

SDG 16.10.2 IN 2019 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS (VNRs)



INDICATOR 16.10.2

"Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information"



28 countries

from 47 countries submitting VNRs in 2019

reported on Indicator 16.10.2 on Access to Information

UNESCO is the UN custodian agency for monitoring SDG 16.10.2. Working with civil society groups and the International Conference of Information Commissioners, UNESCO has supported countries to include this indicator in their 2019 VNRs. In the past three years combined, 29 countries had mentioned 'access to information' in their VNRs, compared to 28 dedicated reports in 2019.

From the 28 countries that reported on Access to Information (ATI) in 2019, 20 have specific ATI laws. Of these 20 countries, 55% (11) reported on both "Adoption of ATI guarantees" and "Implementation of ATI guarantees".



Countries with ATI Laws

The other eight countries have no specific ATI laws. Of these, 38% (three) reported on both "Adoption of ATI guarantees" and "Implementation of ATI guarantees".

- Has reported on 'Adoption of ATI guarantees'
- ◆ Has reported on 'Implementation of ATI guarantees'



Countries without ATI Laws

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------|
| 1. Algeria | ● | ◆ |
| 2. Cameroon | | ◆ *** |
| 3. Chad | ● | |
| 4. Congo (Republic of the) | ● | ◆ *** |
| 5. Kuwait | ● | |
| 6. Lesotho | ● | ◆ *** |
| 7. Mauritius | | ◆ *** |
| 8. Philippines | ● | |

- | | | |
|--|---|-------|
| 1. Azerbaijan | ● | |
| 2. Chile | ● | ◆ |
| 3. Côte d'Ivoire | ● | ◆ |
| 4. Croatia | ● | ◆ |
| 5. Ghana | ● | |
| 6. Guyana | ● | ◆ |
| 7. Iceland | ● | |
| 8. Indonesia | ● | ◆ |
| 9. Israel | ● | ◆ |
| 10. Mongolia | ● | |
| 11. New Zealand | ● | ◆ |
| 12. Palau | ● | |
| 13. Rwanda | ● | |
| 14. South Africa | ● | ◆ |
| 15. Timor-Leste | ● | ◆ *** |
| 16. Tunisia | ● | |
| 17. Turkey | ● | ◆ |
| 18. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | ● | ◆ |
| 19. United Republic of Tanzania | ● | |
| 20. Vanuatu | | ◆ *** |

*** The implementation aspect reported by these countries is more related to 'access to media' and other human-rights issues, rather than 'access to information held by public authorities'.

Excerpts from 2019 VNRs of some countries supported by UNESCO



Ghana

"The Ministries of Information and Justice and Attorney General co-sponsored the Right to Information (RTI) bill and the Parliament of Ghana passed it into law on March 26, 2019. This law was enacted to increase access to certain categories of information by the general public. It also seeks to foster a culture of transparency and accountability in public affairs. The availability and use of information and data is a critical component of efforts to achieving sustainable development. The implementation of the RTI law has been deferred to 2020 to enable the government establish information units in all public offices; recruit and train information officers; establish the RTI Commission; and complete various administrative protocols."



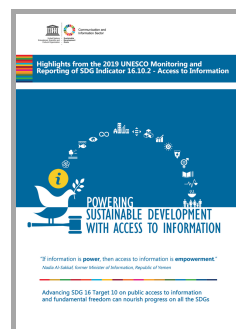
Côte d'Ivoire

"...as part of the operationalization of CAIDP*, all stakeholders participated in outreach activities and were trained on legal and related access to information provisions. As a result, 271 information officers responsible for receiving, processing and responding to requests were designated and trained. Between 2016 and 2018, the CAIDP received 243 referrals, of which 17 were closed following decisions and 226 settled by mediation. With regard to the existence of a national web-based information system for public institutions, the government's efforts consisted the implementation of the "open government" strategy, with a number of access to information platforms are being introduced (data.gouv.ci, <http://administration.gouv.ci>, ...). In order to guarantee public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, the Government intends to: (a) enhance the dissemination of the law on public access to information ; (b) issue a decree of operationalization of the implementation of the law on public access to information, in particular concerning the typology of documents to be published proactively, the information officer of the public body and; (c) expressly and explicitly include target SDG 16.10 in the National Development Planning 2021-2025." (translated from French version; CAIDP: la Commission d'enquête sur l'information d'intérêt public et les documents publics)



Indonesia

"Since 2008, Indonesia has become one of the countries that guarantees public access to information through Law No. 14 Year 2008 on Public Information Transparency. The availability of public institutions that comply with the 2008 law fluctuated from year to year with 50.38% in 2016 and dropped to 39.29% 2017. Those figures represent the proportion of public institutions that met their obligations to, among others, announce public information, provide public information, and manage and document public information. On a more positive note, the participation of public institution keeps on increasing. In 2018, 62.83% or 289 out of 460 public institutions participated in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2008 law. At the same time, National Commission for Information (Komisi Informasi Pusat, KIP) reports the percentage of public information dispute resolved through mediation and/or adjudication non-litigation measures as relatively increased."



Highlights from the 2019 UNESCO Monitoring and Reporting of SDG Indicator 16.10.2:

Covering 43 developing countries engaged in 2019 Voluntary National Reviews

<http://bit.ly/ATIReport2019>

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