apc.org> (in English)

<http://derechos.apc.org> (in Spanish)

4. Use emerging technologies for social change

Communicate for policy influence is one of our key objectives. In 2012, we concluded the 'Impact 2.0' project which examined the use of Web 2.0 tools and behaviors (such as online social networking) to link research and policy. The project “shows that the tools have the potential to contribute to better linkages between research and policy and begins to explore the conditions, uses and strategies that will enable that potential”.(1)

<http://impact2point0.comunica.org/> (in English)

<http://impacto2punto0.comunica.org/> (in Spanish)

5. Improve governance, especially internet governance

APC has been consistently committed to the development of the Internet governance forum (IGF) since its creation and see it as the most important international policy area aimed at improving the governance of the internet. At the IGF, APC advocates for policies and regulatory approaches that ensure a development agenda for internet governance, for increasing meaningful participation of women, and expresses its concern about the erosion and diminishing visibility of a rights-based approach to how the internet is governed.

<http://www.apc.org/en/projects/internet-governance-forum-igf>

APC has displayed efforts to contribute to the process mainly by:

- offering a civil society perspective of the issues to enrich the debate
- supporting the structuring of the IGF programme
- regionalising the IGF process by promoting and organising regional internet governance meetings in Latin America and Africa
- organising workshops and pre-events

In the last two years, we took a human rights approach to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). We successfully conducted and participated in internet rights related workshops in Baku, and organised a human rights roundtable. In part through our work in 2012 and the previous years, the discussion on human rights, including women's rights on the internet, are much more substantive. We also played an important role to raise attention to issues as autocracy and limitations to freedoms and rights in the host country through various ways, such as the courageous interventions of our members Valentina Pellizzer and Carlos Afonso in the 2012 IGF.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/15652/>

<https://www.apc.org/en/blog/quot-human-rights-must-be-encoded-fabric-our-dialog>

<https://www.apc.org/en/blog/carlos-afonso039s-speech-igf-opening-ceremony-quot>

APC has been also instrumental in organizing and facilitating regional multi-stakeholder encounters and policy dialogue in Africa and Latin America.

In the area of open governance, it is important to mention the work we did with CIPESA on research and advocacy to empower citizens to hold their leaders accountable, minimise corruption in the conduct of public affairs, enable citizens to enjoy a greater range of rights and freedoms, and to ultimately consolidate democracy in Uganda and other East African countries.

<https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/report-open-governance-network-building-uganda>

6. ICTs and environmental sustainability

Through our work in the area of ICTs and environmental sustainability, APC aims to address two critical challenges: How do national ICT policy environments address ICTs, environmental sustainability and climate change? and How can ICTs be used more sustainably by ICTD practitioners, civil society organisations and service providers? Action research at national level has been conducted to address both of these questions, which aims to generate better understanding of the challenges facing us, especially in developing countries, in using ICTs sustainably (particularly in the context of climate change) and to identify gaps in the linkages between policies and implementation, through the identification and promotion of best practices. APC has focused its work on e-waste, climate change, water management (in the context of climate change), and sustainable information technologies. In terms of future perspectives we will address issues such as local level adaptation using technology, mitigation in developing countries, training and awareness raising, and practical responses by government to disaster management (in the context of climate change). We will address issues related to open data and its usefulness to local communities through research and best practices.

<http://www.apc.org/en/projects/greeningit-apc-icts-climate-change-environmental-s>

7. Women's rights and Violence Against Women

End violence: Women's rights and safety online – 2012 - 2014

The APC community is building on the collective experience and successes of its previous work on technology and violence against women <<https://www.apc.org/en/node/7892/>> (including the MDG3: Gender Equality - Using ICTs as a tool to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals) to implement a new project “End violence: women’s rights and safety online”. It builds on APC’s trajectory in the anti-VAW struggle and existing partnerships to enhance women’s safety and security by preventing the growing violence against women through ICTs. The project is being implemented in seven countries (Pakistan, Philippines, Bosnia, Kenya, DRC, Colombia, Mexico) through a combination of strategies that contribute towards ending violence against women through building women’s leadership and ensuring women’s rights and safety online. <https://www.apc.org/en/node/15007/>

Critically absent: Women in internet governance. A policy advocacy toolkit (April 2012)

The women’s movement has always had the ability to make the invisible visible and grant it a political character. This toolkit encourages women and their organisations to engage in political discussions regarding internet development with a vision of inclusion, fairness and respect for women’s rights. The authors’ visions are that the toolkit be used to raise awareness and encourage participation in a new environment where women cannot and should not be absent.

<https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/critically-absent-women-internet-governance-policy>

Voices from digital spaces: Technology-related violence against women (November 2011)

Drawing on findings from APC’s MDG3: Take Back the Tech! project with women’s rights organisations in twelve countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, this paper explores the links between the internet, cell phones and violence against women and illustrates that technology related violence impacts women as seriously as other forms of violence

<https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/voices-digital-spaces-technology-related-violence-0>

EroTICs: Exploratory research on sexuality and the internet (February 2011)

An exploratory research, aimed to narrow the gap between political assumptions and a better understanding of content and “harm” based on women’s real experience of sexuality online. Starting in 2005, the APC began to investigate issues related to sexuality and the internet especially in the context of content regulation and women's communication rights. Through a cross-country research, EroTICs answered to the question of /In what ways do internet and ICT policy shape the sexual practices of women living in different socio-political, economic and cultural contexts.

The second phase, which takes place from May 2012 to May 2014, aims to respond to this situation through:

- Building a network of internet and sexual rights advocates who are able to share expertise and collaboratively respond to internet content regulation.
- Strengthening the capacity of sexual rights, women’s rights and gender equality advocates to resist internet content regulation, through capacity building in online security, research and knowledge, sharing, and alliance building with internet rights advocates.
- Developing platforms, processes and partnerships to generate regulation and sustained monitoring and analysis of the threats and impact of internet regulatory measures on the advancement of sexual rights, including an annual global monitoring survey that reports on different aspects of barriers, threats and limitations faced by activists and organisations working on a broad range of sexual rights.
- Developing internet governance frameworks that recognise sexual rights and gender equality as key components of a free and open internet to inform policy development and debates in the area, including research and development of potential accountability models for non-state actors in this area.

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/research/erotics-first-findings>

<https://www.apc.org/en/node/7904>

Take Back the Tech! (2006 - ongoing):

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence each year, APC calls for everyone – especially women and girls – to Take Back the Tech! and reclaim technology for the fight against violence against women. Initiated in 2006, the campaign creates awareness on how ICTs are connected to violence against women, strengthens the ICT capacity of women’s rights advocates, creates original and varied content and is building a community to strategise around eliminating violence against women through digital platforms. 2012 TBTT featured 16 stories throughout the 16 days of activism that explores different dimensions on violence against women, gender discrimination and communication rights.

<http://www.takebackthetech.net/>

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(1) Impact 2.0. New mechanisms for linking research and policy.

PUBLICATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WSIS OUTCOMES

Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch)

<http://www.giswatch.org/>

2007 – Participation: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2007>

2008 – Access to infrastructure: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2008>

2009 – Access to online information and knowledge: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2009>

2010 – ICTs and Environmental Sustainability: <http://www.giswatch.org/en/2010>

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2012 – The internet and corruption. Transparency and accountability online:
<http://www.giswatch.org/2012-internet-and-corruption>

GISWatch Special Editions

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/giswatch-2011-special-edition-1>

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/giswatch-2011-special-edition-2>

The APC ICT Policy Handbook (Second edition)

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/9555/>

This handbook aims to take the mystery out of ICT policy and make it easier to understand. In particular, it aims to build the capacity of those who want to understand more about the issues surrounding policy on ICT development and regulation, to grasp the policy process, and to become more involved as informed participants. It has a chapter on the WSIS process.

Published in November 2009

Whose Summit? Whose Information Society?

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/5587>

Developing countries and civil society at the World Summit on the Information Society. This book, commissioned by APC and written by David Souter draws on participants' observations, detailed interviews with forty key actors and case studies of experiences rooted in five developing countries. It includes a section on conclusions and recommendations.

Published in January 2007

Research

2012

Human rights and Internet protocols: comparing processes and principles

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/human-rights-and-internet-protocols-comparing-proc>

Intermediary liability in South Africa

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/intermediary-liability-south-africa>

The liability of internet intermediaries in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda: An uncertain terrain

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/liability-internet-intermediaries-nigeria-kenya-so>

Open spectrum for development – collected research and articles:

<http://www.apc.org/en/spectrum/pubs/research/open-spectrum-development-collected-research>

Previous years

Equitable access

The resources on this page are part of a series on equitable access to ICT infrastructure commissioned by APC. This has included an event on equitable access which took place in Rio de Janeiro in November 2007 as well as a series of papers and commentaries on the themes of business models, policy and regulation, tools and technologies and people, networks and capabilities.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/6511/>

Communication for influence (CILAC): Research and advocacy

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/8929>

Communication for influence in Central, East and West Africa (CICEWA)

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/9321/>

Access: Building consensus on access in the IGF

<http://www.apc.org/node/5878>

This paper identifies and documents the main areas of discussions and ‘recommendations’ that were generated under the Access theme at the second Internet Governance Forum in Rio De Janeiro, November 2007. A key issue for APC and its development of one of the main post-WSIS fora.

Published in 2008

Codes, charters and checklists

Internet Freedom Index: Draft Checklist for Reporting under Article 19

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/internet-freedom-index-draft-checklist>

APC Internet Rights Charter

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/5677>

These are the rights and principles that guide the APC's network work. It includes internet access for all, freedom of expression and association, access to knowledge, shared learning and creation – free and open source software and technology development, privacy, surveillance and encryption, governance of the internet, awareness, protection and realisation of rights. We also produced a radio version in Spanish: <http://www.apc.org/es/node/8231>

Published in November 2006

Code of good practice on information, participation and transparency in internet governance

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/11199/>

The development and governance of the internet have been largely built on principles of transparency and information sharing, of multistakeholder participation and of open discussion and decision-making, mostly inspired by WSIS outcomes. These principles have contributed greatly to the internet's dynamism and inclusiveness. This code of good practice builds upon the experience of the many entities concerned with Internet governance, in order to reinforce transparency, information and participation. It was developed with the Council of Europe and UNECE, in the light of the multistakeholder approach we reinforced after WSIS.

Published in September 2010

Statements

Post-WCIT civil society statement: A way forward

<http://www.apc.org/en/news/post-wcit-civil-society-statement-way-forward>

Priorities for the seventh Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2012

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/priorities-seventh-internet-governance-forum-igf-2>

APC's reflections on the Sixth Internet Governance Forum Nairobi, Kenya September 27-30 2011 and Recommendations for IGF 2012

<http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/apc-reflections-sixth-internet-governance-forum-na>

APC's reflections on the Fifth Internet Governance Forum

This statement includes reflections on the Vilnius IGF and recommendations for the future.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/11513>

Published in November 2010

CSTD Working Group IGF Questionnaire: APC response

APC responded questions on the achievements of the IGF, suggested mechanisms for improving the impact of the discussions, gave its view on emerging issues, gave suggestions on how to meet the changing circumstances and priorities of the IGF, etc.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/11525>

Published in November 2010

APC's submission to the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group questionnaire

The Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) is a group of governments, private sector and civil society representatives, among which there are APC staff and members. This is APC's submission to a questionnaire that the MAG distributed as a follow up to

its May meeting.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/11300/>

Published in November 2010

APC's assessment of the fourth Internet Governance Forum

APC wrote: “This year the fourth internet governance forum was playing it safe – perhaps because next year could be its last – but we still saw real progress. Privacy no longer plays second fiddle to security, people’s rights online are recognised as central by all sides. Social networking was the new star centre stage. There are still too few women and people of colour but participants are getting younger which is a good sign. Next year APC hopes for an IGF focusing on development and human rights and looking to the future”.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/9642/>

Published in November 2009

Written Submission to the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society recognized that the issue of Financial Mechanisms for Meeting the Challenges of ICT for Development was a significant issue for developing countries. APC was represented on the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) whose report provided the basis for discussion. In this document we review progress on financing ICTD since 2005 and welcome the initiative of the UNGIS to hold open consultations on the matter.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/9361/>

Published in October 2009

WSIS Follow up: APC contribution to the Secretary General's report on progress

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is one of the UN bodies that took up the follow up of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This is APC’s contribution to a CSTD meeting where a report from the Secretary General on progress made in WSIS follow-up and implementation was presented, that took place on May 2007 in Geneva, as part of a series of WSIS follow-up meetings.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/6301/>

Published in June 2008

WSIS Follow up: APC contribution to the session on Development-oriented policies for an inclusive information society

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is one of the UN bodies that took up the follow up of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This is APC’s contribution to a CSTD meeting dealing with development-oriented policies for a social-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment, that took place on May 2007 in Geneva, as part of a series of WSIS follow-up meetings.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/6302/>

Published in May 2008

Statement from APC on the IGF open consultations, Geneva, February 2008

The first preparatory meeting for the next Internet Governance Forum (scheduled for December 2008 in India) was held in Geneva on 26 February 2008. APC issued a statement recommending the implementation of regional and national IGFs, using sustainable development as a key theme and advising on the format of working groups to address and follow up on key issues.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/5880>

Published in February 2008

APC statement from the 2007 Internet Governance Forum

The second IGF concluded on November 15 and the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) presents an initial assessment of the event and makes suggestions for moving towards the third forum in India.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/5390>

Published in November 2007

APC reflections at the commencement of the 2nd IGF

APC's reflections and priorities at the commencement of the second Internet Governance Forum held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2007. This document includes APC's assessment of the first forum, held in Athens in 2006, and highlights our priorities for the second IGF.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/6724/>

The World Summit on the Information Society: An overview of follow-up

Civil society, in its final statement on WSIS, expressed its commitment to continue "its involvement in the future mechanisms for policy debate, implementation and follow-up on Information Society issues" by building on the processes and structures that developed during the WSIS process. But what does that mean in practice? What are the post-WSIS implementation processes, what actors are involved, when and where are they taking place and how can you get involved?

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/2577/>

Published in July 2006

Pushing and prodding, goading and hand-holding: Reflection from APC at the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Civil Society Statement on WSIS concluded that: "The broad mandate for WSIS was to address the long-standing issues in economic and social development from the newly emerging perspectives of the opportunities and risks posed by the revolution in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). The summit was expected to identify and articulate new development possibilities and paradigms being made possible in the Information Society, and to evolve public policy options for enabling and realising these opportunities. The statement finishes by saying that "Overall, it is impossible not to conclude that WSIS has failed to live up to these expectations." In this article, APC presents its verdict.

<http://www.apc.org/en/node/2578/>

Published in February 2006