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## Comments on Model African Access to Information Law

The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa is preparing a Model Law for AU Member States on Access to Information, in partnership with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights is asking for feedback on the draft Model Law and CLD, in partnership with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), has prepared a detailed set of Comments on it.

*"This is a very important initiative by the Special Rapporteur,"* said Toby Mendel, Executive Director of CLD. *"We hope that this can promote the adoption of more right to information laws across Africa, as well as better implementation of those that have been adopted."*

The Comments by CLD and EIPR recognise that the draft Model Law is a very progressive document. At the same time, the Comments provide a number of recommendations with a view to ensuring that the final document is as useful as possible. Many of these are technical in nature but some of the more substantive recommendations include the following:

- The provisions relating to the oversight mechanism should be simplified and its powers should be more clearly circumscribed.
- Consideration should be given to imposing less onerous obligations on private bodies.
- The proactive publication obligations should be expanded.
- The regime of exceptions should be reviewed to bring it more fully into line with international standards and practice.

The full Comments document is available at: [http://www.law-democracy.org/?page\\_id=77](http://www.law-democracy.org/?page_id=77).

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