



## Monitoring ICT Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean

APC's Latin American and Caribbean ICT Policy Monitor Project -- which began in 2001 -- is based on the principle that access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) is a basic human right. The project aims to raise awareness amongst civil society actors regarding ICT rights. It provides information, tools and training so that civil society organisations can lobby decision-makers to take into account civil society needs at the time that ICT policy is actually created and developed.

The project team also works in collaboration with other organisations and partnerships involved in related project activities at national and regional levels.

The objectives of APC's ICT Policy Monitor in Latin America and the Caribbean are:

- To develop an information resource for civil society organisations that wish to be active in ICT policy
- To raise awareness in civil society organisation of ICT policy issues
- To empower civil society organisations (CSOs) to develop ICT policy that meets their needs, and to encourage CSOs to lobby for an information society that builds social justice and human rights, at national and regional levels

This is being done through publicising a framework for CSO ICT policy and supporting civil society organisations (CSOs) to use it, linking CSOs active in developing ICT policy, and building a network of national ICT policy activists to increase the impact both at national and regional levels.

### Current activities include:

**An online ICT policy information centre** which is the result of months of researching, classifying, analysing and monitoring policies which affect Latin American countries and the ability of civil society and excluded communities to take advantage of the information revolution. The centre is updated weekly. <http://lac.derechos.apc.org>

A **newsletter on internet rights in Latin America and the Caribbean** distributed by APC to increase civil society's awareness of topics related to ICT policy. The newsletter focuses on a different theme in each edition and is published in Spanish. <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/boletines.shtml>

Supported by the **ICT Policy Curriculum**, the project runs national and regional capacity building activities designed to improve advocacy around ICT policies. We are permanently updating the material in both Spanish and English. <http://www.apc.org/espanol/capacity/policy/curriculum.shtml>

We have **developed research activities and material**, which we hope will provide the **basis for concrete activities, which advocate good ICT policy in the future**. <http://lac.derechos.apc.org/investigaciones.shtml>

We are creating **materials to make it easier to understand the numerous projects and initiatives that focus on different areas of ICT and public policy**, as well as pointing people to reliable mailing lists, discussion forums and other participatory spaces dealing with ICT policy in the region.

<http://lac.derechos.apc.org/proyectos.shtml>  
<http://lac.derechos.apc.org/listas.shtml>

We are constantly working to establish a debate around the United Nations' **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** taking place in two phases (Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005). APC commissioned a series of reports "Latin American civil society active in the run up to the WSIS" which is being used to feed the discussion. These reports and other related resources, are collected on a dedicated Spanish-language WSIS site. The site has become a point of reference for the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus at WSIS.

<http://lac.derechos.apc.org/wsisis>  
<http://lac.derechos.apc.org/wsisis/caucuslac.shtml>

### ICT Policy Monitor for Latin America and the Caribbean

<http://lac.derechos.apc.org>

### Internet Rights (international)

<http://derechos.apc.org>

For more information, please write to [derechos.lac@apc.org](mailto:derechos.lac@apc.org)

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