

## **Reporting for Open Forum Session**

**Session Title:** Association for Progressive Communications (APC) Open Forum

**Date:** November 12, 2015

**Time:** 09:00- 10:30am

**Organiser:** Association for Progressive Communications

**Chairperson/Moderator and main presenter:** Anriette Esterhuysen (APC)

**Remote moderator:** Emilar Vushe (APC)

### **List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:**

⑩ Representatives of APC member organisations:

- Julián Casasbuenas (Colnodo), Colombia
- Valentina Pellizer (One World Platform), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Chim Manavy (Open Institute), Cambodia
- Liz Probert (GreenNet), UK
- Lillian Nalwoga (CIPESA), Uganda
- Paz Peña (Derechos Digitales), Chile
- Nica Dumlao (Foundation for Media Alternatives), Philippines
- Michael Lambert (Alternatives), Canada

⑩ Jac sm Kee, manager of the Women's Rights Programme (APC)

⑩ Valeria Betancourt, manager of the Communication and Information Policy

⑩ Programme (APC)

⑩ Emilar Vushe, Africa policy coordinator (APC)

### **Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):**

- ⑩ History of APC
- ⑩ APC's structure
- ⑩ APC's governance
- ⑩ APC's key areas of work and the way APC works
- ⑩ Member's experience and the value of the network
- ⑩ How to become a member

**If there are Presentations during the workshop session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation**

#### **Julián Casasbuenas**

Motivation behind the Open Forum session. Welcome to attendees.

#### **Anriette Esterhuysen**

Between 1982 and 1987 several independent, national, non-profit computer networks emerged as viable information and communication resources for activists and NGOs. APC was created in 1990 to co-ordinate the operation and development of the emerging global network of networks. Key milestones, the evolution of the network and the organisation, its current structure and governance were explained.

APC's strategic priorities are identified by its members: organisations from 31 countries around the world, most of them in the global south. Through a multi-part consultative process within the network, analysis of current challenges in mobilising ICTs for social justice, and input from close partners, APC agreed on five strategic priorities to guide its work through 2016:

- ⑩ Securing and defending internet access and rights
- ⑩ Fostering good internet governance
- ⑩ Strengthening use and development of transformative technology
- ⑩ Ending technology-based violence against women and girls
- ⑩ Strengthening APC community networks

## Jac sm Kee

**APC Women's Rights Programme focuses on 4 areas of work: ending technology related violence, sexual rights and internet rights, access and gender and diverse participation, especially by women, in internet governance. We employ 4 strategies for this: capacity building (strategic use, digital storytelling, internet safety and gender and internet governance exchanges); knowledge building & analysis; policy engagement and network and movement building. Especially important in our work is to bring in perspectives from diverse women from Asia, Latin America and Africa into the area of internet rights and governance, from feminist perspectives.**

## Valeria Betancourt

Access, human rights online and internet governance are the current areas of work of the Communication and Information Policy Programme. CIPP approaches those areas through an integrated approach that combines research, advocacy, networking, and capacity building. In the area of access, the main emphasis are around:

- ⑩ Raising awareness of innovative use of radio spectrum for providing connectivity, such as helping regulators and communities understand the role of digital TV migration and the potential of TV White Space, Wifi and mesh networking for addressing needs for broadband, especially among rural and marginalised communities
- ⑩ Promoting support for public access facilities which APC sees as continuing to play an important role in the access ecosystem despite the growth of personal, workplace and domestic internet access
- ⑩ Encouraging the adoption of infrastructure sharing policies to massively reduce the cost of broadband roll out through use of shared telecom

facilities and use of other utility infrastructure for deploying optic fibre links, such as roads, rail, gas and electric power lines

In the area of access, CIPP explores the potential of the internet to reinforce the enjoyment of human rights online, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In the area of internet governance, APC contributes to regionalise the debates and political multistakeholder dialogue, promote and propose ways to achieve democratic, inclusive and transparent internet governance aligned with human rights standards and oriented to serve the public interest. APC seeks to contribute to the development of a Global South agenda on internet governance.

### **Emilar Vushe**

Mechanisms and application process to become an APC member organisation.

### **Representatives of APC's member organisations**

Members explained their own motivations to engage with internet governance issues, processes and spaces and shared highlights of their work around ICTs for development, human rights online, and internet governance. Members also shared their view about the value to be part of a global network and how to use it to bring up national concerns and priorities to the regional and global levels.

### **Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)**

The format of the Open Forum does not allow for a very interactive session. However, there were some questions (including from remote participants) related to:

- How to become an APC member
- The local/national dimension of APC's work

### **Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward / potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)**

- Approach APC staff and members in case that more information is needed

### **To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?**

To the extent of explaining the gender equality, women's rights and feminist perspectives APC adopts for its work on access, human rights online and internet governance, as well the work around technology based violence against women.

**If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:**

Please refer to the summary of presentation by Jac sm Kee above.