ICIC Germany 2025

Welcome!

23-25 June 2025, Berlin

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AFRICAN NETWORK OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS (ANIC)

AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT

MALAWI

- Hosted IDUAI locally in collaboration with Civil Society Organisations. 140 participants from the media, civil society, and public institutions participated.
- Participated in the IDUAI organised by UNESCO in Ghana.
- **Oriented the representatives of civil society, political parties, media, and councils from the Eastern Region in Malawi and Chisankho Watch consortium on ATI and Elections .**
- **Facilitated the development of information manual workshops for nine public institutions.**
- Facilitated orientation sessions for 24 institutions to build capacity of information holders.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION IMPLEMENTATION IN KENYA**

The Commission, in collaboration with other partner institutions and with the support of the Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) conducted an assessment in the year 2024/2025 of the progress made in implementing the Access to Information Act, 2016 (ATI Act, 2016) in Kenya. The assessment was guided by the comprehensive right to information assessment methodology developed by the CLD and is complementary response to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 16.10.2, a UN framework for measuring State's adoption and implementation of the right of access to information guarantee. The assessment report which was adopted by the Commission in May 2025, has enabled the Commission establish areas requiring intervention at the Institutional level in-order to enhance ATI implementation in Kenya.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF THE KENYA STATE OF OPENNESS REPORT**

The Access to Information Act requires public entities to disclosure information to all citizens and stakeholders in line with Constitutional principles and national values. The Commission has constituted a Multi-Agency Committee to develop the first ever State of Openness Report for Kenya which is expected to give an overall picture of the level of openness that the Government is operating in. This is line with the ATI Act, the Government's Fourth Medium Term Plan and the Nation's commitment under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) fifth National Action Plan (NAP V).

SOUTH SUDAN

- **Information Commission has trained Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) to train both public and private information officers to assist the public in accessing information.**
- **Those trained include information officers from the National Security, the South Sudan People's Defense Forces, and the South Sudan Police Service, and the South Sudan Prisons Service.**
- The Information Commission is also a key partner in drafting the country's Media Communication Strategy for General Elections, 2025, which is being championed by the Media Authority. The elections are scheduled for December 2026.
- Commission's contribution focuses on special categories of voters (the disabled) to avoid marginalization and discrimination during elections

GHANA

- **In collaboration with UNESCO, Ghana Commission hosted the 2024 IDUAI**
- **The Commission facilitated multiple stakeholder engagements to support the development of the Legislative Instrument (LI), including the pre-laying of the draft regulations before the Subsidiary Legislation Committee of Parliament.**
- the Commission commemorated Right To Information Month through sensitization programmes aimed at educating the public on the roles and responsibilities of public institutions. 88 churches and 12 mosques were sensitized.
- The Commission hosted study visits from the Philippines' Freedom of Information Office, the Open Government Partnership, the Namibian Information Ministry, and research students from Cambridge University.

TOGO

- Promotion of practical measures have been taken to strengthen the availability and quality of public information, and these include:

  - Establishment of a digital monitoring mechanism to identify, alert, and correct false information circulating in the public space;

  - **The production and distribution of an explanatory video production, intended to guide citizens on the administrative procedures to follow to obtain public information or documents.**

  - The establishment of Géoportail, a government geospatial data platform open to the general public to make geospatial data on social and economic infrastructure available to the general public with the aim of promoting transparency, accountability, and the strategic use of public data.

TOGO

- Promotion of practical measures have been taken to strengthen the availability and quality of public information, and these include:

  - **The establishment of the Togolese open public data platform to provides the general public with access to open data with datasets to inform and assist public, private, and non-governmental stakeholders in making better decisions and forecasting.**

  - -The digitalization and online distribution of the Official Journal of the Togolese Republic: The official journal's website, accessible via https://jo.gouv.tg/, facilitates public access to legislative and regulatory texts in a spirit of transparency.

South Africa

- **The Information Regulator (South Africa) hosted two Provincial Roadshows, which comprised public awareness campaigns as part of activities crucial to raising public consciousness on the importance of exercising their right of access to information (PAIA). The Provincial Roadshows are characterised by community engagement sessions called Dikopano, a gathering designed to involve community members in discussions about their human rights and empowering individuals to make informed decisions and exercise their democratic rights. Over 300 members of the community were reached in the sessions.**

- The Information Regulator conducted twenty-four (24) public awareness programmes. This number includes public awareness programmes such as the two provincial Dikopanos (provincial roadshows), a commemorative event for the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), and a number of own-initiated community dialogues (“mini-Dikopanos”) on access to information

South Africa

- **The Information Regulator has initiated a project for the amendment of the ATI law to address a vacuum that was identified in relation to the Regulator's enforcement powers in so far as it relates to compliance with PAIA and/or compliance assessments.**

- **Eighty (80) targeted public and private bodies assessed on PAIA compliance as part of the Regulator's own-initiative assessment programme.**

- Fourteen (14) educational programmes were conducted on the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) across the country. Altogether, twenty-five (25) public bodies participated in the Regulator's educational programmes and two (2) NGOs/NPOs/CSOs/others participated. A total of 857 participants were trained on PAIA.

Sierra Leone

- The RAIC held an Award and dinner night on 22nd November 2024 to mark its 10th year celebration to commend and motivate public authorities for complying with the RAI Law.

- **The RAIC launched digital access to information platforms in March,2024 bringing together 50 pilot MDAs**

- The Commission conducted training of trainers (ToT) on Digital ATI platforms for fifty (50) pilot MDAs on 31st October 2024. It conducted a similar training for MDAs in Freetown in March 2025 and in the regions in May, 2025.

- 4. The RAIC held a symposium which kick-started the Commemoration of its 10th year Anniversary on 15th October 2024 on the theme: Access to Information in Sierra Leone, 10 years On.

Sierra Leone

- The RAIC engaged the Ministry of Finance on one of the recommendations on the promotion and expansion of the Commission.
- RAIC contributed to the report on the status of SDG 16.10.2 to the Voluntary National Review Report.

- **The RAIC won the bid for Sierra Leone to host the 17th edition of the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) 2026 at the 16th edition of the ICIC on the 5th June 2024 in Tirana, Albania.**

- **The RAIC organized a joint side event on digital access to information in the margins of the UN High Level Political Forum on 16th July 2024 at the UN HQs in New York, US in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED), UNESCO, and the Sierra Leone Permanent Representative at the UN where the RAIC CIC Dr Shaw shared his country's experience in digital access to information.**

Sierra Leone

- **His Excellency President Bio has accepted a request from the Commission to include access to information as one of the measures or criteria to be evaluated in the annual performance tracking of MDAs and SOEs in Sierra Leone.**

- 62 public authorities have submitted their Annual Compliance Reports to the RAIC as of date, compared with 53 in 2023. This represents nine additional submissions (6%), indicating a positive upward trajectory in MDAs' reporting compliance rate.

- Of the 15,860 FOI requests submitted to public authorities, the RAIC received fifty formal complaints. Thirty-Five of these complaints were resolved during the year 2024, while the remaining fifteen rolled over to 2025 out of which 10 have been resolved while 5 are still pending. Ten requests were denied—six under the exemptions set out in Sections 12–26 of the RAI Act, 2013—and four were transferred to the bodies holding the relevant information.

CHALLENGES

- Non-compliance of information holders with the provisions of the access to information laws
- Litigation faced by Commissions
- Lack of funding and/or budgetary constraints to conduct eduation and awareness on access to information in rural areas
- Inadequate human resource capacity to carry out its core functions