



**RIGHT TO
INFORMATION
COMMISSION**
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER



RTI COMMISSION ENGAGES EU IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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ANNUAL REPORT**

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**SUBMIT YOUR 2025
RTI ANNUAL REPORT**

VISION



“To facilitate the right of access to information: promote, and sustain awareness of the citizenry in their right of access to information and of institutions in their obligation to disclose information.”

MISSION



“To build an informed citizenry, to promote transparency in public discourse, protect, monitor and enforce the right of access to information and to hold public institutions accountable.”

CORE VALUES



- **Transparency**
- **Accountability**
- **Fairness**
- **Professionalism and**
- **Independence**



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FOREWORD

By Corporate Affairs / The Editorial Team



Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey Esq. (Executive Secretary)

Warm greetings and best wishes for the New Year from the Right to Information Commission (RTIC)! The Commission reaffirms its commitment to strengthening transparency, accountability, and good governance through effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989). The first quarter marks a critical starting point in our annual engagement cycle, setting the tone for institutional compliance and responsible information management across the public sector.

A key focus is the call on all Public Institutions to submit their 2025 Right to Information Annual Reports, in accordance with the provisions of Act 989. This statutory requirement is fundamental to measuring compliance, assessing progress, and strengthening the culture of openness within public institutions. The Commission therefore, encourages all institutions to treat this obligation with the urgency and diligence it deserves.

In this edition, we highlight the importance of timely reporting, provide a guide to support institutions in meeting this requirement, and reaffirm the Commission's readiness to offer technical support where necessary.

We thank our stakeholders and readers for their continued partnership and cooperation as we work together to advance the right of every citizen to access information. We look forward to deeper collaboration and sustained progress in promoting transparency nationwide.

We invite you to read on and stay informed.

Warm regards.



**THE
EDITORIAL
TEAM**



RTI COMMISSION ENGAGES EU IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey Esq., (middle) Executive Secretary of RTI Commission and delegates of RTI Commission with representatives of the European Union in the persons of Ms. Sylvia Severi (3rd from left), Head of Cooperation, Ms. Gisela Spreitzhofer (2nd from right), Team Leader for Governance and Security and Mr. Jacques Jean-Pierre Marie Bardoul (extreme left), Programmes Manager.

The Executive Secretary of the Right to Information Commission (RTIC), **Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey, Esq.,** led a delegation of the Commission to hold bilateral discussions with representatives of the **European Union** on opportunities for strategic collaboration between the two institutions. The meeting took place on **6th February 2026** at the **Round House, Cantonments, Accra.**

The European Union delegation warmly welcomed the Commission and reaffirmed its commitment to continued

collaboration. The European Union was represented by **Ms. Sylvia Severi**, Head of Cooperation; **Ms. Gisela Spreitzhofer**, Team Leader for Governance and Security; and **Mr. Jacques Jean-Pierre Marie Bardoul**, Manager.

In her remarks, the Executive Secretary, **Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey, Esq.,** expressed the Commission's appreciation to the European Union for its longstanding partnership and support.

She further outlined key strategic programmes the

Commission intends to undertake, including:

- Operationalization of the Commission's Legislative Instrument (LI);
- Regional Expansion Drive;
- Compliance Strengthening Exercises;
- Capacity Building for Marginalized Groups;
- Youth Awareness Initiatives; and
- International Learning Partnership Initiatives.

In her remarks, **Ms. Gisela Spreitzhofer**, EU Team Leader for Governance and Security, proposed collaboration between the **EU Youth Sounding Board**

and the Commission on youth awareness initiatives.

Both institutions agreed that the proposed youth collaboration

initiative would support the Commission's efforts to promote and strengthen the right of access to information in

Ghana, particularly among the youth, by nurturing awareness and appreciation of their right to information from an early age.



Delegates of RTI Commission (left) discussing key issues with the EU Delegation



Ms. Sylvia Severi addressing the House at the meeting



Ms. Genevieve Shirley Larley Esq. (Executive Secretary, RTI Commission), locked in on the conversation



The Executive Secretary in a friendly handshake with the EU Head of Cooperation



Ms. Genevieve Shirley Larley Esq. Executive Secretary, RTI Commission (right) exchanging warm gestures with Ms. Sylvia Severi



The Executive Secretary of RTI Commission with the EU Delegates

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF 2025 RTI ANNUAL REPORTS



SUBMIT YOUR 2025 RTI ANNUAL REPORT

In line with its statutory mandate under the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), the Right to Information Commission (RTIC) has formally commenced the process for the **submission of 2025 RTI Annual Reports by all Public Institutions.**

The Annual Report is a critical accountability tool that enables the Commission to assess institutional compliance with the RTI law, evaluate responsiveness to information requests, and monitor progress in promoting transparency and proactive disclosure. It also provides an opportunity for public institutions to demonstrate their commitment to openness and good governance.

Public Institutions are therefore required to submit comprehensive reports detailing, among other statutory requirements, the number of information requests received and granted, response timelines, exemptions applied, challenges encountered, and measures taken to strengthen internal information management systems.

The Commission urges all institutions to ensure that their reports are accurate, complete, and submitted within the stipulated timeframe, as provided under Act 989. Timely submission not

only supports national transparency efforts but also contributes to the effective assessment and strengthening of the RTI mandate.

RTIC remains committed to supporting institutions throughout this process and encourages Officers responsible for RTI implementation to seek clarification or technical guidance where necessary.

Compliance Reminder: RTI Annual Reports

- Important Notice to All Public Institutions
- Submission of RTI Annual Reports is a statutory obligation under the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989).
- All Public Institutions are required to submit their 2025 RTI Annual Reports to the Right to Information Commission on or before 1st March 2026.
- Reports should capture information on RTI requests received, responses issued, exemptions applied, and related compliance activities.
- Timely submission is essential to support monitoring, evaluation, and enforcement of the RTI law.

For further guidance or assistance, institutions are encouraged to contact the Right to Information Commission.

THE POWER OF INFORMATION

Information is the lifeblood of a thriving democracy and an indispensable tool for personal, social, and economic development. In today's interconnected world, the value of information has transcended its traditional boundaries, becoming a potent force that empowers individuals, strengthens institutions and drives societal progress.

At its core, information represents freedom — the freedom to know, act, and hold those in authority accountable. The Right to Information (RTI) law embodies this principle, ensuring that citizens are no longer passive recipients of governance but active participants in shaping the policies and decisions that affect their lives. By fostering transparency, the RTI empowers the public to demand better governance and helps uncover inefficiencies, malpractices and corruption.

Imagine a farmer in a remote village gaining access to information about government subsidies for agriculture. This seemingly simple piece of information can transform their livelihood, allowing them to access resources that improve crop yields and, by extension, their economic status. Similarly, a young entrepreneur with access to trade policies and market data can make informed business decisions, fostering innovation and economic growth.

But the power of information is not just about personal gains; it's about collective progress. When citizens have access to accurate and timely information, it enhances public discourse, encourages civic participation and promotes a culture of accountability. Informed citizens are better equipped to challenge misinformation, combat stereotypes and contribute meaningfully to national development.

The Right to Information Commission plays a pivotal role in ensuring that this power is accessible to all. Through its mandate, the Commission safeguards the public's right to seek and obtain information while ensuring that public institutions uphold the principles of openness and transparency. By bridging the gap between citizens and institutions, the Commission strengthens the foundations of trust and good governance.

However, the journey toward an informed society is not without challenges. Resistance to disclosure, bureaucratic bottlenecks and limited awareness about the RTI law hinder its full implementation. Addressing these barriers requires a collective effort from all Stakeholders — Government, Civil Society and the Media — to champion the cause of transparency and advocate for the removal of obstacles that limit access to information.

As we reflect on the theme, “The Power of Information,” let us recognize its transformative potential. Information, when accessible and utilized effectively, has the power to break cycles of poverty, challenge injustice and inspire change. It is the cornerstone of empowerment, enabling individuals to make informed decisions and contribute to the collective well-being of society.

The Right to Information is not just a right; it is a responsibility — a call to action for every citizen to demand, utilize, and protect the flow of information. Together, let us harness the power of information to build a more transparent, inclusive and prosperous society.



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