



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**“THE POWER OF ACCESS
TO PUBLIC INFORMATION”**

CANCÚN, QUINTANA ROO
February 20-23, 2005

INTRODUCTION

Transparency and access to public information have become fundamental topics, indissoluble of political and social change in the world.

As corollary of the new democratic wave of the last part of the 20th century, both subject matters are compulsory in the political agenda of every nation. This is not merely causal: once the nations consolidate an open regime and agree upon the rules of the game of access to power, typical subject matters of the 'second generation' come up immediately. Then the discussion isn't just access to power but how to exercise and control democratic power. And, in the core of this new dilemma we find transparency and access to information. Such reasons—circumstantial to democratization—have conformed a true international movement in 50 countries that have approved access to information Laws and 30 other that are in a process of adopting legislations in such matter.

This reality deserves a discussion and international position that accompanies the construction process of the involved nations, so that it can promote the incorporation of such themes into the agendas of multilateral organisms (such as IMF, WB, OCED, IDB, amongst others) and sub national governments, around the world.

For these effect, the Third International Conference of Access to Information Commissioners has been called upon. It has been designed as a meeting place for the authorities of the world that have a mission to protect and promote the right of access to information. This is an annual event, which in 2005 will be organized by Mexico through the Federal Institute of Access to Public Information (IFAI, its Spanish acronym), to be taken place in the City of Cancún, in the state of Quintana Roo.

Eleven countries of the world which have analogous institutions are invited, these are: plus the host country. This will be a space of deliberation and debate, a place of crossings and experience interchange between the commissioners of access to the information and personal data protection in the world, and them, along other personalities that come from multilateral and international organisms will show there interest in the subject matter.

The main purpose of the Conference is to recognize and disseminate the power of the right of access to information and its impact on people's life, public deliberation, and the exercise of power. The event will have a double content: on the one hand, an exploration of relevant and meaningful international experiences that have modified inertias, changed corrupt habits and improved the relation between government and citizens. And on the other, the Conference will allow making a call at the sub-national, national and international level, in order to engage all contemporary democracies and multilateral organizations with the disclosure of public information and to promote the incorporation of these topics into their political agenda.

The Third International Conference of Access to Information Commissioners will approach the theme of access to information from society's perspective (as it exercises its right and as it demands accountability from the power structure); from the perspective of the democratic state (committed to create an institutional framework –vertical and horizontal control mechanisms of the action of those who govern— beyond the transparency of the voting system). These objectives are joint also by the perspective of international organisms (that actively promote this principals in the nations and inside themselves).

The coordination of this event in Mexico is a unique and exceptional opportunity for the promotion and dissemination of the Federal Law of Transparency and Access to Government Information, as well as the work developed by the IFAI. This Conference will summon emblematic protagonists, authors and protagonists of the law to access to the information, personalities that due to their trajectory and public or universal relevance, or due to their strategic placing in global institutions, will help us relaunch this call in favor of the transparency and liberty of information in the world.

SUNDAY 20

19:00 hrs. - 21:00 hrs. *Reception cocktail*

MONDAY 21

8:30 hrs. - 9:00 hrs. *Registration of participants*

9:00 hrs. - 9:30 hrs. **WELCOME AND INAUGURATION**

Vicente Fox, President of Mexico*
María Marván, President Commissioner of the Federal Institute of Access to Public Information, México.

9:30 hrs. - 10:15 hrs. **PLENARY SESSION**
ACCESS TO INFORMATION, A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations*
Dante Mario Caputo, Director of the UNDP Report on "Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Democracy of Citizens".*

10:15 hrs. - 10:30 hrs. *Coffee Break*

10:30 hrs. - 11:15 hrs. **PLENARY SESSION**
THE POWER OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

George Soros, Founder and Chairman, Open Society Institute.*

11:15 hrs. - 11:30 hrs. *Coffee Break*

11:30 hrs. - 14:00 hrs. **ROUND TABLE**
ACCESS TO INFORMATION. A GLOBAL VISION.

David Banisar, Freedom of Information Project Director, Privacy International.
Global Report 2005. Laws of Freedom of Information and Access to Government Record Laws around the World.
Toby Mendel, Law Program Director, Article 19.
Freedom of Information: Examples, Experiences, and Lessons Learned.
Thomas Blanton, Director of the National Security Archive, George Washington University.
Comparative Experiences of FOIA. Obstacles and Dilemmas.
Helen Darbishire, Senior Program Manager Freedom of Information and Expression, Open Society Institute.
Implementation of Access to Information Laws.
Laura Neuman, Director of Programs, Carter Center.
Obstacles and Dilemmas in the Implementation Laws.

14:00 hrs. - 16:00 hrs. *Lunch*

16:00 hrs. - 19:00 hrs.

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS (REGIONAL)

EXPERIENCES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN AMERICA.

COORDINATOR: **Laura Neuman**, Director of Programs, Carter Center.

PARTICIPANTS:

Eduardo Bertoni, Special Relator for Liberty of Expression, OAS.*

Thomas Blanton, Director of the National Security Archives, George Washington University.

John M. Reid, Information Commissioner, Canada.

Maria Marván, President Commissioner of the Federal Institute of Access to Public Information, México.

Samuel Abad, Co Defender of Constitutional Issues, Perú.

Guido Alejandro Rodríguez, Second Co Defender of the People and Special Delegate for Liberty of Expression, People's Defense of the Republic of Panamá.*

Christian Bahamonde, Executive Under director of Latin American Cooperation for Development, National Chapter of Transparency International, Ecuador.

Roberto Saba, Executive Director Civil Rights Association, Argentina.

EXPERIENCES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN EUROPE.

COORDINATOR: **David Banisar**, Freedom of Information Project Director, Privacy International.

PARTICIPANTS:

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, European Ombudsman*

Kevin Dunion, Information Commissioner, Scotland.

Hansjürgen Garstka, Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, State of Berlin, Germany.*

Michèle Puybasset, President of the Commission of Access to Administrative Documents, France.

Emily O'Reilly, Information Commissioner, Ireland.

Robert Andersen, Président Commission d'accès aux documents administratifs SPF Intérieur, Belgium.*

José Renato Gonçalves, Member of the Access to Administrative Documents Comision, Portugal.*

Graham Smith, Deputy Information Commissioner, United Kingdom.

EXPERIENCES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE.

COORDINATOR: Helen Darbshire, Senior Program Manager, Freedom of Information and Expression, Open Society Justice Initiative.

PARTICIPANTS:

Attila Péterfalvi, Parliamentary Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Hungary.

Urmas Kukk, Director General of Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate, Estonia.*

Signe Plumina, State Data Inspectorate, Latvia.*

Natasa Pirc Musar, Commissioner for Access to Information of Public Character, Slovenia.

Nina Karpachova, Commissioner for Human Rights, Ukraine.

EXPERIENCES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN ASIA, AFRICA AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT.

COORDINATOR: Toby Mendel, Director of Law Program, Article 19.

PARTICIPANTS:

Leon Wessels, Commissioner in charge of Promotion of Access to Information Act, South Africa.

Niti Wirudchawong, Director of Investigation, Office of the Ombudsman, Thailand.*

Darryl Wookey, Information Commissioner of the Government of Western Australia.

Shelia S. Coronel, Executive Director, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.*

OBSTACLES, ADVANCEMENT AND CHALLENGES OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS

Obstacles

Durango

Michoacán

Morelos

Querétaro

Berlin

Advancements

Colima

Sinaloa

Buenos Aires

New York

Challenges

Colima

Federal District

Guanajuato

Nuevo León

Connecticut

20:00 hrs. *Dinner (grill on the beach)*

Speaker: **Joaquín Ernesto Hendricks**,* Governor of the State of Quintana Roo..

CONFERENCES AND PANELS

8:30 hrs. - 9:00 hrs. *Registration of participants*

9:00 hrs. - 9:40 hrs. **PLENARY SESSION**
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

James D. Wolfensohn, World Bank.*
The Impact of Freedom of Information in the Economic Development and Poverty Relief.

Enrique V. Iglesias, Inter American Development Bank.*
Access of Information: a tool to fight corruption .

9:40 hrs. - 11:30 hrs. **ROUNDTABLE**
ACCESS TO INFORMATION, SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Kate Doyle, Mexico Documentation Project, National Security Archives.*

Andrea Sanhueza, Participa Director, Chile*
Access to Information as a Tool to Promote Citizen Participation and Combating Corruption.

Bethan Grillo, Director of Latin American Program, Article 19.
Access to Information in Reproductive Health. A Comparative Study.

Nikhil Dey, Founder of Organization for the Empowerment of Workers and Peasants (MKSS) / **Aruna Roy**, Founder de Organization for the Empowerment of Workers and Peasants (MKSS)*
Access to Information: Facilitating Citizen Participation and Accountability.

11:30 hrs. - 11:45 hrs. *Coffee break*

11:45 hrs. - 13:30 hrs. **ROUND TABLE**
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMBAT CORRUPTION

MODERATOR: Federico Reyes Heróles, President of the Rector Council, Mexican Transparency.*

PARTICIPANTS:

Peter Eigen, Chairman of the Board, Transparency International.*
Access to Information and Accountability as Mechanisms to Fight Corruption.

Daniel Kaufmann, Director Global Governance, World Bank.*

Helena Hofbauer, Executive Director, Fundar*
Analysis of Public Budget and Accountability: a Tool for Transparency and Accountability.

Lucia Pérez Fragoso, Project Manager, Gender and Justice:
Citizenship, Work and Family.*
Citizen Demand: Transparency and Accountability.

13:30 hrs. - 15:00hrs. *Lunch*

15:00 hrs. - 17:00 hrs.

ROUND TABLE

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND THE OPENNESS OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Toby Mendel, Director of the Law Program, Article 19.
Shelia S. Coronel, Executive Director, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.*
Indicators of Openness in International Organisms.
Alasdir Roberts, Director of the Campbell Public Affairs Institute, Syracuse University.
Information Openness in Inter Governmental Organizations. The WTO Case.

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS (THEMATIC/ REGIONAL)

17:00 hrs. - 20:00 hrs.

THE WAY TO A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REGIME

PRESENTATION OF COUNTRIES IN THE PROCESS OF APPROVING OR IMPLEMENTING LAWS

COORDINATOR: **Helen Darbshire**, Senior Program Manager, Freedom of Information and Expression, Open Society Institute.

PARTICIPANTS:

Laura Neuman, Director of Programs, Carter Center.
Roberto Saba, Civil Rights Association, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

EXPERIENCES AND RESULTS OF THE ORGANIZED CIVIL SOCIETY

COORDINATORS: **Lucía Pérez Fragoso**, Project Manager, Gender and Justice: Citizenship, Work and Family.*

Juan Francisco Escobedo, Communications Program Coordinator, Universidad Iberoamericana .

PARTICIPANTS:

José Ugaz, Executive Director of Proética, Perú.*

Andrea Sanhueza, Director of Participa, Chile.*

Helena Hofbauer, Executive Director, Fundar.*

Ricardo Uceda, Executive Director of the Press and Society Institute, Lima, Perú.

The New Agenda of the Right to Access of Information from Society's Perspective.

NATIONAL SECURITY VS. THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION: A DIFFICULT COEXISTENCE

COORDINATOR: **Thomas Blanton**, Executive Director, National Security Archives.

PARTICIPANTS:

Toby Mendel, Law Program Director, Article 19.

National Security versus Access to Information: A Revision of the Johannesburg Principles.

Alasdir Roberts, Director of the Campbell Public Affairs Institute, Syracuse University.

National Security and Open Government. The NATO Case.

THE BALANCE BETWEEN DATA PROTECTION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION
Brian Beamish, Information and Privacy Assistant Commissioner,
Canada.

THE ROLE OF FOUNDATIONS IN THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.
José Octavio López Presa, IFAI Commissioner.

THE MODERN CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVACY.

LEARNING FROM DEFEAT: ACCOUNT OF NON-SUCCESSFUL CASES.

DISCUSSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONERS DECLARATION ON FREEDOM
OF INFORMATION.

20:00 hrs. Dinner

WEDNESDAY 23

8:30 hrs. - 9:00 hrs. *Registration of participants*

9:00 hrs. - 9:40 hrs. **PLENARY SESSION**
LATIN AMERICA REPORT

Eduardo Bertoni, Special Relator for Liberty of Expression,
Organization of American States.
The Situation of Access of Information in Latin America and the
Organization of American States Agenda.

9:40 hrs. - 11:20 hrs. **PRESENTATION OF THE FIFTH NOTEBOOK OF TRANSPARENCY ON ACCESS
TO INFORMATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

John Ackerman, Professor and researcher Facultad Latinoamericana
de Ciencias Sociales.

Juan Francisco Escobedo, Communications Program Coordinator
Universidad Iberoamericana.

Bethan Grillo, Director of the Latin America Program, Article 19.

Kate Doyle, National Security Archives.*

George Vickers, Director of the Latin America Program, Open Society
Institute/ **Helen Darbishire**, Senior Program Manager, Freedom of
Information and Expression, Open Society Institute.

José Octavio López Presa, IFAI Commissioner.

11:20 hrs. - 11:40 hrs. *Coffee break*

11:40 hrs. - 13:30 hrs. **Relator and Conclusions**

14:00 hrs. - 14:30 hrs. **Declaration Signature**

14:30 hrs. - 14:40 hrs. **Closing remarks**

Words of **María Marván**, President Commissioner of the Federal
Institute of Access to Public Information, México.

16:30 hrs. - 22:00 hrs. *Visit to Xcaret / Lunch*