



**Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry**  
Registro de Direcciones de Internet para **América Latina y Caribe**  
Registro de Endereçamento de Internet para **América Latina e Caribe**

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LACNIC, the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Address Registry, would like to express its deep concern in light of two legislative initiatives that been proposed before the U.S. Congress which, if passed, will have global consequences and affect the entire Internet community. These initiatives are known by the acronyms of SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (Protect Intellectual Property Act).

The community's main concern revolves around the fact that, with the intention of protecting intellectual property rights, these initiatives would enable unilateral measures that would affect the normal operation of the Internet beyond the borders of the United States. Raúl Echeberría, LACNIC's Executive Director said that "The fight against illegal distribution of digital contents is a legitimate one. However, the collateral impact of this type of initiatives goes well beyond the expected goal and will create problems for the operation of the Internet globally, affecting both companies through increased operating costs as well as the users' freedom of expression"

In addition, the proposed initiatives eliminate the requirement of due process, as the sole presumption of infringement could provide sufficient grounds for important punitive measures. SOPA would force takedowns of any web page under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice for copyright infringement, regardless of where the web page is actually located.

Oscar Messano, Chairman of the LACNIC Board of Directors also commented that "Attempts are being made to apply technical solutions to a problem that is not technical but both legal and political and, in doing so, the global Internet ecosystem is being affected"

LACNIC once again expresses its commitment to the continued development and stability of the Internet, cooperating and articulating with all stakeholders, in the hope that the enormous benefits of the Internet will reach our entire community.

**Oscar Messano**  
**Chairman of the Board**  
**LACNIC**