# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of abbreviations........................................................................................................ 1
Foreword.......................................................................................................................... 2
From The Coordinator/ Head Of Secretariat................................................................. 4

## INTRODUCTION

AFIC Background and Objectives.................................................................................. 6
Our Vision....................................................................................................................... 6
Programmes, activities and results............................................................................... 6

### RESULT 1: FOI RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE STRENGTHENED

Launch of ATI study Cameroon February 26-17, 2010.............................................. 8
Regional Right to Information Meeting, Cape Town, March 10-11 2010..................... 9
Partnership Meeting to enhance the right of access to information in Africa through research and practice, Kampala, Uganda, November 23-24, 2010................................. 9
Research in Mali and Senegal..................................................................................... 10
Making use of Legal Analysis Research by Open Society Justice Initiative................. 10

### RESULT 2: IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND UTILISATION OF INFORMATION

Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information, Accra Ghana........ 12
World Press Freedom Day 2010.................................................................................. 13
15th African Union Summit on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa July 19, 27, Kampala Uganda......................................................... 13
Press Statement on Zambia....................................................................................... 14
International Right to Know Day, September 28, 2010........................................... 15

### RESULT 3: FOI MAINSTREAMED INTO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS

The African Platform on Access to Information....................................................... 22

### RESULT 4: CAPACITY FOR CSO TO ADVOCATE FOR FOI STRENGTHENED

Inauguration of the International School for Transparency (IST), Cape Town, October, 2010................................................................. 23
AFIC Facilitates Training of Ugandan MPs................................................................. 24
Access to Information Video Conferences............................................................... 25
RESULT 5: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT ............................................................... 26
International Conference of FOI Networks and Academic Research Centres, London, May, 2010 ................................................................. 27
AFIC and the TAI Network ......................................................................... 27
The Global Gathering, Kampala, 26-30 October 2010 .................................... 27
Mapping FOI Organisations on the continent .............................................. 28
Guests at AFIC Premises .......................................................................... 28
Meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kampala, June 2010 ......................................................... 28

STRENGTHENING AFIC ............................................................................ 29
Setting up the Office and Secretariat ............................................................ 29
Resource Mobilisation .............................................................................. 30
A Functioning Website ............................................................................ 30
AFIC Steering Committee gets new members ........................................... 30

CONCLUSION .............................................................................................. 30

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ............................................................................ 31
End of English version and Beginning of French version .......................... 33
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACHPR: African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
ACME: Africa Centre for Media Excellence
AFIC: Africa Freedom of Information Centre
ANCL: African Network of Constitutional Lawyers
ANSA: Affiliated Network for Social Accountability
APRM: African Peer Review Mechanism
  ATI: Access to Information
  ATIA: Access to Information Act
CSO: Civil Society Organisation
FOE: Freedom of Expression
FOI: Freedom of Information
HURINET: Human Rights Network
  ICC: International Criminal Court
  IMF: International Monetary Fund
KIOS: Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights
MDG: Millennium Development Goals
MISA: Media Institute of Southern Africa
ODAC: Open Democracy Advice Centre
  OSI: Open Society Initiative
  OSJI: Open Society Justice Initiative
FOREWORD

The Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) was conceived through the civil society Lagos 2006 Declaration in which thirty civil society organizations from sixteen countries agreed to set up an FOI centre whose mandate would be to garner experiences in the different countries, facilitate sharing of experiences and providing technical assistance to organizations involved in any stage of Freedom of Information advocacy or implementation.

During the year 2010 AFIC made significant progress towards the realization of this vision. The centre was successfully re-located to Kampala, Uganda. It was fully established with its registration in Kampala Uganda. The year 2010 also saw the completion of staff recruitment with the Coordinator, Programme Officer and Administrator fully on board. Resource mobilization processes, office setup and development of policies and systems for the management of human resources and other assets of the organization continued and policies were operationalised.

Beginning with the Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information, organized with the leadership of the Carter Centre in February 2010, AFIC has been active in promoting the right to information and supporting civil society initiatives around the continent. The February meeting energised debate on Africa and the right to information on the continent. Liberia adopted a national legislation while interesting developments are emerging from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Rwanda and Nigeria among others.

With AFIC’s engagement and participation, the right of access to information is firmly being placed on development agenda. The September 2010 Millennium Development Summit held in New York, USA agreed with civil society that Africa needed to advance the right of access to information as a strategy to fast track the attainment of MDGs. The MDG summit was preceded by the Global Summit on MDGs and Transparency that was held in London, UK under the auspices of Article 19 with AFIC’s participation and engagement.

The African Union and its institutions and organs set pace to initiate processes for standard setting. The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information initiated a consultation meeting on strengthening freedom of expression and access to information in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The Special Rapporteur
also initiated an important process developing a model law on freedom of information in Africa. The right to information formed debate at various fora on transforming the African union through shared values.

The above developments, notwithstanding the global financial crisis, the threat of terrorism in Africa and the massive publication of governments’ secrets by wikileaks have posed different forms of challenges to the development and implementation of freedom of information laws around the continent.

I would like to express my gratitude to our Steering Committee members: the International Federation of Journalists (Africa Office, Senegal), Human Rights Network (Uganda), the Citizens’ Governance Initiative (Cameroon), International Commission of Jurists (Kenya), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (Ghana), Media Foundation for West Africa (Ghana), the Open Democracy Advice Centre (South Africa), and the Open Society Justice Initiative (Africa) who have worked tirelessly to set up AFIC and get it to promote its members’ vision.

We look to the coming year 2011 with great anticipation and optimism in that this year will see not only adoption of better freedom of information laws, policies and practices but also effective implementation that will provide lessons and experiences to the rest of the world.

You are very welcome to support and partner with us as we strive to make the right of access to information a reality in Africa.

Dimba Mukelani
Chairperson
Steering Committee
FROM THE COORDINATOR/ HEAD OF SECRETARIAT

We are pleased to share AFIC Annual Report 2010 with our members, constituents and partners and all stakeholders. It forms our accountability to African citizens for whom the centre strives to ensure that their fundamental right of access to information is respected and promoted. It is also an appreciation to all partners who in one way or the other have supported the centre’s campaigns in the advancement of freedom of information in Africa and around the world.

The main priorities for the year 2010 were establishing the office by recruiting staff, developing institutional policies, deepening freedom of information knowledge, supporting civil society campaigns and initiatives to promote the right to information, initiating programmes and mobilizing financial and human resources to enable implementation.

In recognition of limited knowledge base of the situation of freedom of information in francophone Africa AFIC has implemented studies in Mali and Senegal. The studies intended to establish the legal framework, actors and opportunities for advancing freedom of information in the two countries in particular and francophone Africa in general. With results coming at the beginning of 2011, AFIC hopes this knowledge gap will be minimized and civil society and other actors will utilize the results to stimulate policy debates to advance legislation and implementation in francophone Africa.

The September 2010 International Right to Know Day provided opportunities to advance the right of access to information on the continent but also shed light on the attention and intensity of promotional activities. AFIC collaborated with other FOI actors before, during and after the International Right to Know Day campaigns. One of the matters that came to light was the fact that in spite of having the least number of FOI laws, Africa was at the same time least active in initiating activities to mark the International Right to Know Day campaign. AFIC will endeavour to initiate a process of mapping CSO actors on the continent to enable better planning for support and coordination of FOI campaigns and efforts around the continent.
Our website www.africafoicentre.org has been developed to support the work of our partners. Visitors can get information, study reports, statutes and other resources to help advance their work.

We are indebted to AFIC Steering Committee whose commitment beyond the normal work of the board has made AFIC fully develop. We also appreciate the Open Society Foundations’ Right to Information Fund for providing the bulk of funding support during the year. We also appreciate the support and collaboration of the World Bank Institute, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the African Union Commission, Carter Centre, the University of Cape Town, The Access Initiative (TAI), Article 19, Access Info Europe, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, African Network of Constitutional Lawyers, civil society freedom of information networks and campaigners and national governments among other partners with whom AFIC has collaborated in 2010.

The year 2011 will be one of real partnership and growth for freedom of information in Africa. We welcome partnership and collaboration in this regard.

Gilbert Sendugwa  
Coordinator/Head of Secretariat  
Africa Freedom of Information Centre
AFIC BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) is a pan-African, apolitical non-profit organisation promoting the right of access to information in Africa. The organisation was established as a recommendation of the Lagos Declaration signed by 30 civil society organisations from 16 African countries in September 2006.

Participants at this meeting called for the creation of a platform for cooperation and collaborative activities among civil society organizations in the region. The participants agreed to establish a regional Freedom of Information Centre in Africa, where experiences garnered in the different countries can be pooled and shared among civil society activists and which will provide technical assistance to organizations involved in any stage of Freedom of Information advocacy or implementation.

AFIC began operations in Lagos in 2009 but moved offices to Kampala at the beginning of 2010. Its specific objectives are:

1. Promote the right of access to information by providing a coordinated approach to regional advocacy initiatives;
2. Increase knowledge base on access to information through coordination and development of ATI research;
3. Facilitate information-sharing and learning among different civil society groups and actors through network development and website;
4. Facilitate capacity enhancement of various in-country civil society groups.

OUR VISION

AFIC is a membership civil society organization promoting the right of access to information. We strive to become a reliable, dependable and all round freedom of information support centre on the African continent.

PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

AFIC work is organized around five results areas namely:

- FOI research and knowledge strengthened;
- Improved access to and utilisation of information;
- FOI mainstreamed into regional and international mechanisms;
- Capacity for cso to advocate for foi strengthened;
- Network development
During the year 2010 progress towards the attainment of the results stated above were mainly delivered through two successive projects funded by the Open Society Foundations’ Right to Information Fund. The initial grant facilitated start up activities, setup of office and recruitment of staff. This was implemented in the period January 2010- June 2011. The second grant, “Towards a coordinated approach to the right to know in Africa” commenced implementation in the month of July 2010 and will continue till end of June 2012. Other AFIC work was implemented with support through partnerships from Open Democracy Advice Centre, Africa Network of Constitutional Lawyers, Article 19, HURINET Uganda, Citizens’ Governance Initiative, African Union, Africa Centre for Media Excellence, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, University of Cape Town, the International School for Transparency, the World bank Institute, the African Platform on Access to Information, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.
AFIC’s vision is to become a dependable source of FOI knowledge for other organizations. Research, therefore, is critical to realizing this vision. As a knowledge-based organization, it was imperative for AFIC to liaise with other partners to increase the stock of available knowledge of FOI on the continent. These outputs will inform policy and enhance advocacy for adoption of legislation, policies and implementation of laws, policies and practices on access-to-information rights.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Launch of FOI study in Cameroon, Yaounde</td>
<td>Study implemented by CGI with support from OSJI. AFIC attended launch and the Coordinator made a presentation on African perspectives on freedom of information. The study sought to establish mechanisms for access to information as well as document obstacles to the advancement of the right to information in Cameroon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Right to Information Meeting, Cape Town, March 10-11 2010</td>
<td>Meeting organized by ODAC in partnership with AFIC and discussed research strategies and partnerships. Participants identified common areas for collaboration and synergy building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Partnership Meeting to enhance the right of access to information campaigns in Africa through research and practice, Kampala, Uganda, November 23-24, 2010</td>
<td>Organized by AFIC in collaboration with Africa Network of Constitutional Lawyers, the meeting discussed the situation of access to information on the continent and the need to increase collaboration between activists and academic researchers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFIC FOI Research in Mali and Senegal</td>
<td>Drafts completed. Final reports will be produced, translated and disseminated in the next reporting period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Launch of ATI study Cameroon February 26-17, 2010

The “Right of Access to Information and Administrative Transparency in Cameroon” study was implemented by Citizens’ Governance Initiative (CGI), and sought to explore the legal framework for access to information and administrative transparency in Cameroon. The study also sought to establish mechanisms for access to information as well as document obstacles to the advancement of the right to information in Cameroon. It was concluded in August 2010.

The major finding of the study was that Cameroon does not have a general law on access to information but there were a number of provisions in other existing legislations which could in fact facilitate citizens’ ability to request and receive information from public bodies. The study further found that despite the existence of legal provisions that could facilitate access to information, they were largely not used by the population because of lack of legal awareness.
At this launch, the Coordinator made a presentation on African perspectives on freedom of information. He observed that participants exhibited very limited knowledge of freedom of information which perhaps explains the limited demand for information. The meeting was attended by over one hundred and sixty participants from Cameroon, Uganda, South Africa, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

AFIC received final copies of this study which is an invaluable tool to support our advocacy work on the continent. AFIC has disseminated the report in English and French across its networks and feedback received is that the study is a great source of information for policy makers and researchers around the continent.

Regional Right to Information Meeting, Cape Town, March 10-11 2010

The meeting was organized by the Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC) in partnership with the Africa Freedom of Information Centre and brought together over 15 participants working on access to information issues on the continent. Participants identified common areas for collaboration and synergy building. They also shared experiences and lessons amongst themselves. As a result of the meeting and discussions, AFC refined its research strategy in terms of focus countries and content. Draft action plans and memorandum of understanding developed were shared to all participants by ODAC.

Partnership Meeting to Enhance the Right of Access to Information in Africa through Research and Practice, Kampala, Uganda, November 23-24, 2010

AFIC, in collaboration with ANCL, convened this meeting of freedom of information activists and researchers from around the continent. The meeting brought together sixteen senior leaders from the academic community on the one hand, and role players from the community of practice on the other. The meeting discussed the situation of access to information on the continent and the need to increase collaboration between activists and researchers. This was AFIC’s major activity and its convening power was demonstrated with the attendance of renown FOI professionals and representatives of leading organizations around the continent. The meeting was an important follow up of the discussions held in the United Kingdom in May 2010 where the subject of collaboration between the academia and activists was explored. The meeting came up with important deliverables that included the following:

i. Working towards a panel on access to information during the forthcoming global transparency conference in New York;
ii. A statement of intent between AFIC and ANCL was signed in which key actions to advance collaboration and freedom of information work on the continent were outlined;
iii. A directory of organizations on the continent working on various areas of ATI was developed.
**Research in Mali and Senegal**

AFIC commenced research on the legal framework as well as demand and supply of information in Senegal and Mali. Selection of countries as well as content of the research was carefully done to avoid duplication of the efforts of other players. As such the design benefited from the regional freedom of information meeting held in Cape Town in March 2010 to the extent that it relocated the study from DRC and Angola where other organizations were in advanced stages of implementing similar or related studies. In addition, AFIC changed the scope from merely legal analysis and included demand and supply because the Open Society Justice Initiative had earmarked similar studies in several countries across the continent.

In view of the above, the specific aims of these studies are:

a) Identifying the existing and scope of legal framework for access to information in Senegal and Mali;
b) Analysing current practices in respect to the supply/provision of information by government departments;
c) Obtaining and analysing basic data on number of requests, subjects of requests and results of requests;
d) Determining the level and factors influencing demand for information by the population;
e) Assessing government responsiveness to access to information practices (whether proactive or otherwise);
f) Identifying major actors in promotion of access to information in the country;
g) Identify major opportunities and constraints for the promotion of access to information in both countries;
h) Providing recommendations for advancing access to information agenda in each of the two countries.

During the reporting period the researchers had collected and analysed data and shared draft reports in French. They are currently being reviewed and translated into English for comments. Finalisation, printing and disseminations are scheduled for mid-2011.

**Making use of Legal Analysis Research by Open Society Justice Initiative**

Following the Plan of Action developed at the Regional Right to Information Meeting in Cape Town from March 10-11 2010 which was organized by ODAC in partnership with AFIC, the Open Society Justice Initiative implemented legal analysis and policy research studies in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, Cameroon, DRC, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Gabon, Republic of Benin, Togo, Congo Brazzaville and Equatorial Guinea/Niger.

Draft results of these studies were presented during a freedom of information litigation regional meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2010. The results showed that in some countries there existed scope for litigation using the existing legal framework while in others it was rather difficult. The results also showed that lack of ratification of regional instruments inhibited the use of regional mechanisms to advance the right of access to information. In the end it was agreed that a multipronged approach involving the executive, judiciary and legislative arms of government be explored to advance the right of access to information on the continent.

At the time of the Nairobi meeting research reports were drafts and have since not been made available by the Open Society Justice Initiative. AFIC seeks to use results of this work to promote freedom of information on the continent.
The state of freedom of information in Africa is a major concern. Over the past decade there has been great progress towards adopting and implementing freedom of information legislations around the world, bringing the total number of countries with FOI legislation to ninety. Africa lags behind with only six countries having legislation - South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia and Liberia. Angola has a law on access to administrative documents which does not carry all the tenets of an FOI law while Zimbabwe’s Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act largely restricts access to information. Thus Angola and Zimbabwe should not be considered as having standard FOI legislation. The quality of FOI legislation has made implementation difficult. Areas of major concern are lack of independent bodies for oversight, lack of regulations and long time frames to respond to requests. The state of implementation of legislations in these countries, save for South Africa, is a threat to rule of law, human rights and democracy.

The African Union does not have a specific instrument guaranteeing the right of access to information but it has adopted a number of instruments whose ratification, domestication and implementation has a strong bearing on freedom of information. These include among others the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human Peoples Rights, the Protocol of the Court of Justice of the African Union and AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

The lack of ratification and domestication of these instruments have constrained citizens’ right to information on the continent. In addition human development has been undermined as confirmed by the MDG summit which concluded, among others, that lack of transparency was hindering the attainment of MDGs in Africa.

AFIC’s advocacy strategy for 2010 therefore aimed at promoting the improvement of quality of legislation, promoting adoption of legislation as well as strengthening implementation. AFIC also campaigned for the ratification, domestication and adherence to the principles of various regional and international principles and standards at national, regional and international level.

During the reporting period AFIC explored several avenues and opportunities to advocate the right of access to information by utilizing some of the following avenues.

**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information, Accra Ghana</td>
<td>The conference reaffirmed the findings of the Atlanta Declaration which asserts that ATI is a fundamental human right; transparency is essential for good governance and acknowledges that political, institutional and cultural constraints in Africa have limited the exercise of this right.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Activity Summary of Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Press Freedom Day 2010</td>
<td>The Coordinator attended a round table meeting to mark the day at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala. The round table attracted over thirty participants from government bodies, civil society actors and media organizations. The meeting was presided by Hon. Kabakumba Masiko, Minister for Information and National Guidance. Also present was Commissioner Agaba Maguru from the Uganda Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th African Union Summit on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa July 19, 27, Kampala Uganda</td>
<td>AFIC initiated a campaign calling upon African Union leaders attending this Session to consider a specific declaration on access to information and ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Statement on Zambia</td>
<td>Reports that the World Bank's delay in providing feedback on the draft bill was frustrating government's efforts to legislate on ATI, prompted AFIC to formally request the World Bank to expedite feedback process so that Zambia could discuss and adopt an ATI law and also issued a statement to Zambian authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Right to Know Day, September 28, 2010</td>
<td>This day provided an important opportunity for civil society organizations in Africa and around the world to advocate for freedom of information. AFIC worked in collaboration with Access Info Europe to coordinate International Right to Know Day 2010 activities in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to FOI Legislation</td>
<td>AFIC reviewed and made comments on the draft Right to Information Bill of Sierra Leone and issued statements to officials in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria and Rwanda.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information, Accra Ghana

AFIC Coordinator and members of Steering Committee attended this regional conference from February 7-9, 2010. The conference was attended by over 130 high ranking government and civil society leaders, academics, researchers, donor agencies and other stakeholders. The conference reaffirmed the findings of the Atlanta Declaration which asserts that ATI is a fundamental human right, transparency is essential for good governance and acknowledges that political, institutional and cultural constraints in Africa have limited the exercise of this right.

Participants equally adopted a regional plan of action for the advancement of ATI. The Plan calls for the African Union and the African Development Bank to lead by example and increase openness through comprehensive disclosure policies related to their operations and functioning. It also enjoins states to take leadership in ensuring the right of access to information.
Being a continental body, AFIC disseminated the findings and regional plan of action to state and non state actors around the continent and is utilizing the findings of this gathering to shape and implement its strategy for the continent. These findings in part informed the design of the “Towards a Coordinated Approach to Promotion of Access to Information” project that is being implemented with funding from the Open Society Right to Information Fund.

World Press Freedom Day 2010

At the invitation of the Uganda Representative of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Coordinator attended a round table meeting to mark the World Press Freedom day on May 3, 2010 at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala. The round table attracted over thirty participants from government bodies, civil society actors and media organizations. The meeting was presided by Hon. Kabakumba Masiko, Minister for Information and National Guidance. Also present was Commissioner Agaba Maguru from the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

As part of the event, a DVD on Press Freedom in Uganda was launched with a call on state agencies; especially the police and the army to respect and promote press freedoms as an important ingredient for democracy in Uganda. In addition, a paper on press freedom in Uganda was presented by Prof. Frederick Jukko of Makerere University in which key aspects of the law that needed attention were highlighted. The paper was co-discussed by Mr. Gawaya Tegule from UBC Television and Mr. Wokulira Sebaggala from the Uganda Human Rights Network for Journalists.

Open discussions agreed that space for freedom, especially access to information and press freedoms, in Uganda appeared to be shrinking and called on Government and other actors to promote freedom of the press ahead of the forthcoming general elections in March 2011.

15th African Union Summit on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa July 19, 27, Kampala Uganda

Access to information is critical to citizens’ realization of socio-economic rights to health, education and employment. This explains why in July 2010, AFIC initiated a campaign calling upon African Union leaders attending the 15th session of the African Union from July 19-27 to:

i. Consider a specific declaration on access to information;

ii. Consider adoption of an Africa-wide access to information instrument that commits member states to guarantee and afford citizens the right to information;

iii. Adopt access to information national legislations to guarantee the right to information and guide citizens on how to request and receive information held by public bodies;

iv. In the case of Uganda, Angola, South Africa and Ethiopia where national Governments have adopted access to information laws, efforts on implementation should be strengthened;

v. Countries like Zimbabwe whose legislation restrict rather than facilitate freedom of information to repeal them and enact progressive ones;

vi. Elections are at the heart of accountability and good governance. African governments are urged to expedite the ratification and implementation of instruments such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance adopted by the African Union in January 2007.
The campaign received overwhelming support and over fifty eight organizations from Africa and the rest of the world signed in support of the campaign. Some of these organizations are: The Carter Center, Centre for Law and Democracy (Canada), Open Democracy Advice Centre (South Africa) and the Arab Freedom of Information Network based in Morocco. The petition was sent to all heads of government and official delegations attending the 15th session of the African Union as well as media and civil society organizations for advocacy around the issues.

AFIC Coordinator held two meetings with senior officials from Uganda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. From the meeting AFIC mobilized commitment to fast-track the ratification process. In addition, AFIC requested the Government of Uganda to use its influence to encourage member states of the East African Community to adopt specific legislation on access to information. Being the only member state to have adopted the law, Uganda is well placed to play this role. The officials welcomed the initiative and promised cooperation and collaboration in this regard.

**Press Statement on Zambia**

In July 2010, following information from Zambia’s Minister of Information, Hon. Ronnie Shikapwasha that the World Bank’s delay in providing feedback on the draft bill was frustrating government’s efforts to legislate on ATI, AFIC formally requested the World Bank to expedite feedback process so that Zambia could discuss and adopt an ATI law. AFIC received a reply from the World Bank that feedback had been provided to the Government of Zambia since February 2010. The World Bank proposed a meeting to be held in September in which all stakeholders - the Government of Zambia, civil society groups and the World Bank itself will discuss this matter with a view of ironing out any misunderstandings and charting a way forward for passage of the bill.

Earlier in March 2010 AFIC learnt of the removal of provisions on access to information from the draft constitution of Zambia. AFIC together with MISA issued a statement calling upon:

1. His Excellency President Rupiah Banda to show leadership in ensuring that access to information is expressly guaranteed in the new Constitution of Zambia
2. The Government of Zambia through its organs to recognize that they have a duty to afford Zambians the right to access information held by public institutions in order to promote good governance, transparent and accountable leadership.
3. Entrench the right to access information in the new constitution in line with international standards
4. Urge the Zambian Government to expedite the process of reviewing and enacting the freedom of information Bill, 2002 into law.
5. Mainstream access to information and the principles of open government in all decision making processes and engagement of the government with the people of Zambia.

Engagement with the Government of Zambia on this matter continues.
International Right to Know Day, September 28, 2010

This day provided an important opportunity for civil society organizations in Africa and around the world to advocate for freedom of information. AFIC worked in collaboration with Access Info Europe to coordinate International Right to Know Day 2010 activities in Africa. AFIC was focussed on mobilising CSOs to plan for the day and share plans and experiences with freedom of information advocates around the world.

At continental level Uganda, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria organised activities to advocate for the adoption and implementation of freedom of information laws. MISA released “transparency reports” to highlight transparent and less transparent bodies in countries in Southern Africa while South African advocates implemented a series of activities aimed at reforming or withdrawing the infamous “Secrecy Bill”.

In Uganda AFIC provided technical support to HURINET and the National Coalition on Freedom of Information (COFI) in the design and implementation of the campaign. The Coalition held a number of events including a press conference, a public dialogue and interactive radio shows. The public dialogue attracted over one hundred participants including senior government and civil society leaders who reviewed the status of implementation of the Access to Information Act since its adoption in 2005. Speakers included, among others, the Hon. Minister for Information and National Guidance, the Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, respective Permanent Secretaries for Ministries of Local Government and Public Service. The dialogue noted positive initiatives like community notice boards and client charters in the Ministry of Local Government but stressed the need to increase awareness and strengthen implementation in the various government departments and bodies. The Human Rights Commission and Parliament were urged to strengthen oversight for implementation and compliance.

The public dialogue generated the following follow up actions and recommendations for implementation and monitoring.
Ministry of Information and National Guidance

* Ensure that respective government departments produce manual of functions and index of records of public body
* Fast-track the adoption and implementation of regulations to guide implementation of the Access to Information Act
* Coordinate strengthening of the capacity of technical officers as well as system strengthening to respond to information requests
* Promote and coordinate ATI implementation at central and local government levels
* Raise access to information awareness among the population and policy makers
* Initiate process to harmonise Official Secrets Act with the Ugandan Constitution

Line Ministries

* Piloting the implementation of the Access to Information Act around budget transparency in local governments given that 30% of National Budget goes to districts yet several integrity surveys has showed consistent lack of transparency and poor service delivery.
* Pro-active disclosure of government budget and plans- in a manner and format that allows use of information by the citizenry
* Improve records management for ease of dissemination
* Introduce and implement client charters
* Introduce and make use of Notice boards and client charters at various levels
* Awareness raising on the right and enabling legislations
* Share experiences on good practices e.g. LG

Parliament

* The need to require all ministers to make annual reports on ATI implementation as provided for under the ATIA.
* Establish and enforce sanctions for ministers and departments that fail to report
* Debate status of implementation and suggest measures to improve implementation
* Allocate resources to facilitate implementation and oversight
* Expand space for civil society and media to facilitate successful ATI implementation
Uganda Human Rights Commission

- Make ATI implementation and oversight part of the Commission’s reports to parliament
- Ensure compliance with international treaty and convention obligations on human rights -
  - African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
  - Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an
    African Court on Human and Peoples Rights
  - Protocol of the Court of Justice of the African Union
- Sensitise population on ATI as a fundamental Human Rights

Civil Society and Media Organizations

- Create awareness of the right
- Monitor implementation & oversight practices
- Advocacy for policy and legislative reforms

Following the September 28th 2010 right to know campaign the Ugandan Presidency has developed and launched a client charter which, among others, commits that people who visit the office will be attended to within 30 minutes, telephone calls will be answered by the third ring while correspondences will be replied within three days of receipt. A complaints platform for the public has been provided in the framework of the charter. The Minister for the Presidency, Beatrice Wabudeya, said that the charter is intended to make services easily accessible to the public, enhance transparency, performance and accountability.

The office handles issues from the Cabinet, Parliament, government agencies, researchers, investors, service providers and the wider public. This is a positive development for the advancement of ATI. However, the practice should extend beyond the Presidency to all government departments and agencies.

Analysis of the 2010 Right to Know Day campaign in Africa shows that Africa, with the least number of countries with freedom of information legislations, was at the same time less active in terms of observing the day and implementing advocacy initiatives for adoption and/or implementation. Based on this experience there is need to identify and work with national coalitions across the continent to plan an African strategy to use the day to implement activities that will deliver agreed upstream policy objectives related to either adoption, implementation or the general policy environment for freedom of information. During the planning for the event and prior, AFIC made attempts to identify national coalitions and their plans for the day. Like previous occasions not much was yielded. In many countries freedom of information coalitions do not exist while in others activities are ad hoc.

In order to support implementation and information requests, AFIC developed a template for information requestors to adapt to their circumstances. This tool has been circulated to different networks and civil society organisations around the continent. The Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists is using the tool to make coordinated requests in the country’s judiciary. The tool has also been shared with the Ugandan coalition. AFIC is testing the tool with two institutions in Uganda and will share results of the request with the national coalition for further advocacy and engagement.
Support to FOI Legislation

AFIC reviewed and made comments on the draft Right to Information Bill of Sierra Leone. Subsequent to provision of comments, AFIC has collaborated with national civil society groups as the Society for Democratic Initiatives and the Freedom of Information Coalition to advocate for the consideration and passage of the bill.

In June 2010, the Cabinet of Sierra Leone passed the draft bill for onward tabling and consideration by Parliament.

Through various meetings, fora and approaches AFIC campaigned for the adoption of FOI legislations around the continent. In addition AFIC issued statements to officials in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria and Rwanda.
The development of FOI in Africa will depend on the quality of monitoring legislation and implementation. To this end, AFIC sought to implement a number of measures to enable ongoing overview of processes around the continent. In addition AFIC adopted a strategy of carrying out systematic country studies on the state of implementation of FOI frameworks.

To strengthen FOI monitoring, AFIC has initiated studies that will provide information on the state of implementation and compliance in countries like Uganda which will form a strong basis for further advocacy for improvement and compliance. Meetings have been held with senior government officials in different countries on the subject of implementation and compliance with FOI legislations.

In Uganda, AFIC made a joint request with HURINET to Parliament on the status of reporting by various ministers as required by the Access to Information Act, 2005. When this information is received, AFIC and HURINET will study the response and decide the next course of action. Similar or related requests have been made to the Land Commission and the Leader of Government Business.

In 2010, AFIC participated actively in events that aimed at monitoring the FOI situation on the continent.

**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Conference on Transparency, Free Flow of Information and Millennium Development Goals, London, August 23-25, 2010</strong></td>
<td>AFIC made a presentation on the status of freedom of access to information in Africa. The meeting aimed at producing a civil society position paper on transparency and MDGs ahead of the United Nations MDG summit that was held in September 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights 48th Session, Banjul, The Gambia, November 10-14, 2010</strong></td>
<td>Civil society organizations made submissions on the situation of human rights in different member states. From the submissions and discussions it was clear that the state of freedom of access to information was paramount in improving the human rights situation on the continent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The African Platform on Access to Information (APAI)</strong></td>
<td>This is a regional initiative of human rights, media and research organizations whose aim is to achieve a comprehensive continental instrument that advances the right of ATI in Africa. During the course of the 2010 the working group of APAI, of which AFIC is a member, held two main meetings one in Accra, Ghana on the sidelines of Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information in February 2010 and another in Lusaka in June of the same year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At this conference, AFIC was invited to make a presentation on the status of freedom of access to information in Africa. The meeting aimed at producing a civil society position paper on transparency and MDGs ahead of the United Nations MDG summit that was scheduled for September 2010.

The conference produced a Declaration calling on states to ensure that all sectors of society, including women and vulnerable groups, are able to exercise the right to impart and access information without discrimination, ratify and implement the UN Convention against Corruption, publish accessible and comprehensive information on budgets, expenditures and revenues in relation to development and the MDGs, and fully comply with the IMF’S Code of Good Practices on fiscal transparency.

The MDG summit itself captured the spirit of the London Civil Society Declaration on the extent to which lack of transparency and free flow of information was undermining the attainment of MDG targets. The New York summit however, fell short of coming up with strong commitments for transparency for review at the next MDG summit in 2013.

Visit: www.right2info-mdgs.org
www.right2info-MDGs.org


AFIC was invited and participated actively in the proceedings of this Session. Civil society organizations made submissions on the situation of human rights in different member states. From the submissions and discussions it was clear that the state of freedom of access to information was paramount in improving the human rights situation on the continent.
AFIC, whose attendance was made possible thanks to the partial sponsorship of Article 19 and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, made significant contribution during a brainstorming meeting on strengthening freedom of expression and access to information in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Both the 48th session of the ACHPR and the brainstorming meeting were attended by key and senior stakeholders in the field and generated key recommendations to advance the right of access to information. Participants were concerned about limited coordination between APRM secretariat and ACHPR, the scope of access to information in the APRM mechanism and limited consultation of the APRM process. The meeting made the following recommendations:

i. Practical efforts should be initiated in the shortest possible time to establish clear systems of engagement and collaboration between the APRM and the ACHPR, and that any known and perceived barriers to such collaboration be resolved by the secretariats of the two pan-African institutions;

ii. The APRM includes indicators to assess the situation regarding FOE and FOI in countries under review, and that the indicators draw on standards outlined in existing African instruments such as the Declaration of the Principles of FOE in Africa, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance;

iii. A clear mechanism is put in place to ensure complementarity between the APRM reports and processes and the ACHPR reports and processes. All APRM reports should make clear reference to ACHPR reports and all other UN human rights reports, including those produced by the Universal Periodic Review;

iv. The ACHPR will seek to have a designated person on the APRM. This person should ensure among others that the ACHPR reports and guidelines are made available to the National APRM;

v. The APRM secretariat shall with immediate effect table before the ACHPR all national reports of countries that have completed the four stages of the review;

vi. The APRM secretariat makes reference to other AU mechanisms/bodies reports when preparing its initial reports. These reports and documents should include those by the African Union Commission and the ACHPR;

vii. CSOs have an opportunity to submit detailed shadow/alternative reports to APRM Secretariat;

viii. The ongoing process of reviewing the master questionnaire and other base documents for the APRM should be encouraged, and that effective consultations between APRM secretariat, CSOs and other Pan-African bodies are open and transparent;
ix. The Governance architecture and the proposed dialogue platforms by the African Union Commission - which offer a great opportunity for African Union bodies and agencies involved in governance and human rights to discuss and borrow from each in their assessment of human rights situation on the continent and in formulating sustainable and effective intervention- be used to formalise the working relationship of the ACHPR and the APRM;

x. The new governance architecture of the African Union under discussion includes freedom of expression as one of the shared values within the African union.

The African Platform on Access to Information

The African Platform on Access to Information (APAI) is a regional initiative of human rights, media and research organizations whose aim is to achieve a comprehensive continental instrument that advances the right of ATI in Africa. During the course of the 2010 the working group of APAI of which AFIC is a member held two main meetings one in Accra, Ghana on the sidelines of Africa Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information in February 2010 and another in Lusaka in June of the same year.

The Lusaka meeting reviewed progress of the campaign and developed a strategy and action plan for the campaign. The main features of the campaign include developing a draft instrument, co-hosting a regional summit with UNESCO and the African Union Commission and organising a panel on access to information during the World Press Day 2011 in Washington DC. It is expected that the continent-wide instrument on FOI will be considered during the September 2011 summit in South Africa. For additional information on the APAI campaign please visit: www.windhoekplus20.org
One of the key objectives of AFIC is to strengthen the capacity of national coalitions, civil society groups and other partners to advance the adoption and implementation of freedom of information initiatives. During the year 2010 AFIC, in collaboration with other partner organizations, organized a series of activities to strengthen capacities in this regard.

**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inauguration of the International School for Transparency (IST), Cape Town, October, 2010</td>
<td>This inaugural session involved participants from Uganda, India, Bangladesh and Jamaica; all countries with freedom of information legislations but with varied degrees of implementation. AFIC nominated members of the Ugandan delegation that comprised the Honourable Minister for Information and National Guidance, The Inspector General of Government, a Commissioner at the Uganda Human Rights Commission, and the Under Secretary for Information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFIC Facilitates Training of Ugandan MPs</td>
<td>AFIC facilitated sessions during training for information officers and journalists as well as breakfast meeting with members of parliament. They were introduced to experiences and standards of an effective access to information regime including orienting personnel on ATI, setting up a response system including request flow charts/ schemes, processing requests, appeals and reporting in line with the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Information Video Conferences</td>
<td>These video conferences were funded by the World Bank Institute to facilitate learning and experience-sharing among participants and access to information stakeholders from Uganda, Ghana and South Africa. Each of these three countries are at different experiences with South Africa having passed and implemented the law for ten years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inauguration of the International School for Transparency (IST), Cape Town, October, 2010**

This inaugural session involved participants from Uganda, India, Bangladesh and Jamaica; all countries with freedom of information legislations but with varied degrees of implementation. Facilitators included experts from United Kingdom, USA, Africa, South America and the Scottish Information Commission. The content was reach and enabled participants to appreciate technicalities and experiences in successful implementation and oversight.
A part from being a participant in the training, the AFIC Coordinator was asked to nominate and motivate senior leaders from Uganda to attend the training. This was successfully accomplished with the Ugandan delegation comprising the Honourable Minister for Information and National Guidance, The Inspector General of Government, a Commissioner at the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Under Secretary for Information and two civil society representatives (AFIC and the Anticorruption Coalition). The sixth participant from the ministry of local Government did not make it due to delays in visa processing. The composition of the Ugandan delegation was rich and the outcome was also positive with renewed commitment by respective institutions to promote free flow of information.

On his part the Inspector General of Government has initiated regular press conferences at which voluntary disclosures are made. The Uganda Human Rights Commission has committed to prioritise access to information in its oversight and awareness work while the minister promised to have the regulations passed by December 31, 2010.

**AFIC Facilitates Training of Ugandan MPs**

At the invitation of HURINET and Africa Centre for Media Excellence (ACME) AFIC facilitated sessions during training for information officers and journalists as well as breakfast meeting with members of parliament. Participants at the Information Officers’ training included staff from ministries of local government, public service, information and national guidance, gender, labour and social development among others. They were introduced to experiences and standards of an effective access to information regime including orienting personnel on ATI, setting up a response system including request flow charts/ schemes, processing requests, appeals and reporting in line with the law. They appreciated the training and acknowledged they had neither ever thought of the implication of ATI nor had initiative to set up the system.

AFIC suggested that the idea of implementing a pilot in one or two ministries with the objective of establishing human resources requirements in terms of skills, personnel as well as system adjustment be given serious consideration. Participants welcomed the suggestion but noted there was need for funds and technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of these pilot initiatives.

AFIC has supported and worked closely with Africa Center for Media Excellence (ACME) in facilitating training of Ugandan journalists on freedom of expression and access to information. During the training, there were mixed reactions on the knowledge of the existence of the Access to Information Act, 2005. Those that indicated knowledge of the existence of the law said they had never used it. They did not specify why they had never used the law despite its potential to improve the quality as well as impact of their work.

During the breakfast meeting with Members of Parliament at which AFIC made a presentation on the role of parliamentarians in promoting the right of access to information in Uganda, members of parliament expressed ignorance about the existence of the Access to Information Act, 2005 and their individual and corrective role in its promotion and implementation. This lack of awareness of the law by members of parliament seriously affects implementation and oversight given that the Act confers these roles on Parliament under Section 43. During the presentation, AFIC highlighted parliament’s role in promoting implementation, monitoring and enforcement. In particular, the need for awareness raising and public education, adoption of regulations, production of manual of index, annual reports to parliament and ensuring that the Human Rights Commission prioritises access to
information. It also highlighted gaps in the law that need consideration for amendment especially in respect to providing for an independent information commission and narrowing the scope of exemptions.

**Access to Information Video Conferences**

AFIC entered a partnership with the University of Cape Town and the Access to Information Coalition of Ghana to implement a series of video conferences on access to information. The project was funded by the World Bank Institute. The purpose of the video conferences was to facilitate learning and experience-sharing among participants and access to information stakeholders from Uganda, Ghana and South Africa. The project really presented the opportunity for learning and sharing to occur because each of the three countries are at different stages with South Africa having passed and implemented the law for ten years, Uganda adopted an access to information law in 2005 but is challenged with implementation while Ghana’s bill is being considered in Parliament.

The project enabled Ugandan participants to gain knowledge and experience on the different topical issues as well as difficulties in implementation. Avenues for collaboration and communication among the different participants were strengthened and were clearly displayed in joint activities to organize the Access Initiative (TAI) Global Gathering in Kampala in October 2010, the ICC review conference as well as activities to mark the World Press Day in May 2010.

In addition, the video conferences created vital resources for the access to information community. Reports of the Video conferences were widely disseminated to organizations and individuals in Uganda and beyond, with some generating comments on the matters raised during the discussion. Some of the discussion points generated debate on the FOIAnet mailing list (foianet-bounces@lists.foiadvocates.info).

The website and chat room created under the project provided a vital resource for important information to participants as well as others who were not participants but interested in the subject.

The link [http://www.dgru.uct.ac.za/focus/governance/transparency_school/videos/](http://www.dgru.uct.ac.za/focus/governance/transparency_school/videos/) was circulated widely and people benefited greatly from the resources.
Networking is an integral component of any meaningful advocacy strategy. For AFIC, expanding its network of partners is critical to realizing its continent-wide mission, increasing and diversifying its resource base and deepening the impact of its work on the continent. These partners include civil society organizations, foundations, multilateral organizations, research institutions and individuals.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Conference of FOI Networks and Academic Research Centres, London, May, 2010</strong></td>
<td>The meeting brought together civil society networks in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America as well as academicians from the same regions with a view of enhancing collaboration between FOI researchers and practitioners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFIC and the TAI Network</strong></td>
<td>AFIC is engaging with The Access Initiative (TAI), a group of civil society organizations working on environmental justice across the globe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Global Gathering, Kampala, 26-30 October 2010</strong></td>
<td>This was the third civil society “Global Gathering” meeting of the Access Initiative (TAI). The meeting attracted over one hundred and twenty participants from Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, World Bank Country Manager for Uganda was a key note speaker at the opening dinner in which she highlighted the bank’s access to information policy at country and global levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mapping FOI Organisations on the continent</strong></td>
<td>The centre’s new communication strategy is expected to support advocacy and communication initiatives in addition to building and strengthening the AFIC brand and fundraising.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guests at AFIC Premises</strong></td>
<td>AFIC welcomed to its new premises the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Uganda, Senior World Bank officials, delegations from Freedom House, USA, the Vince Centre and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting based in London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kampala, June 2010</strong></td>
<td>AFIC joined other civil society organizations to make a presentation on the situation of human rights in Uganda. The civil society called upon the High Commissioner to support civil society work in the country.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International Conference of FOI Networks and Academic Research Centres, London, May, 2010

The Coordinator and Chairperson of AFIC attended this international networking meeting organised by the World Bank Institute, Open Society and the London School of Economics. The meeting brought together civil society networks in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America as well as academicians from the same regions with a view of enhancing collaboration between FOI researchers and practitioners. One of AFIC’s research strategies is working with universities to deepen FOI knowledge and advance the right of access to information. Lines of communication will remain open for possible joint implementation as well as making use of research products from research institutions. For a start AFIC has shared terms of reference for its research in Senegal and Mali with the University College, London. Draft and Final reports will be shared not just with the University College but with all agencies that were represented at the London meeting.

During the London meeting, FOI practitioners discussed and agreed to explore possibilities of joint country/situation reports on FOI. It is AFIC’s intention that this idea will be nurtured to fruition.

AFIC and the TAI Network

Part of AFIC’s strategy is building working relationships with networks and groups of actors across the continent. AFIC is engaging with the Access Initiative (TAI), a group of civil society organizations working on environmental justice issues across the globe. As a key stakeholder, AFIC was a member of the organizing committee for the “Global Gathering” that was held in Kampala from October 26-29, 2010. The meeting was convened under the theme, “Access Rights, Poverty and Environmental Democracy Worldwide”. It was expected that the third Global Gathering will generate ideas for the Rio+20 as well as strategies to confront emerging challenges around thematic areas. The conference further provided an opportunity for AFIC to build and strengthen working relationships with TAI partners in Africa and around the World. AFIC enrolled as a member of the coalition on access to information in Africa.

The Global Gathering, Kampala, 26-30 October 2010

In the month of October 2010 the third civil society “Global Gathering” meeting of the Access Initiative (TAI) was held in Kampala from October 26-30, 2010. TAI initiative is a global civil society movement promoting principle ten of the Rio Convention that deals with access to justice, access to information and access to participation. AFIC is a member of the Africa region TAI network and was member of the working group organising the event.

The meeting was preceded by an advocacy training that based on an advocacy tool kit developed to promote access rights (access to information, access to justice and access to participation). The main meeting attracted over one hundred and twenty participants from Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, World Bank Country Manager for Uganda was a key note speaker at the opening dinner in which she highlighted the bank’s access to information policy at country and global levels.

The Rio 2012 working group was set up to coordinate the network’s preparation. Experiences from different countries on how access rights were being promoted were shared throughout the meeting.
Mapping FOI Organisations on the continent

During the AFIC board meeting of June 2010, the board discussed the issue of forming working groups and recruiting new members. It was agreed that the secretariat develops and implements a strategy that would meet members’ resource needs in their FOI advocacy work.

Further, AFIC’s new communication strategy is expected to support the centre’s advocacy and communication initiatives in addition to building and strengthening the organizations brand and fundraising.

Guests at AFIC Premises

The acquisition of office premises in May 2010 is giving the organization the desired image and visibility as evidenced by courtesy visits of the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Uganda, Senior World Bank officials, delegations from Freedom House, USA, the Vince Centre and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting based in London. AFIC has discussed possibilities of collaboration with these organizations some of which might come to fruition as AFIC’s institutional capacity grows.

Meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kampala, June 2010

AFIC, alongside other civil society organizations, held a meeting with the visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay at Kampala Sheraton Hotel on Friday June 4, 2010. The civil society made a presentation on the situation of human rights in Uganda in which a number of violations and lack of progress were noted. The civil society called upon the High Commissioner to support civil society work in Uganda especially with concerns that violations may escalate with the forthcoming general elections in Uganda. The High Commissioner appreciated civil society organizations’ work in Uganda and pledged to engage with government on addressing the challenges identified.
AFIC began operations from its temporary base at HURINET in 2009. To be fully functional, the organization had to acquire its own office space, recruit staff to fill positions prescribed by its organigram and adopt internal rules and regulations to guide its work. This was largely achieved in 2010 with the support and guidance of the Steering Committee.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Summary of Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting up the Office and Secretariat</td>
<td>AFIC acquired and equipped its office at Plot 5 Katego Road, Kampala, and recruited the head of secretariat an Accountant and Programme Officer. The Steering Committee held three Skype meetings in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Mobilisation</td>
<td>Inadequate financial resources remain a challenge to AFIC’s ability to effectively pursue its goals and objectives. AFIC made a number of approaches with proposals and concept papers and verbal discussions. During the next reporting period AFIC will continue the strategy of diversifying its financial base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Functioning Website</td>
<td>We encountered problems in making our website fully operational as we would have wished. However, the website is a priority in 2011 and a new consultant has been engaged for this purpose.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Setting up the Office and Secretariat

During the reporting period AFIC moved from HURINET and set up an office on Plot 5 Katego Road, Kamokya, Kampala. The office was equipped with two desktop computers, one laptop, scanner, two printers and photocopier. In addition AFIC purchased a meeting table, four office desks as well as chairs for staff and guests. These items have been engraved and listed in AFIC’s asset register.

In terms of staffing, Mr. Gilbert Sendugwa, Mr. Dan Ngabirano and Ms Pamela Muganzi were recruited as Head of Secretariat, Programme Officer and Accountant respectively. Mr. Ngabirano was appointed on a temporary basis owing to his planned departure for further studies in USA. A vacancy was advertised internationally for the recruitment of a substantive Programme Officer with fluency in French. We concluded this process in November with the recruitment of Mr. Peter Nsenkeng.

During the reporting period the Steering Committee/AFIC Board of Directors held three meetings via Skype on February 9, May 20 and June 2, 2010. The Steering Committee made important decisions including the adoption of Human Resource Management Policy as well as the Finance, Asset Management and Procurement Policy.

AFIC obtained formal registration as an NGO in October 2010. The registration process was tedious and slow owing to huge documentation work required to register an NGO when some of the directors are non Ugandans. These lengthy procedures necessitated the provision of additional funds to cover costs of...
continued engagement of the consultant who had been contracted by HURINET on behalf of AFIC to handle the legal process of its registration as well as making adjustments and re-filing documents with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau.

**Resource Mobilisation**

Inadequate financial resources remain a challenge to AFIC’s ability to effectively pursue its goals and objectives. AFIC made a number of approaches with proposals and concept papers and verbal discussions.

Some of the organizations approached are the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Open Society Foundation, ARO, KIOS and International Research and Development (IDRC). During the next reporting period AFIC will continue the strategy of diversifying its financial base.

**A Functioning Website**

We encountered problems in making our website fully operational as we would have wished. An earlier attempt was aborted because of a possibly intentional technical error that caused the disappearance of content. Content was restored courtesy of pro bono services of a Dutch IT consultant, but the site is not yet sufficiently developed to meet our needs. This situation may have affected our ability to network with like-minded organizations as well as advance FOI. However, we are making the website issue a priority in 2011 and have engaged another consultant to revamp the site.

**AFIC Steering Committee gets new members**

During the reporting period three new members joined AFIC Board, replacing those that had left the Board/Steering Committee on account of changing employment. Ms Anne Nderi of the Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists replaced Ms Priscilla Nyokabi as Secretary. Ms Carolyn Nalule joined on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Ghana while Mrs Ugonna Duru Ukaigwe joined as member on behalf of Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) replacing Ms Jeannette Quarcoopome.

The coming of these new members has strengthened the Steering Committee and will further facilitate the growth of the organization. In order to bring them fully on board and in line with AFIC policy on holding Steering Committee physical meetings at least once every year, a physical meeting is being planned in the first quarter of 2011. Budget revision to facilitate the meeting will follow over the coming days.

**CONCLUSION**

The year 2010 has been an eventful year for AFIC and FOI on the continent. These developments which have been highlighted in this report will shape AFIC’s work on the continent in 2011. In countries that have FOI laws AFIC will work with national partners to strengthen implementation and oversight through capacity building and knowledge creation. Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone have come close to adoption of FOI laws. AFIC will sustain advocacy work to ensure the passing of laws whose provisions meet international standards. Efforts will be made to revive stalled processes in countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique among others. AFIC will build on studies done in Senegal and Mali to expand and deepen work in French-speaking Africa. AFIC recognizes that many countries which do not have comprehensive FOI laws have provisions in sector laws. Opportunities will be explored to make use of these laws to promote FOI. Engagement with multilateral agencies will continue to institutionalize ATI in their work and in their partners.
# Financial Statement

**AFRICA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CENTRE**

**CONDENSED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DEC 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTES</th>
<th>ACTUAL 2010 U.S.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor funding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incomes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Payments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and publication expenses</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and building knowledge base</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance costs</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of incomes over expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFRICA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2010

| Current Assets | Cash and Bank Balance | 96,285.42 |
|               |                      |          |
|               | Fund Surplus         | 96,285.41 |

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Coordinator

Finance and Administration officer

17 MAR 2011
Contact

Africa Freedom of Information Centre

Plot 5 Katego Road Kamwokya.
(Near Save the Children)
P.O.Box 35643 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 (0) 414 533554
Fax: +256 (0) 414 533554
Email: info@africafoicentre.org
Website: www.africafoicentre.org