



Active Democracy

In the opinion of the Active Democracy Network Scarce progress on the fulfillment of agreements during 2006-2007

The results of the first version of the Evaluation of Government Compliance Index of the commitments adopted at the Summits of the Americas, calculated by the Active Democracy project, call attention to the way in which countries are implementing the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. This is because in the eyes of civil society, beyond the significant political will expressed in these agreements, the rhythm of their implementation in recent years has been slow, and even worrying setbacks have been observed.

The Evaluation of Government Compliance Index (EGCI) is a tool especially designed for Civil Society to be able to monitor the Summits process. This index summarizes the opinions of 233 evaluators that make up part of a wide network of leaders and civil society institutions from each country. It was asked of each country to judge to what extent the government progressed or back-stepped on its compliance with the general principles enshrined in the mandates of the Summits and other inter-American agreements to which they subscribe.

To these ends a six-degree table of evaluation was proposed in which the most positive value (+3) implied recognizing very important progress and the most negative (-3) implied recognizing that the government had taken a serious step back with regards to these principles to which they had committed. The period for evaluation was understood as between 2006 - 2007. This first version of the index presents complete results for 9 countries.

Ranking	COUNTRY	EGCI*
1	BARBADOS	0,592
2	CHILE	0,534
3	GUATEMALA	0,520
4	BOLIVIA	0,241
5	ECUADOR	0,186
6	ARGENTINA	-0,052
7	PARAGUAY	-0,357
8	NICARAGUA	-0,750
9	VENEZUELA	-0,814

The ranking of the countries included in this first version of the EGCI is led by Barbados, leaving Venezuela in ninth place.

The average general value for these nine countries (0.011) points to very modest progress if we consider the total possible range of the index's variation. With these results, the Active Democracy Network is expressing its critical vision with regards to the way in which its governments fulfill their pledged commitments.

If each thematic area is analyzed, the area with the best evaluations in the majority of the countries (except Ecuador) is Access to Information. To the contrary, as far as the worst evaluated areas, there is a pretty diverse set of profiles (See graph on page 3)

GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The gender perspective is explicitly considered within each of the thematic areas of the EGCI. If we analyze more in detail the points obtained in the sub-dimensions that refer to gender themes, it can be seen that in general the evaluation of the fulfillment of these commitments presents differences with regards to the general evaluation. These differences, however, do not move in only one direction. Three distinct sets of countries can be found: 4 in which the evaluation of the fulfillment of the commitments related to gender is more positive than the general evaluation (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Venezuela); 3 countries in which this evaluation is more negative than the general (Ecuador, Guatemala and Nicaragua) and two countries that do not show any differences (Barbados and Bolivia).

The project, "Active Democracy: Citizen Network for Government Compliance with the Summits," is an initiative implemented in 23 countries in the Americas¹. Its principal objective is to promote access to information and public participation in the processes of the Summits of the Americas, as well as in other activities of the inter-American system, through the monitoring of government compliance with the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, diffusion of the Summits process and influence on those subjects in which the Network works.

This initiative has ten years under its belt, which has continuously contributed to the widening and strengthening of the participation of the civil society in the inter-American system.

The coordinating entities of this hemispheric project are:

- Corporación PARTICIPA, Chile.
- Canadian Fund for the Americas (FOCAL), Canada
- Venezuelan Institute of Social and Political Research (INVESP), Venezuela

The projects can count on support from:

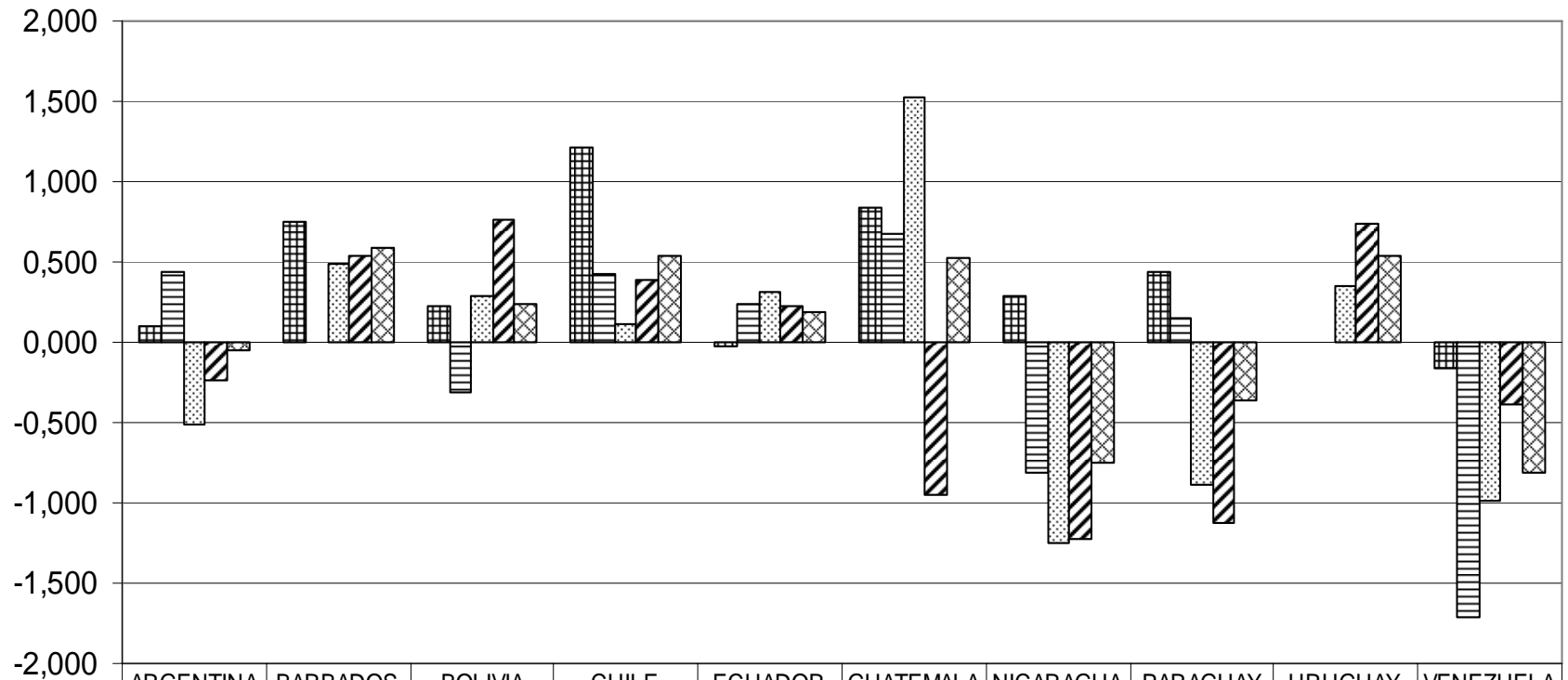
- Canadian Agency for International Development (ACDI) and the
- Inter-American Council for the Integral Development of the Organization of the American Status (CIDI/OAS)
- Summits Secretariat of the OAS and the Open Society Institute, through the Inter-American initiative for the Cooperation of Civil Society

The EGCI is the first stage of the work performed by this Network, which will continue to perform activities of dissemination and outreach with its goals set on the next Summit in Trinidad and Tobago. Also, National Alliances will be built, made up of representatives of the government and Civil Society, who together will agree upon concrete actions that contribute to the fulfillment of the mandates of the Summits.

The following is the graph with the results of the EGCI disaggregated by thematic areas for each country.

¹ Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Dimensiones del IECG



	ARGENTINA	BARBADOS	BOLIVIA	CHILE	ECUADOR	GUATEMALA	NICARAGUA	PARAGUAY	URUGUAY	VENEZUELA
▣ acceso a información	0,097	0,752	0,222	1,208	-0,028	0,836	0,292	0,438		-0,167
▤ descentralización	0,442		-0,308	0,423	0,242	0,681	-0,812	0,149		-1,717
▥ libertad expresión	-0,511	0,484	0,292	0,111	0,310	1,520	-1,250	-0,889	0,344	-0,983
▧ participación	-0,235	0,538	0,758	0,392	0,220	-0,955	-1,230	-1,127	0,735	-0,388
▨ IECG	-0,052	0,592	0,241	0,534	0,186	0,520	-0,750	-0,357	0,540	-0,814