



NATIONAL NETWORK
For The Right
Of Access To Information

POLITICIANS

Why should you support the law on Access to Information?

- Your support for this law will demonstrate your commitment to transparency and good governance in Lebanon.
- This law will strengthen the relationship between you and your constituents.
- This law will help you perform your role more effectively.
- This law will help level the playing field between opposing parliamentary candidates.
- This law falls within your obligation as a lawmaker to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was ratified by Lebanon in October 2008 (33/16-10-2008).

How will this law help your constituents?

- This law will enable your constituents to access information about government policy and decision making, information which they will be able to access directly as well as through enhanced reporting by the media.
- This law will serve to enhance the democratic process as citizens will have the capacity to vote based on verifiable facts rather than speculation.
- Greater access to information will allow voters to hold both executive government and elected officials accountable for their decisions.
- Citizens' ability to obtain information will increase their confidence in government and elected officials and help foster a relationship of trust between citizens and the State.
- Transparency in government will enhance investor confidence and ensure better practice in the private sector, with associated economic benefits to the public.

How can this law help you as a politician and Member of Parliament?

- Enhanced access to information and media reporting will allow members of parliament to more effectively oversee government decision-making.
- All politicians, irrespective of political alliances, will have access to critical information about government decision making and will be able to share that information with their constituency.
- Greater citizen awareness of the reasons for decisions, whether within government or parliament, can reduce misunderstandings and enhance popular support.

How will this law enhance government transparency and reduce corruption?

- This law will enhance the quality and objectivity of government decision-making as discretionary or arbitrary decisions will be replaced by policy based on fact and precedent.
- All forms of government contracts and public procurement will be documented, justified and disclosed.
- The adoption of administrative procedures to implement this law will result in more advanced record keeping and archiving systems within the government.
- Opportunities for the use of bribery and petty corruption in daily administration will be reduced through greater clarity in procedures for accessing information within government offices and through mechanisms to enforce those procedures.
- Information sharing and the mechanisms by which it is enforced will support a system of checks and balances between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

The National Network for the Right of Access to Information ("Network"), a multi-sectoral group comprising parliamentarians, ministries, private sector associations, professional syndicates and non-governmental organizations, seeks to enhance transparency and accountability and to strengthen the rule of law and civic participation in Lebanon through access to information and protection for individuals who report corruption ("whistleblower protection"). The Network was formed on April 11, 2008 upon the initiative of the Lebanese Parliamentarians against Corruption (LebPAC), the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), and Association pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés (ADDL), in collaboration with the American Bar Association (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative in Lebanon.

For more information, see www.a2ilebanon.net, www.khabrouna.net.