

XXVII ENCUENTRO  
DE LA RED DE TRANSPARENCIA Y ACCESO A LA INFORMACIÓN  
TRANSPARENCIA CON PROPÓSITO, DESARROLLO EFECTIVO

Transparency and Access to Information Network

"Transparency with Purpose, Effective Development: Access to Information and Transparency as Mechanisms to Fight Poverty"

The Assembly of the Network of Transparency and Access to Information (RTA), meeting at the Headquarters of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on November 21, 2024, issues the following statement

**Considering** that the Transparency and Access to Information Network, in accordance with its Statute, is an international forum made up of Ibero-American authorities responsible for guaranteeing the right of access to information, whose objective is to maintain a permanent and formal space for dialogue, cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences among its members.

**Noting** that access to information is a fundamental human right recognized in various international instruments, such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the *American Convention on Human Rights*, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention), among other key treaties promoting transparency and access to information.

**Highlighting** that the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* establishes specific goals aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, in which access to information is a fundamental pillar to guarantee transparency, accountability and the fight against poverty.

**Recognizing** that various countries in Ibero-America have strengthened their institutional frameworks and transparency mechanisms for proactively disseminating public information, and that these efforts have the potential to improve effectiveness in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, opening opportunities for economic development and social equity.

**Considering** that multilateral institutions have promoted transparency and access to information policies as central components in their institutional strategies to improve governance, optimize development results and reduce poverty in the states of Ibero-America.

**Establishing** the importance that the Guarantor Bodies of Access to Information have acquired in the States of Ibero-America in the protection of the right to know to strengthen democracies and encourage the participation of people in public affairs.

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**Recalling** that transparency and access to information encourage citizen participation, allowing vulnerable populations to make informed decisions and actively participate in the processes that affect their well-being and development.

**Understanding** that poverty is not only defined by the lack of income, but also by the lack of access to essential services and the denial of development opportunities. This cycle of exclusion prevents people in poverty from effectively exercising their human rights and has disproportionate effects on those in vulnerable situations.

**Emphasizing** that transparency and accountability are essential pillars to build trust between citizens and their governments. This trust not only strengthens the legitimacy of institutions, but also encourages the participation of citizens in democratic processes. Such trust is crucial to implement effective public policies that address the structural causes of poverty and promote social inclusion. Ensuring responsible management of resources and accountability for results creates an environment conducive to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

**Hereby declares:**

1. That the members of the Transparency and Access to Information Network will promote coordination for the development of good practices, production of relevant information through proactive transparency, public policies, dissemination mechanisms and the necessary actions to guarantee all people the exercise of their right of access to information.
2. That access to information is key to combating poverty and promoting sustainable development, which makes it imperative that countries strengthen their regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to ensure that public information is accessible to all people, especially those in vulnerable situations. Poverty hits hardest the most excluded groups in society, who face additional barriers to accessing information about their rights, public services, and economic opportunities. It is necessary to ensure that the information is understandable, culturally appropriate and accessible, so that these communities can fully exercise their right to be informed and to improve their living conditions.
3. That transparency is an engine for inclusive development. In the fight against poverty, transparency in public management is essential to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively. Corruption and opacity erode funds allocated to social programs, while open and transparent public management maximizes the impact of investments in health, education and social protection.

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4. That the role of multilateral institutions is fundamental and therefore, we recognize the contribution of these institutions to development, which have integrated transparency and access to information in their development strategies, policies and programs. These institutions must continue to lead by example, promoting good practices and supporting governments in the implementation of measures that ensure that public information is accessible and useful to all.
5. That the guaranteeing bodies play a central role in the promotion and awareness-raising of the usefulness of the right of access to information for citizens and groups in vulnerable situations in order to enable social, political and economic rights.
6. That the promotion of good practices in measuring transparency is key to assessing whether people in poverty have real access to the information necessary to exercise their rights and improve their quality of life. This approach not only allows to identify gaps in access, but also to adjust public policies to ensure that the information effectively reaches those who need it most. In addition, these practices help strengthen the capacity of institutions to meet their development commitments and advance poverty eradication.
7. That transparency and access to information are powerful catalysts to break the cycle of poverty. By ensuring that information flows freely, we empower people to transform their reality, demand better services and take advantage of opportunities that improve their quality of life. Access to information not only opens doors, but provides the necessary tools to thrive, make informed decisions and overcome poverty. It is a transformative force that can light the way to a future of opportunity and hope, where every person has the power to change their destiny.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras.