



## Terms of Reference for a Consultant on Assessment of Implementation of Right to Information law

### 1. Background

The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, Pakistan (CPDI) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working on issues related to peace and development in Pakistan. It is registered under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (XLVII of 1984). It is currently implementing an EU funded project titled “Civil Society for Independent Media and Expression” (CIME) in collaboration with the Media Matters for Democracy (MMfD) and Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF). The overall objective of this project is to protect and promote Freedom of expression (FoE) offline & online, and to facilitate citizen’s right of Access to Information (ATI) as stipulated in 19-A of the constitution of Pakistan.

Since 2013, significant progress has been made in Pakistan in terms of enactment of good right to information laws, both at the Federal and provincial levels. However, serious challenges have been experienced in implementation across jurisdictions due to multiple factors including lack of cooperation on the part of bureaucracy, poor record keeping in public bodies, limited capacity of information commissions and lack of public awareness. At the Federal level, the Right of Access to Information Act was enacted in 2017 but it took the Federal Government more than a year to establish the Information Commission, which still lacks adequate resources and capacity to decide complaints in a timely manner. This situation calls for a systematic assessment of implementation of Right of Access to Information Act 2017 at the Federal level.

### 2. Objective

The objective of the proposed assessment is to assess the quality of implementation of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017, including major impediments, identify the administrative loopholes inherited in the system, the lack of required resources and ability to digitize the internal reporting and evaluation systems that make PIOs answerable to the head of departments and other systematic challenges. These challenges are not linked to lack of political will or culture of secrecy rather inherited in the system. This research will map such issues and recommend corrective actions where necessary.



### Scope of work

The scope of work will include the following:

- To review relevant literature including decisions of the Information Commission, media reports, responses by the public bodies and any other relevant material;
- To hold meetings with concerned officials/ministries in the selected public bodies and with the Information Commissioners;
- To assess the proactive disclosure of information by visiting websites of different public bodies/ministries
- To conduct key informant interviews of PIOs and other concerned in various departments for identifying the challenges to the implementation of RTI law
- Collection of relevant data from PIOs and other concerned through surveys and key informant interviews
- Drafting the report based on the collected data and policy recommendations for rectification
- To receive feedback from stakeholders on the draft assessment report and update it in the light of the feedback; and
- Develop a presentation and then share it with audience during the launch of the assessment report.

### 3. Key Deliverables and the Timeline

Key deliverables and the timeline are as below:

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Adjusted UNESCO methodology (if required based on initial review)	
List of officials consulted	2 days
Evidence of key informant interviews held with public bodies/information commission/ministries	2 days Pictures with Visual/audio recording if possible
Draft Assessment Report	3 days
Final Assessment Report	3 days
Presentation	1 day before launch event
Delivery of Presentation in the Report Launch Event	In report launch event



#### **4. Required Qualifications the Consultant**

The consultant should have:

- A Master Degree in Social Sciences;
- At least 7 year experience of working on issues related to governance or public sector management;
- Excellent English writing and analytical skills; and
- Previous experience of working on right to information will be an advantage.

#### **5. Reporting and Presentation of the proposal**

Consultant will report to the Manager, CIME Project. Proposals (Technical and Financial) should be sent to [hr.cpdi@yahoo.com](mailto:hr.cpdi@yahoo.com) with detailed work plan, strategy of engagement with relevant line departments, and consultant/consulting firm understanding on the assessment methods for the RTI implementation given in the scope of work, analysis strategy and proposed budget.

The last date of submission of the proposal is **30<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.**