

**Executive Summary
Regional Strategy for
Latin America and the Caribbean
TILAC 2008-2012**



photo : Marcelo Praiss



TILAC 2012 – Executive Summary

During the past decade, **Transparency International’s network of National Chapters in Latin America and the Spanish speaking Caribbean** has evolved into an outstanding reference and source of innovation for the international anticorruption movement. This has been possible due to collaboration by the exceptional individuals who lead the work of TI in the region along with a high level of commitment and professionalism of the civil society organizations they have built. Support received from the global TI movement, specifically from the Americas Department of the International Secretariat, has also been a key contributing factor.

The Chapters realized early on the benefits of working as a regional network and in 1996 they created **TILAC** (Transparency International in Latin America and the Caribbean). By networking, they seek to accelerate the transfer of information, strengthen the impact of their local activities, and promote joint anticorruption agendas. In more than ten years of collective activities, the capacity of our organizations to confront corruption issues has significantly increased. Also, the contexts in which we operate have changed substantially as have the opportunities and challenges influencing our efforts. Among the current contextual factors that we foresee as playing a key role in the coming years are:

1. Sustained economic growth that is not reducing poverty and inequality.
2. In some countries, an increasing concentration of power in the Executive to the detriment of the equilibrium among government branches coupled with a growing influence of private interests.
3. The significant anti-corruption framework established under the aegis of international agreements and legal reforms is not being implemented.
4. Institutional weakness which highlights the importance of supplementing control by state bodies with social oversight mechanisms.
5. Growing disenchantment of citizens with political systems and their ability to eradicate corruption.

TILAC promoted a process of reflection and assessment regarding the different contextual changes, which resulted in analysis and debate leading to TILAC 2012, the regional strategic plan that will lead our efforts in the coming years. The purpose of the strategy is to increase the impact of our regional activities in line with efforts at the national level undertaken by the Chapters.

The **overall goal** of the strategy is:

To increase transparency and accountability levels of political and administrative systems in Latin America through concerted efforts by the government, the private sector, and civil society with the aim to reduce social and economic inequalities, improve the quality of public policies, and strengthen the legitimacy of democratic institutions.

In order to efficiently achieve this goal, the National Chapters, jointly with the Americas Department, decided to focus their collective efforts on three broad strategic areas of work: regional advocacy, shared learning, and organizational development.

A **ADVOCACY**

To attain greater impact from our advocacy activities, it was decided that we would focus resources and capacity on three thematic priorities. These correspond to our experience in the topics, the probability of success, and their relevance for all countries. The strategic priorities are:

Strengthen democratic institutions and citizens' trust in their governments by promoting transparency and accountability of **political systems**

TILAC 2012 seeks to attain this priority by helping to increase levels of transparency in political financing, by expanding the accountability practices and mechanisms in Parliaments and through a more comprehensive understanding of state capture. To this end, we will: provide a regional space for analysis and debate; produce indicators to evaluate the levels of transparency; train stakeholders and exercise social oversight.

Fight corruption, especially in those areas where it is closely linked to the increase of **poverty**, inequality and social exclusion.

This requires a strategy that can bind anticorruption and development strategies, and also promotes better outreach to citizens affected by poverty and inequality in order to motivate them to join the fight against corruption. This can be achieved by generating information and producing diagnosis that link both agendas; designing and implementing social oversight strategies; initiating dialogue with and training of less privileged groups of society; and through the promotion of new accountability mechanisms for national, regional and municipal governments, among others.

Promote **international anticorruption agreements** and their effective implementation, while empowering citizens to demand greater accountability

Efforts will focus on the following: increasing the effectiveness of international anticorruption agreements to fight this problem, contributing to a better use of available resources through the integration of existing monitoring instruments, and expanding the number of stakeholders benefiting from these agreements as a mechanism to promote change. This will be accomplished by generating information; promoting agreements with actors in government, civil society and international organizations and providing independent monitoring of the implementation of agreements while contributing to a formal monitoring process.

B **SHARED LEARNING**

Shared learning requires the expansion of the use of information and experiences gathered by the network and other organizations and individuals to: strengthen our work, maximize the use of resources, and promote innovation. This will improve quality standards and increase their impact. To do this, we will strengthen the **knowledge management** systems in order to increase our capacity to identify good practices, its analysis, dissemination, and replication in different contexts. Furthermore, we will foment intra-network and external spaces for discussion with the aim of expanding and sharing our views on problems and solutions.

C ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Without strong and sustainable organizations with high governance standards it is difficult to attain the expected results. Based on the standards required by TI, we will strengthen the governance and accountability structures of our member organizations, their capacity to implement communication and advocacy strategies and the capacity to measure the impact of our activities. Moreover, we will expand the network's presence in countries lacking a National Chapter.

TILAC 2012 seeks to reinforce the commitment of each network member. This requires active involvement and shared responsibility by the Americas Department and National Chapters to ensure this strategy turns into action.

TILAC consists of National Chapters and contacts in: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It also includes the TI Americas Regional Department in Berlin and a group of regional program coordinators based in Latin America.

List of TILAC Network organisations¹

National Chapters:



Argentina:	Poder Ciudadano	www.poderciudadano.org
Chile:	Chile Transparente	www.chiletransparente.cl
Colombia:	Transparencia por Colombia	www.transparenciacolombia.org.co
Dominican Republic:	Participación Ciudadana	www.pciudadana.org
Guatemala:	Acción Ciudadana	www.accionciudadana.org.gt
Mexico:	Transparencia Mexicana	www.transparenciamexicana.org.mx
Nicaragua:	Ética y Transparencia	www.eyt.org.ni
Panama:	Fundación para la Libertad Ciudadana	www.libertadciudadana.org
Paraguay:	Transparencia Paraguay	www.transparencia.org.py
Peru:	Proética	www.proetica.org.pe
Uruguay:	Uruguay Transparente	www.uruguaytransparente.org.uy
Venezuela:	Transparencia Venezuela	www.transparencia.org.ve

National Contacts:

El Salvador:	Funde	www.funde.org
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Allied organisations:

Honduras:	Ací Participa
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TI collaborates with civil society organisations in those countries with whom TI does not have a formal alliance.

TI's International Secretariat:

Americas regional department (Berlin, Germany)
Programme Coordinators in the region

¹ As of April 15th, 2008