



**Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
Second Open Consultation and MAG meeting
April, 2025**

Update provided by Valeria Betancourt on behalf of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our update to the MAG and the IGF Secretariat on behalf of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC).

Twenty years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the vision of a people-centred, inclusive digital order is more urgent yet elusive than ever. That is why it is crucial to strengthen not only the meaningful engagement of civil society in the IGF and the overall digital cooperation ecosystem, but also the cooperation among governments, civil society, the private sector and the technical community.

WSIS

APC considers that the WSIS process is a framework and architecture suitable for contributing to the achievement of both a digital future with social, gender and environmental justice, and democratic, inclusive and accountable governance.

We engaged actively in the CSTD 28th session last week here in Geneva. We are pleased with the strengthened content on gender and human rights and on community-centred connectivity in the draft WSIS resolution. We believe, however, that it would have been good to mention the renewal of the IGF, but we trust that member states will ensure that this happens. We look forward to working with the co-facilitators to ensure an inclusive process.

Together with IT for Change, we have begun work on a campaign for “The digital future we want”, which aims to contribute to the WSIS+20 review process so that it incorporates the demands from people's movements and civil society organisations in the Global South. It is an initiative intended to give concrete meaning to and historically contextualise the “people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive” information society that is the core vision of WSIS. We expect to launch the campaign at the IGF in Norway, so watch out for it.

I would also like to highlight two cross-community initiatives:

- The “Statement from civil society, the private sector and the technical community on WSIS, the IGF and the GDC”, which calls on all governments, institutions and organisations to affirm the WSIS vision, and expresses that the WSIS process needs to continue, that the implementation of the GDC must be integrated into the next phase of the WSIS process, and that the mandate of the IGF must be renewed. It also affirms the need to continue to commit

to the multistakeholder approach and evolve it in such a manner that it strengthens collaboration between stakeholders.

- The “Five-point plan for an inclusive WSIS+20 review”, presented by Global Partners Digital in the previous session, which presents recommendations to help operationalise the WSIS+20 review modalities to ensure transparency, inclusivity and meaningful stakeholder engagement. APC played an active role in the development of this plan.

AfriSIG

The 13th annual African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) will take place from 23 to 28 May in Dar es Salaam, hosted by the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology of Tanzania just before the African IGF, which will be held from 29 to 31 May.

AfriSIG is a partnership between APC, the African Union Commission and Research ICT Africa. This year’s edition of AfriSIG is again collaborating with the UN IGF parliamentary track and youth IGF initiative in enabling six MPs and six youth internet governance fellows to participate in AfriSIG and the African IGF.

AfriSIG is known for its annual practicum, a multistakeholder negotiation process that produces an output document relevant to a topical policy process. The 2025 practicum will be devoted to developing African input to the CSTD Working Group on Data Governance.

G20 process

APC is supporting Research ICT Africa in collaborating with the South Africa Department of Communications and Digital Technologies in developing background papers for the digital economy component of the G20 process.

APC is also part of the "Thinktank 20" (T20) process and was selected to write a paper on community-centred connectivity and local economic development.

We hope to convene a side event during the G20 summit on the topic of meaningful connectivity and digital equality and would be keen to participate with anyone in the IGF ecosystem who is interested. We believe it is important to connect the G20 work with UN processes such as WSIS, the IGF Policy Network on Meaningful Access and the GDC.

NRIs

APC continues to support regional IGFs in Latin America and Asia, being part of the programming and MS committees. We believe that that regional spaces are instrumental this year to contribute to the WSIS+20 review and the strengthening of the global IGF.

To finalise, let me reiterate that APC strongly believes in WSIS and GDC integration and that we will continue to advocate for it. We also firmly believe that the IGF should continue and its mandate be made permanent, and we are willing to collaborate around efforts oriented to that aim.