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# INVITATION

## Seminar Commemorating 10 years of the Model Law on Access to Information for Africa

### CONCEPT NOTE

27 - 28 September 2023



2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' (African Commission) adoption of [the Model Law on Access to Information for Africa](#) (the Model Law). The Model Law was adopted on February 13, 2013 and provides guidance on Member States' legislative obligations in promoting and protecting the right to access information as outlined under article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) and other relevant instruments such as the [Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa](#) and the [Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa](#). In adopting the Model law, the African Commission sought to provide guidance for developing new legislations, reviewing existing laws, advocating for the adoption of such laws, compiling best practices, and promoting a unified and harmonised approach to access to information throughout the continent. Since its adoption, it is believed that the Model Law played an important role in shaping national legislation on the right to access information, influencing judicial interpretations, and supported advocacy initiatives by civil society organisations (CSOs). Despite the presence of such a progressive instrument, the right of access to information is yet to be fully realised in Africa. There are challenges such as lack of political will, limited infrastructure, digital divide, and the information disorder, including misinformation and disinformation, which negatively affect the information ecosystem.

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria organises a commemorative seminar on 27 and 28 September 2023, which aims to explore the status of access to information in Africa. Over the course of two days, this seminar will feature around 15 authors who will present their articles, tackling a wide range of issues related to access to information in Africa. We cordially invite you to register and participate in this enlightening seminar.





## The webinar will address the following issues:

- The domestic impact of African Union human rights standards on access to information, including the Model Law on Access to Information for Africa, the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa, and the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa.
- Challenges and opportunities in implementing access to information laws in different countries.
- Role and challenges of technology in promoting access to information, including access to the internet and networks disruptions such as internet shutdowns. The role of access to information in promoting transparency and accountability in governance.
- Misinformation and disinformation in the digital age and its impact on the information ecosystem.
- Best practices, case studies, and success stories in the implementation of access to information initiatives.
- Thematic commentaries.

## For more information, please contact:

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