

The Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA Network) is a permanent space for dialogue, cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences among the Latin-American transparency and access to information authorities, aiming to be a benchmark in sharing and learning on both transparency and access to information matters and thus contributing furthermore to strengthen the accountability within the public administration.

The RTA Network objectives:

1. To create and sustain mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge, best practices and experiences.
2. To establish channels for the stakeholders¹, of information distribution on the RTA Network activities and products.
3. To promote transparency and access to information best practices aiming to achieve accountability and strengthening of the public administration.
4. To implement networking as a permanent tool among the RTA members.

During the 1st and 2nd meetings of this Network, the objectives, branding and strategic declarations were approved. These formulated the basis to the approval of the Governance Statute in the 3rd meeting that took place in Santiago de Chile in April 18, 2012 and whereby the RTA was formally constituted. With this, the RTA adopts a Presidency and Executive Secretariat structure. These seats were taken upon its constitution by the Mexican Federal Institute for Access to Information and Data Protection and the Chilean Council for Transparency, respectively.

The task of this structure is to coordinate and monitor the working groups of the RTA Network, and to support the efforts and actions of the RTA Members in promoting and maintaining relations with other countries, and with regional and international organizations involved with transparency, access to information and accountability issues.²

Besides Mexico and Chile, full members³ are: Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, whereas the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina, is an associate member.⁴

The current works of the RTA Network are focused on the development of specific topics such as case law and administrative criteria, promotion and training, indicators, archives and corporate governance.

¹ Civil society, academia, public administration, international organizations.

² For further information, you may access the following website: <http://redintercambio.cplt.cl>

³ In terms of Articles 5 and 6 of the RTA Statutes, full members are those organizations and national public entities responsible for ensuring the right of access to public information and/or helping the development of a transparency culture. These members have the right to voice and vote.

⁴ In accordance with Article 5, paragraph a) and Article 7 of the RTA Statutes, associate members are those organizations and public bodies of a local or federal states, which pursue similar objectives and purposes, in accordance with those of the RTA Network. These members have a voice but have no right to vote.

Every specific theme has a working group with a leading country as it is shown below:

País	Tema
Chile	Archives Objective: Promotion of good practices in records management
México	Jurisprudence (Customary Law) and administrative criteria Objective: Generation of knowledge on access to information based on jurisprudence
Perú	Indicators Objective: Measure and evaluation towards the creation of a transparency indicator.
Uruguay	Media promotion and training Objective: Regional Training program implementation.

While in the 4th meeting of the RTA Network, on September 17-18 in Mexico City, it was agreed by its members to promote the strengthening of the Right of Access to Information oversight bodies and to exchange the best practices regarding transparency, accountability and access to information.

During the meeting, the strategic planning for 2013 was defined, aiming to promote cooperation, inclusion and development and promotion of open governments.

The objectives of the network are:

- To generate and sustain the mechanisms to facilitate the Exchange of best practices and knowledge among its members, regarding transparency and the right of access public information.
- To establish communication channels through which the Network can receive input and feedback on its activities and products, from stakeholders, such as academia, civil society, public administration agencies and international organizations.
- To promote practices related to transparency and the right of access to public information aimed to create accountability and strengthening of governance.
- To establish, as an asset, the teamwork as a permanent practice of its members.
- To generate a model reference in archives management as well as a set of indicators to monitor key information about the progress and setbacks of transparency and access to information practices, and to create a system to compile the decisions and criteria of each country to identify the topics that may be of interest to analyze for the network members.

In this 4th meeting, the Presidency of the Network requested the civil society and the general public to turn into strategic allies and to join and share the best interests of the RTA Network.



BACKGROUND NOTE

Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA, for its acronym in Spanish)

Taking the above into consideration the Chilean Council for Transparency (Consejo para la Transparencia) extended an invitation to the RTA Members to participate, in January 2013, at an event on Open Government practices organized by the Government of Chile. The Council for Transparency has stated its consideration of this event as an opportunity to promote the RTA Network and will be coordinating a panel on Open Government with the RTA members.