Access and Human Rights
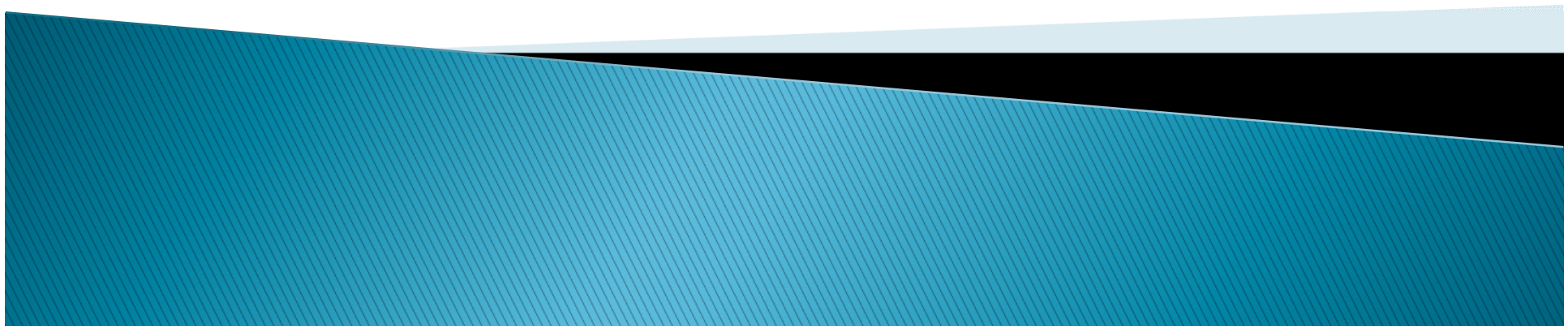
Net Hui 2012
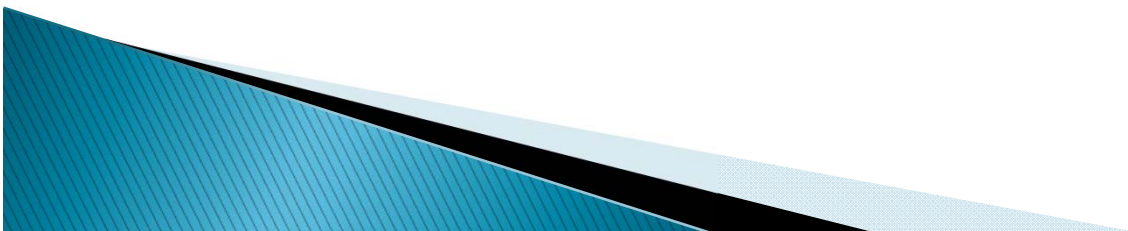joy@apc.org
www.apc.org

Scene Setting

▸ There is currently no universal "right to access the internet"

▸ But there are debates about:
  ◦ whether internet access should be a right
  ◦ how and why human rights matter online
  ◦ what access to the internet means
  ◦ internet rights declarations and charters
  ◦ …. and many related topics

▸ New global agreements about HR and internet….

UN Resolution June 29 2012

1. *Affirms* that the <u>same rights</u> that people have <u>offline</u> must also be protected <u>online</u>, in particular **freedom of expression**, which is applicable regardless of frontiers and through any media of one's choice.....

2. *Recognizes* the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;

3. *Calls upon* all States to promote and facilitate access to the Internet and international cooperation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries;
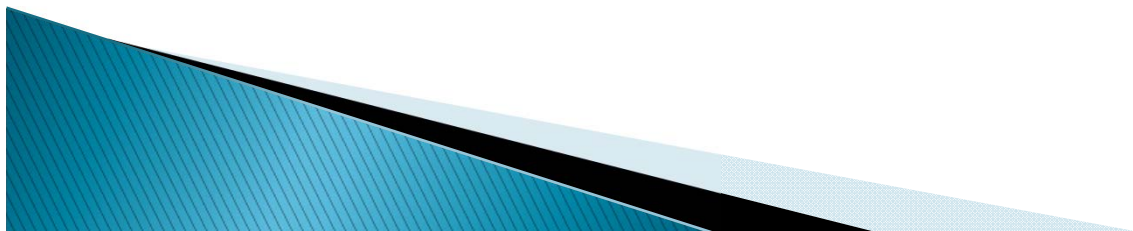
Scene setting

- Simple idea: the same rights we have offline apply online
- Governments' obligations: take steps to ensure access, including:
  - access to technical infrastructure and ICTS
  - access to content
  - accessibility for disabled persons and diverse groups

"I had a stream"

- Streaming truth to power in the Middle East and North Africa
- London riots: what's the difference?
- First, second and third generation tools for control of the internet
- Role of the private sector: platform providers and internet intermediaries

Challenges and opportunities

- Complacency: we're ok here
- NZ voices largely absent from global debates
- Specific access and rights issues:
  - Digital inclusion and accessibility
  - Rights attrition: Privacy, FX and FA (eg Megaupload)
  - Security and safety
  - Multi-stakeholder governance
- Internet public policy: WHOIS, Registrars and LEA requests, ITU negotiations…

Discussion starters

▸ what does internet access mean to you?

▸ what impacts on your internet access?

▸ do rights matter online? why?

▸ what issues are you interested in?

▸ share your ideas about how more people can participate in these debates