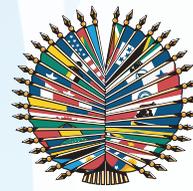


ACTIVITIES

- Publish and distribute the Model Law on Access to Public Information and its implementation Guide.
- Carry out and distribute studies on the application, implementation, and advancement of the Model Law.
- Organize workshops and seminars on promoting and distributing the Model Law and its Implementation Guide.
- Encourage and facilitate the training of trainers.
- Catalogue and share information on countries' experiences and best practices.
- Create a database of comparative legislation and jurisprudence.
- Create a web portal on access to public information in the Americas.



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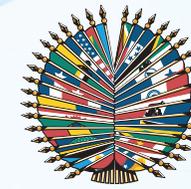
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Organization of American States
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EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION A COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE

*We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas
are committed to providing the legal and regulatory framework
and the structures and conditions required to guarantee
the right of access to information to our citizens.*

**Special Summit of the Americas
Declaration of Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico 2004**



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INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the importance of access to public information and personal data protection to strengthening democracy, in 2012 the OAS General Assembly approved the Model Law on Access to Public Information and its Implementation Guide. These two documents represent the broadest possible application of the right to public information—defined as information in the possession, custody, or control of any public authority—, and serve as the legal foundation of this project.

The right of access to public information is key to protecting many individual and collective rights which are fundamental to a strong and functioning democracy. Furthermore, the relationship between the right of access to public information and human rights protection, economic development, and governance is widely recognized.

Through interactions and discussions between project participants—including high level public officials, experts, academics, private sector and civil society actors—the initiative will build consensus toward drafting, updating, and promoting a cutting edge access to information legal framework, which responds to OAS Member State needs, fits into existing constitutional provisions and laws, international human rights standards, and incorporates the Model Law and its Implementation Guide.

GOALS

Improve OAS Member State capacities in transparency and equitable access to information, through promoting and publicizing local implementation of the Model Law on Access to Public Information.¹



STRATEGY

In those OAS Member States where legislation on access to public information is already in effect, the project will analyze existing law in this area, in comparison with the Model Law and its Implementation Guide, focusing on providing guidance on updating or complementing existing law.

In countries that lack specialized law on this topic, and that wish to fill this void, the project will promote the Model Law and Implementation Guide, and work to generate consensus toward the adoption of national legislation in this area, in accordance with the most coherent, modern, and generally accepted legal practices in the Americas.

GOVERNANCE

Access to public information promotes:

- Trust and confidence in public institutions.
- Transparent, responsible, and effective public operations.
- Active and informed citizen participation.
- Government accountability.
- Monitoring and control of public entities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Access to public information encourages:

- Development.
- Commercial and economic growth.
- The creation of safe, transparent markets.
- Free and open competition.
- Business climates that attract investment.

ADVANCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Access to public information promotes:

- Fundamental human rights, such as Freedom of expression, and the informed exercise of economic social, cultural, and political rights.

¹ Approved, together with its Implementation Guide, by the General Assembly in June 2010 (AG/RES 2607 - (XL-O/10)).

