Accountability and Access to Information: two sides of the same coin.

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Two sides of the same coin

Accountability

Access to Information
The Barcelona Declaration on “The Critical Role of Public Service in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals”

“Preamble …

5. Recognizing that public decision-making processes should be transparent, accountable and participatory and that information about government decisions in public affairs for development should be clear and accessible to all;

…

Recommendations …

g. To improve transparency and accountability, governments should promote wider use of information, communication and technology to simplify and reduce the cost of processes and foster broader access…”
Mechanisms of Semi-Direct Democracy

- Participatory Budgeting
- Public Hearings
- Right of Initiative
- Participatory Planning
- Advisory Councils
- Public Consultation
- Strategic Planning
- Precondition for Citizen Engagement
The right to access of information is a human right constituting the right of freedom of thought and expression.
Basic principles to make access to public information effective

- Wide Active Legal Standing
- Wide Passive Legal Standing
- Maximum Disclosure
- Short Term
- State Obligation
- Judicial Resources
- Active Transparency
- Gratuity
To conclude:

• The access to public information is a public good; it enhances efficiency and effectiveness in public policies management.

• Civil servants must inspire their work in the acknowledge that public information belongs to the public.

• Transparency must be part of the daily processes in public administration

• Passing a law is not enough; a cultural transformation is needed through everybody’s responsible participation

• Access to information and accountability is much more than control.

It is:
• Taking care of national patrimony
• Comprehending history
• Preserving traditions
• Recovering identity
• Having a sense of one’s country
Improving the quality of democracy is a daily co-production between governors and the governed.

It is building civic engagement in order to achieve the dream of the Millennium Development Goals (MGD’s)
Workshop on Engaging Citizens to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Public Accountability: Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals.

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Thank you!

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