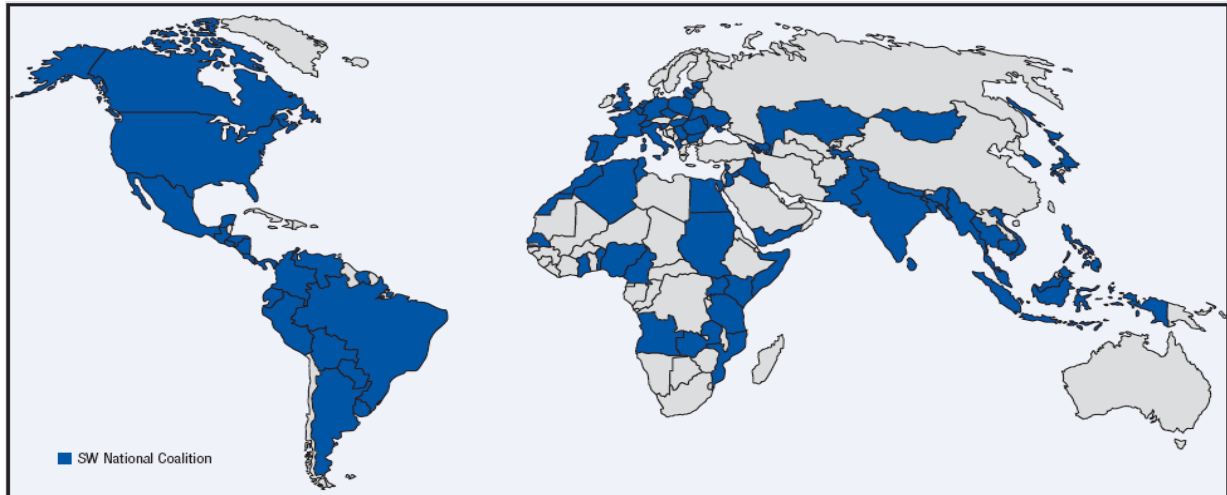




Social Watch: Promoting Accountability Around the World



The members of the Social Watch network are active in over 70 countries around the world. Social Watch emerged in 1995 as a “meeting place” for non-governmental organizations concerned with poverty eradication and gender equality, and to promote the monitoring of social development commitments made by governments.. Since then, the network has published 13 yearly reports on progress and setbacks, which have become advocacy tools on a local, regional, and international level.

The 2008 Social Watch report features contributions from 58 national organizations. Since its creation, *Social Watch* has brought into light more than 550 reports from civil society organizations, all of them sharing the aim of reminding governments of their commitments and tracking their implementation, both country by country and at the international level.

In the decade Social Watch was created, a series of high-level United Nations conferences, starting with the ‘Children’s Summit’ in 1990 and ending with the Millennium Summit in 2000, redefined the global social agenda. In 1995, the Social Summit (Copenhagen) and the Women’s Conference (Beijing) established, for the first time, the eradication of poverty and gender equality as common universal objectives, setting concrete targets and timelines to achieve the goal vaguely formulated in 1946 in the UN Charter as “dignity for all”.

Social Watch reformulates internationally available statistical information to measure progress and its member organizations working at ground level report on qualitative aspects of the issues addressed. The Social Watch yearly reports, adding an international dimension to local efforts and campaigns, became the first sustained monitoring initiative on social development and gender equity at a national level, and the first to combine both in one international overview.

In addition, Social Watch has developed alternative indicators to measure progress or setbacks in gender equity and the meeting of basic human capacities, which are now used widely as reference by civil society organizations and international institutions.

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