



Webinar:

“Engaging with Access to Information: the 2015 Work Plan of the OGP ATI Working Group”

Wednesday, May 6th, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST

Language: **English**

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Speakers:

Laura Neuman

Director of Global Access to Information Program
The Carter Center

María José Montiel

Director of Open Government Department
Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection, Mexico (IFAI)

Description:

Faced with the growing demand for quality, useful and reliable information, as well as the urgent need to improve public confidence in public institutions, the Access to Information Working Group (ATI WG) was created in 2013. The main objectives of the OGP ATI WG are to support learning opportunities among Open Government Partnership (OGP) member countries, to encourage more ambitious commitments on ATI as part of OGP action plans, and to engage the participation of stakeholders in the formulation and oversight of ATI commitments.

Increasing transparency and ATI is at the core of OGP values and principles. For that purpose, and in order to enhance the capacities of institutions and society to successfully identify, publish and disseminate useful and public information, it is essential to place government information as the foundation on which other components of Open Government can be developed. This is also crucial in order to address the most pressing social needs, solving public problems and improving the effectiveness of government institutions.

This webinar will cover the presentation of the 2015 ATI WG work plan, as well as highlight the key activities planned in order to achieve its annual objectives. The speakers will discuss the importance of ensuring the right of ATI -and its exercise-, its potential impact on citizens' quality of life, and its role on building more democratic and equal societies. Further, other activities will be announced such as the Africa Regional OGP Meeting, and the development of a small grants project for research or programming linked to ATI and other government OGP commitments.

Speakers:



Laura Neuman is director of the Global Access to Information Program. She directs and implements Carter Center transparency and good governance programming, including projects in Latin America, Africa, and China. Ms. Neuman developed the innovative access to information Implementation Assessment Tool and the recent “Women and the Right of Access to Information” initiative. She also was responsible for the 2008 International Conference on the Right to Public Information and the follow-on 2009 Americas Conference and 2010 African Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information.

Ms. Neuman has written a number of articles and book chapters on the right of access to information, has edited six widely distributed guidebooks on fostering transparency and preventing corruption, and has presented at numerous international seminars on access to information legislation, implementation, enforcement, and use. She serves as a member of the International School of Transparency, the Transparency Advisory Group, an advisory member of the Open Democracy Advice Centre and Freedominfo.org; and has consulted to the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and a number of governments. As part of her transparency work, she served as Executive Secretary for the Carter Center's Council for Ethical Business Practices.



María José is the Director of the Open Government Department at Federal Institute for Access to Public Information and Data Protection in Mexico (IFAI), and has over seven years of experience as a Public Policy analyst. Prior to her position at IFAI, she was a consultant at the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness, AC (IMCO). On behalf of IFAI, she participates on the Tripartite Technical Secretariat within the framework of Open Government Partnership (OGP) in Mexico.

Her research and consulting focus on issues of good governance, public procurement, economic competition, transparency and open government. Her publications include: Free and open competition in the Mexican states (IMCO, 2014); Accountability and government procurement (Mexico: SFP, 2012); Evaluation as an instrument of institutional change (Mexico: SFP, CIDE-CLEAR, 2011); and various opinion articles in magazines. She has a Master in Management and Public Policy by CIDE and BA in International Relations from the University of the Americas-Puebla.

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