



Experts Meeting *Freedom of Information and Sustainable Development, Sealing the Link*

17-18 March 2008
Room XI and XV
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 17 MARCH 2008, Room XV

- 9.30am Opening remarks by **Mogens Schmidt**, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, and Director of the Division Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO
- 9.45am Presentation of publication *Freedom of Information: A Comparative Legal Survey* (new edition, updated and revised) by author **Toby Mendel**
- Discussion and Q&A
- 10.45am Coffee / tea break
- 11.00am Session I: 'Right to information' and sustainable development
- Moderator: **Agnes Callamard**, Executive Director, Article 19
- Panelists: **Steve Buckley**, President, World Association of Community Radio (AMARC)
Helen Darbishire, Executive Director, Access Info Europe, and Chair, FOI Advocates Network (FOIANet)
Issa Luna Pla, Professor, Legal Research Institute, Autonomous National University of Mexico
Manju Menon, Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group, India
- Discussion and Q&A
- 1pm Lunch
- 3pm Session II: Challenges for advocacy and implementation of FoI laws
- Moderator: **Andrei Richter**, Director, Moscow Media Law and Policy Institute
- Panelists: **Cece Fadope**, Africa Programme Officer, Article 19
Virginie Flores, Secretary, Group of Specialists on Access to Public Documents, Council of Europe
Hisham Kassem, Journalist, Former publisher of Al Masry Al-Youm ("The Egyptian Today")

Eva Moraga, Legal Director, Access Info Europe, Spain
Priscilla Nyokabi, Policy Research and Advocacy Programme
International Commission of Jurists, Kenya
Roberto Saba, Executive Director, Asociación por los Derechos Civiles
(ADC), Argentina
Martin Tisné, Programme Director, Tiri, United Kingdom

Discussion and Q&A

4.15pm Coffee / tea break

4.30pm Session III: Freedom of Information visibility on the development agenda

Moderator: **Jesper Højberg**, Director, International Media Support, Denmark

Panelists: **Kulan Amin**, Programme Manager Poverty and Development,
Transparency International
Sebastian Bartsch, Policy Analyst – Governance, Development Co-
operation Directorate, OECD
Shushan Doydoyan, President, Freedom of Information
Centre, Armenia
Nepo Malaluan, Action for Economic Reform, Philippines
Juman Quneis, Media Institute, Birzeit University, Palestinian Authority
Andrei Richter, Director, Moscow Media Law and Policy Institute,
Russian Federation

Discussion and Q&A

5:45pm Screening of “Hear My Voice”, UNESCO/OHCHR-supported documentary on the
Freedom of Information campaign in Nepal

6:15pm Cocktail [CI meeting room, Bonvin 13.36]

DAY 2: 18 MARCH 2008, Room XV (morning) and Room XI (afternoon)

9.15am Summary of the first day and preparation for working group session

9:30am Group work

- Group 1** Links between Freedom of Information and citizens’ participation,
empowerment, and sustainable development
- Group 2** Best-practices and lesson-learned in the implementation of Freedom of
Information legislation in developing countries
- Group 3** Strategy to strengthen Freedom of Information advocacy at the
global/regional/national level

*Each group is invited to brainstorm its topics, outlining challenges as well as possible
solutions. The groups will condense their findings and prepare a short presentation which
will be given in the afternoon’s open meeting.*

1pm Lunch

3pm Session open to the public (Room XI, Fontenoy Building)

	Moderator:	Mogens Schmidt , Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO
3.10pm	Introduction	by Toby Mendel , Law Director, Article 19, and author of " <i>Freedom of Information: A Comparative Legal Survey</i> ", UNESCO, 2008
3.30pm	Working groups' presentations:	
	Group 1	Links between Freedom of Information and citizens' participation, empowerment, and sustainable development
	Group 2	Best-practices and lesson-learned in the implementation of Freedom of Information legislation in developing countries
	Group 3	Strategy to strengthen Freedom of Information advocacy at the global/regional/national level
	Panelists:	<p>Kulan Amin, Programme Manager Poverty and Development, Transparency International</p> <p>Sebastian Bartsch, Policy Analyst – Governance, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</p> <p>Steve Buckley, President, World Association of Community Radio (AMARC)</p> <p>Helen Darbishire, Executive Director, Access Info Europe, and Chair, FOI Advocates Network (FOIANet)</p> <p>Shushan Doydoyan, President, Freedom of Information Centre, Armenia</p> <p>Virginie Flores, Secretary, Group of Specialists on Access to Public Documents, Council of Europe</p> <p>Sarah Fréguelin, Coordinator, Access Info France</p> <p>Jesper Højberg, Director, International Media Support, Denmark</p> <p>Hisham Kassem, Journalist, Former publisher of Al Masry Al-Youm ("The Egyptian Today")</p> <p>Cece Fadope, Africa Programme Officer, Article 19</p> <p>Issa Luna Pla, Professor, Legal Research Institute, Autonomous National University of Mexico</p> <p>Manju Menon, Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group, India</p> <p>Nepo Malaluan, Action for Economic Reform, Philippines</p> <p>Eva Moraga, Legal Director, Access Info Europe, Spain</p> <p>Mark Nelson, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank Institute (t.b.c.)</p> <p>Priscilla Nyokabi, Policy Research and Advocacy Programme, International Commission of Jurists</p> <p>Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda, Nigeria</p> <p>Juman Quneis, Media Institute, Birzeit University, Palestinian Authority</p> <p>Andrei Richter, Director, Moscow Media Law and Policy Institute</p> <p>Roberto Saba, Executive Director, Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC), Argentina</p> <p>Martin Tisné, Programme Director, Tiri, United Kingdom</p>
4.30pm	Discussion and Q&A	
4.50pm	Concluding remarks	