



NATIONAL NETWORK
For The Right
Of Access To Information

PUBLIC SERVANTS

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 falls within your obligation as a public servant to abide by the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was ratified by Lebanon in October 2008 (33/16-10-2008). This law will facilitate access to information in an efficient way that would enable improved coordination between Ministries and other government institutions.
- This law will help you perform your role as a public servant more effectively.
- In order to improve civil society's image of government institutions, government information must be made public.

What are the benefits to making government information public?

- Citizens' ability to obtain public information will increase their confidence in government and elected officials and help foster a relationship of trust between citizens and the State.
- Citizens' access to information about government policy and decision-making will enable them to hold the government accountable.
- Transparency will encourage fact-based policy-making by government thereby reducing discretionary or arbitrary decisions.
- Citizens' access to the reasons for administrative decisions that affect their rights can reduce misunderstandings and enhance popular support for the government.
- Enhanced government transparency will improve efficiency and reduce corruption.

How can this law help improve government efficiency?

- This law provides a simple mechanism for any person to request and obtain information from the administration.
- Implementation of this law will encourage the streamlining of record management and archiving systems within the government and help identify bureaucratic log jams.
- Implementation of this law will improve the internal flow of information between Ministries and other public agencies.
- Established mechanisms for information between government institutions will support a system of checks and balances between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

How will this law enhance government transparency and reduce corruption?

- By enabling citizens to access information about government policy and decision-making.
- By leading to a clear and workable system of mechanisms to enable citizens to gain access to the government.
- By leading to the documentation, justification and disclosure of all forms of government contracts and public procurement.
- By enhancing clarity in procedures for accessing information within government offices and availability of mechanisms to enforce those procedures resulting in reduced bribery and petty corruption in the administration.

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.