



The APC Africa ICT Policy Monitor's primary goal project is to enable African civil society organisations to engage in information and communication technologies (ICT) policy development to promote an Information Society based on social justice and human rights. The ultimate aim being that governments and policy makers recognise that access to and the use of ICTs is a basic human right.

The project, initiated in late 2001, continues to research, collect, interpret, produce and disseminate ICT policy information; build the awareness and capacity of civil society to understand these issues; assist civil society organisations to formulate their interests in ICT policy and to support their lobbying and advocating for policies that promote a just information society.

The ICT Policy Monitor project goals and objectives are implemented in a similar way to related APC internet rights projects already underway in Latin America and Europe. They aim to build civil society awareness of ICT policy issues in the context of other basic human rights, and to provide a means to monitor and engage ICT policy issues in the interests of social justice and human development.

The objectives of the ICT Policy Monitor in Africa are:

- **To develop an information resource for civil society organisations that wish to be active in ICT policy**

This involves researching and analysing ICT policy from a civil society perspective including running and updating the monitor websites as a clearinghouse for relevant information. The product team also produces a regular newsletter ([Chakula](#)) to disseminate this information.

- **To raise awareness in civil society organisation of ICT policy issues**

This includes actively seeking out civil society organisations (in non-ICT fields) and creating awareness on ICTs and their work, as well as running email lists for discussion on these issues. It also means making interventions in civil society conferences and workshops to promote ICT policy issues.

- **To empower civil society organisations (CSOs) in developing ICT policy that meets their needs, and to encourage them to lobby for an information society that builds social justice and human rights, at national, regional and global levels**

This work is furthered through publications using a framework for CSO ICT policy and in supporting CSOs to use it in order to link up with similar groups, active in developing ICT policy. The project team is also building a network of national ICT policy activists to increase the impact at the regional level and in the WSIS process.

Collaboration

The project team also works in collaboration with other organisations and partnerships involved in related project activities such as running civil society training workshops on internet policy.

The APC is also the lead implementer for the [CATIA](#) project component 1C - Africa-Led Advocacy on ICT Policy Reform - on ICT policy advocacy for a well-informed, lively and inclusive policy debates across Africa, shaping the local policy environment.

Capacity building and resource development

In collaboration with the CATIA project, the Africa Monitor convened a Regional ICT Policy Advocacy Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya: July 19 – 23, 2004. This event was a huge success. It brought together individuals from civil society, the media and the private sector from more than 10 countries. With the help of the regional IDRC office in Nairobi APC was able to secure the Kenyan Minister of Communications, Raphael Tuju as a keynote speaker for the workshop's closing event. The workshop received extensive media coverage in Kenya.

"The APC ICT policy Advocacy workshop was an opportunity to find common ground between private sector, civil society and the media, and establish a common advocacy plan that could be implemented in our countries"

Abdul Hakeem Ajijola
ICT Consultant
Nigeria

Following the successful ICT policy capacity building workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2004, a second workshop aimed for Francophone Africa took place in 2005. Held again in collaboration with the CATIA project, this time in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the workshop in the region was successful in producing tangible outcomes. After identifying priority areas for action, the participants of each of the 5 countries present came up with a regional ICT advocacy action plan.

Supporting an African Network for the World Summit on the Information Society

APC has continued to focus on the WSIS process particularly in Africa and Latin America, providing resources and training so that people are empowered to understand the issues, to lobby for and to build an information society that supports social justice and equitable development.

In Africa APC has been an active player in coordinating and **supporting civil society participation and input in the WSIS process**. APC successfully facilitated the participation of various groups of CSOs in attending the first phase of the WSIS process that culminated in Geneva in December 2003. APC played a central role in coordinating the Africa Caucus which saw the formation of an African civil society caucus group, which has worked steadily before the December 2003 Summit to prepare and discuss issues of relevance to the WSIS and related meetings. APC helped to facilitate discussions for CSOs in preparing the second phase of the summit in 2004/5 and has continued in that role, particularly advancing the key issues of internet governance and the implementation of the WSIS action plan.

The APC Africa ICT Policy Monitor and the Chakula newsletters

The **ICT Policy Monitor website**¹ was revamped in 2004, and since its re-launch in October 2004, has experienced a huge increase in usage. We believe this is an indicator of the new site's improved navigation and of the relevance of the content. The Africa Policy Monitor team is now working on a new look for the French Monitor, currently going through the final testing before re-launch. <http://afrique.droits.apc.org>

APC's Africa Policy Monitor newsletter² **Chakula** covers different ICT policy issues relevant to civil society organisations, including Kenyan ICT policy debates, ICT policy advocacy in Africa, reviews of recent ICT policy issues, WSIS, WIPO and the 'Development Agenda'. The Africa Policy monitor has produced analytical reports on ICT policy developments with special attention to those aspects that affect, or have the potential to affect, the rights of civil society.

¹ <http://africa.rights.apc.org>

² <http://africa.rights.apc.org/newsletter.shtml>