GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH is the first in a series of yearly reports covering the state of the information society from the perspectives of civil society and stakeholders in the global South.

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH has three interrelated goals:

- **survey** the state of the field of ICT policy at the local and global levels
- **encourage** critical debate, and
- **strengthen** networking and advocacy for a just, inclusive information society.

The report discusses the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and a range of international institutions, regulatory agencies and monitoring instruments.

It also includes a collection of country reports which examine issues of access and participation within a variety of national contexts.

Each year, the report will focus on a particular theme. In 2007 GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH focuses on participation.

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH is a joint initiative of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Third World Institute (ITeM), and follows up on our long-term interest in the impact of civil society on governance processes and our efforts to enhance public participation in national and international forums.
GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2008 is the second in a series of yearly reports critically covering the state of the information society from the perspectives of civil society organisations across the world.

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH or GISWatch has three interrelated goals:

- **Surveying** the state of information and communications technology (ICT) policy at the local and global levels.
- **Encouraging** critical debate.
- **Strengthening** networking and advocacy for a just, inclusive information society.

Each year the report focuses on a particular theme. **GISWatch 2008** focuses on **access to infrastructure** and includes several thematic reports dealing with key access issues, an analysis of where global institutions stand on the access debate, a report looking at the state of indicators and access, six regional reports and 38 country reports.

GISWatch 2008 is a joint initiative of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos) and the Third World Institute (ITeM).
GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH (GISWatch) 2009 is the third in a series of yearly reports critically covering the state of the information society from the perspectives of civil society organizations across the world.

GISWatch has three interrelated goals:
- Surveying the state of the field of information and communications technology (ICT) policy at the local and global levels
- Encouraging critical debate
- Strengthening networking and advocacy for a just, inclusive information society.

Each year the report focuses on a particular theme. GISWatch 2009 focuses on access to online information and knowledge – advancing human rights and democracy. It includes several thematic reports dealing with key issues in the field, as well as an institutional overview and a reflection on indicators that track access to information and knowledge. There is also an innovative section on visual mapping of global rights and political crises.

In addition, 48 country reports analyse the status of access to online information and knowledge in countries as diverse as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Switzerland and Kazakhstan, while six regional overviews offer a bird’s eye perspective on regional trends.

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GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2009 is the third in a series of yearly reports critically covering the state of the information society from the perspectives of civil society organisations across the world.

GISWatch has three interrelated goals:

• Surveying the state of the field of information and communications technology (ICT) policy at the local and global levels
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In the year of the Arab uprisings, Global Information Society Watch 2011 investigates how governments and internet and mobile phone companies are trying to restrict freedom online – and how citizens are responding to this using the very same technologies.

Everyone is familiar with the stories of Egypt and Tunisia. GISWatch authors tell these and other lesser-known stories from more than 60 countries. Stories about:

- Prison conditions in Argentina: Prisoners are using the internet to protest living conditions and demand respect for their rights.
- Torture in Indonesia: The torture of two West Papuan farmers was recorded on a mobile phone and leaked to the internet. The video spread to well-known human rights sites, sparking public outrage and a formal investigation by the authorities.
- The tsunami in Japan: Citizens used social media to share actionable information during the devastating tsunami, and in the aftermath, online discussions contradicted misleading reports coming from state authorities.

GISWatch also includes thematic reports and an introduction from Frank La Rue, UN special rapporteur.

GISWatch 2011 is the fifth in a series of yearly reports that critically cover the state of the information society from the perspectives of civil society organisations across the world. GISWatch is a joint initiative of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos).