



Access to Information as a Key Element in the Declaration

Increasing access to information and knowledge across society, assisted by the availability of information and communications technologies (ICTs), supports sustainable development and improves people's lives. Over 500 library, development and ICT organisations agree, and have signed The Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development (www.lyondeclaration.org).

The signatories call upon the Member States of the United Nations to make an international commitment to use the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies.

Access to information is a common principle, as well as a cross-cutting issue. The Declaration should clearly state that "Increased access to information and knowledge, underpinned by universal literacy, is an essential pillar of sustainable development."

Access to Information: Measuring Goals and Targets

1. Access to information

We **ask for your support** during the negotiations for the new development framework to ensure that access to information is included as identified in the OWG outcome document target:

16.10: "ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT."

And the UN Secretary General synthesis report:

"PRESS FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION ARE ENABLERS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

As outlined in the *Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development*, to fully realise access to information, **everyone needs access and skills** to effectively use information. Information intermediaries such as libraries have the skills and resources to help governments, institutions and individuals communicate, organise, structure and use information and data for development.

We can measure the contribution of access to information through indicators including:

- Literacy rate of Youth and Adults, urban and rural literacy rate
 - Literacy is a basic requirement to access information in all formats. Existing literacy data is collected annually by UNESCO Institute for Statistics
- Existence of a comprehensive law and legal regime that ensures the right of access to information from public bodies, based on international standards.
 - Data is collected by UNESCO, with support from UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR
- Media and Information (MIL) competencies
 - Data from the Global MIL Assessment Framework developed by UNESCO

2. Public Access to ICTs

Increased access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) can help people access the information they need to improve their lives. Not everyone has a smart phone or computer to help them get online, public access to ICTs is still needed to help more than 4 billion people on the planet who do not use the Internet. Libraries worldwide provide that public access.

Increased access to ICTs is identified as a target in the SDG outcome document:

9.C. "SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE ACCESS TO ICT AND STRIVE TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL AND AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO INTERNET IN LDCs BY 2020"

We **ask for your support** during the negotiations to recognise the importance of universal and affordable access to the Internet – LDCs are vitally important but **all** countries should be able to benefit.

We can measure the increase in universal and affordable access to ICTs through indicators including:

- Number of broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)
 - Data collected annually by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database)
- Cost of fixed broadband subscriptions as a percentage of monthly Gross National Income (GNI)
 - Data collected annually by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and UN Broadband Commission in the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database)
- Proportion of public libraries with broadband Internet access.
 - Data collected in relation to WSIS Statistical Indicators for Target 4 ('Connect all public libraries, museums, post offices and national archives with ICTs'), Indicator 4.1
- Proportion of public libraries providing public Internet access.
 - Data collected in relation to WSIS Statistical Indicators for Target 4 ('Connect all public libraries, museums, post offices and national archives with ICTs'), Indicator 4.2

Furthermore, ICTs are crucial to **means of implementation**. We **ask for your support** during the negotiations to ensure that increasing access to ICTs to support the achievement of the SDGs is included:

17.8: "FULLY OPERATIONALIZE THE TECHNOLOGY BANK AND SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CAPACITY-BUILDING MECHANISM FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BY 2017 AND ENHANCE THE USE OF ENABLING TECHNOLOGY, IN PARTICULAR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY."

We can measure increases in use of ICTs through indicators including:

- Numbers of individuals using the Internet
 - existing data collected annually by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database
- Numbers of individuals owning a mobile phone
 - existing data collected annually by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database

3. Culture

Culture underpins development by supporting social inclusion, resilience, innovation and local knowledge. Culture strengthens local communities and supports inclusive and sustainable development of cities.

4. Libraries can help achieve the SDGs

Libraries are ready to support development goals across our countries and communities. We urge you to include libraries in your national development plans after 2016, and we are ready to be actively engaged in this process.