



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

Faith Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression & Commissioner, African
Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Union
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: Speaker and Performance**
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*

Facilitator: Faith Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression & Commissioner,
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Union
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***