African Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information

Accra, Ghana
February 7-9, 2010

Sunday February 7

10:30 am  Registration and Coffee – La Palm Conference Centre, outside Afayhe Secretariat

Plenary Sessions – Adae Kesie Hall

11:30 am  Opening Session
Samuel O. Ablakwa, Deputy Minister of Information, Ghana
Jimmy Carter, Former President of the United States of America
Sanjay Pradhan, Vice President, World Bank Institute
Laura Neuman, Manager Access to Information Project and Associate Director, The Carter Center

12:45 pm  Photo

1:00 pm  Luncheon – Royal Dragon Chinese Restaurant, La Palm Hotel

2:00 pm  Panel 1: Does Transparency Matter?
Chair: Minister Natty Davis, Minister of State, Development and Reconstruction, Liberia
Respondents: Minister Vitoria Dias Diogo, Minister of Public Service, Mozambique
Minister Lambert Mende Omalanga, Minister of Communication and Media, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Akere Muna, Vice-Chair of the Board, Transparency International
Owen Barder, Director, AidInfo, Development Initiatives, Ethiopia
Chris Anderson, Director, Corporate & External Affairs Africa, Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd.

3:45 pm  Panel 2: If Transparency Matters, Why is Africa Lagging Behind?
Chair: Minister Ronnie Shikapwasha, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Zambia
Respondents: Minister Moustapha Guirassy, Minister of Communications and Government Spokesperson, Senegal
Deputy Minister Shemelis Kemal, Office of Government Communication Affairs, Ethiopia
Rick Snell, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Tasmania, Australia
Rakesh Rajani, Executive Director, Twaweza, Tanzania

5:15 pm  Break
5:45 pm  **Panel 3: Select Country Cases**  
Chair: Kabakuma L. Masiko, Minister of Information and National Guidance, Uganda  
Nigeria: Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda  
Zimbabwe: Trevor Ncube, Chief Executive, Mail & Guardian Media Group  
Mali: Boubacar Dicko, Project Coordinator, Commission for Institutional Development, Government of Mali  
South Africa: Ngoako Ramatlhodi, Chairperson, Portfolio Committee on Justice and Development

7:15 pm  **Cocktails – Ghanaian Village Lawn, La Palm Hotel**

7:45 pm  **Dinner: Ghanaian Village Lawn, La Palm Hotel**  
Music provided by Gonje  
Stephen King, Director, Investments, Omidyar Network  
Jimmy Carter, Former President of the United States of America  
Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Journalist, Former CNN Bureau Chief, Johannesburg

**Monday February 8**

*Participants on own for breakfast*

**Plenary Sessions – Adae Kesie Hall, La Palm Conference Centre**

8:30 am  **Plenary Session: Day One Summary and Break into Working Groups**  
Minister Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, Minister of Communication and Information, Sierra Leone  
Laura Neuman, Manager Access to Information Project and Associate Director, The Carter Center

9:00 am  **Simultaneous Thematic Working Groups**

**Group 1 – Political Economy: shifting the balance toward openness**  
*Adae Kesie Hall*  
Rapporteur: Elaine Geyer-Allely, Independent Consultant, Switzerland

**Group 2 – Structure and Culture: creating an environment for transparency**  
*Hogbestoso Room*  
Facilitator: Juan Pablo Guerrero, Program Manager, International Budget Partnership, Mexico  
Rapporteur: Suzanne Piotrowski, Faculty Fellow, Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University, USA

**Group 3 – Non-state and Multilateral Actors: examining roles and responsibilities**  
*Damba Room 2*  
Facilitator: Nana Oye Lithur, Chief Executive Officer, Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Ghana  
Rapporteur: Patrick Schmidt, Associate Professor, Macalester University, USA

**Group 4 – Regional Norm-building: considering regional instruments and standards**  
*Damba Room 1*  
Facilitator: Mukelani Dimba, Deputy CEO, Open Democracy Advice Centre, South Africa  
Rapporteur: Meg McDermott, Access to Information Project, Carter Center, USA

**Group 5 – Demand and Use of New Technology: engaging citizens and increasing awareness**  
*Kundum Room*  
Facilitator: Carolyn Gomes, Executive Director, Jamaicans for Justice, Jamaica  
Rapporteur: Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai, Executive Director, Society for Democratic Initiatives,
Sierra Leone

11:00 am  Break

11:30 am  Working Groups Reconvene

1:00 pm  Luncheon – Royal Dragon Chinese Restaurant, La Palm Hotel
A Media Dialogue: the Right of Access to Information in Africa
Kwame Karikari, Executive Director, Media Foundation of West Africa
Amadou Mahtar Ba, Executive Director, African Media Initiative

2:30 pm  Working Groups Reconvene

4:00 pm  Break

4:30 pm  Working Groups Reconvene

6:00 pm  Evening on own

Tuesday February 9

Participants on own for breakfast

Plenary Sessions - Adae Kesie Hall, La Palm Conference Centre

9:00 am  Chair Opening and Report Backs from Working Groups
Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Journalist, Former CNN Bureau Chief, Johannesburg & Member of Board
of Trustees, The Carter Center

10:15 am  Plenary Discussion on Report Backs

10:45 am  Break
Review Draft Findings and Plan of Action on own

11:15 am  Plenary Discussion of Draft Regional Findings and Plan of Action

12:30 pm  Luncheon – Ghanaian Village Restaurant, La Palm Hotel

1:45 pm  Convene as Country Working Groups

2:45 pm  Break

3:30 pm  Report Backs from Country Working Groups
Chair: Minister Betty Mould Iddrisu, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Ghana

4:45 pm  Next Steps and Closing Remarks
Chair: Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in
Africa and Commissioner, Africa Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
Laura Neuman, Manager Access to Information Project & Associate Director, Carter Center

5:00 pm  Cocktail Reception – Ocean Terrace, La Palm Hotel