

Frequently asked questions about public consultation on the proposed new Access to Information Policy

1. How long is the consultation period for providing input on the proposed new Access to Information Policy?

Answer: The public consultation process for the proposed new Access to Information Policy of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will last a total of 150 days.

Those 150 days will be divided into three separate phases:

Phase I: 30 days. This phase is aimed at: (1) complying with best practices on stakeholder inclusion and the highest due diligence standards; and (2) positioning the IDB for a proactive role in the inclusion of groups or representatives of organizations that do not traditionally take part in such processes but that who, given the nature of the topic, are key stakeholders.

This phase will have three synchronous virtual dialogues (in English, Spanish, and Portuguese). Given the nature of virtual forums, there will be a maximum capacity of 100 participants per session, each lasting a minimum of two hours, to hear opinions and identify new benchmarks on the topic that could help enrich the new Access to Information Policy.

Phase II: 90 days. This phase is aimed at gathering perspectives and technical input on the policy document that help to strengthen the final version, through synchronous and asynchronous consultations.

This phase will have five synchronous virtual meetings:

- Two in Spanish, each lasting a minimum of two hours.
- One in Portuguese, lasting a minimum of two hours.
- Two in English, each lasting a minimum of two hours.

In addition, an asynchronous session will be open for a period of 90 days. The number of days was increased from the 60 originally established in the consultation plan, to further expand stakeholder access to the consultations.

Phase III: 30 days. This phase is aimed at informing participants of the close-out of the consultation process and the input received and considered, both that which was included and that which was not included in the final version of the policy approved by the Board of Executive Directors.

2. What is the difference between a synchronous consultation and an asynchronous one?

Answer: The consultation process includes both synchronous and asynchronous mechanisms for interacting with stakeholders.

Similarities between the two modalities:

In both modalities, the following will be shared in advance: the proposed new Access to Information Policy, the consultation plan, a presentation highlighting key points of the policy, and the questions for consultation participants on points on which the Bank needs specific input.

Differences between the two modalities:

1. Synchronous or real-time consultations take place on specific days and at specific times. The goal of this type of consultation is to hear and receive specialized input on the subject at meetings with civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean and with international organizations working in the region that the Bank has mapped and identified, whose profile and work is directly related to issues of access to information, transparency, and open government. Since these will be held in virtual forums in real time, with a maximum capacity of 100 participants, an invitation will be required. These consultations will use a specific methodology to ensure equitable involvement of participants.
2. The asynchronous consultation, which is open and accessible at any time, will remain open and accessible for a period of 90 days (The number of days was increased from the 60 originally established in the consultation plan, to further expand stakeholder access to the consultations). The goal is to reach broader audiences and give them access to the consultations. This includes organizations that work directly on issues of transparency, access to information, and open government, as well as other civil society organizations working in areas in which they think their participation would add value to the document submitted for consultation. In this consultation, any civil society organization can provide input, and there is no limit on the number of participants.

In addition, all participants will be able to share documents for the Bank's consideration through a form in the [Contact Us](#) section of the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#) or by email to consultapai@iadb.org. To participate and see the timetable for the two modalities, see the updates on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#).

3. How do I participate in the asynchronous consultation?

Answer: To participate in the asynchronous consultation, you must pre-register on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#) and request access. Before participating in the process, it is important to first review the documents on the proposed new Access to Information Policy, which are available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and posted on the consultation platform.

4. How do you determine who participates in the synchronous consultations?

Answer: Participants in the synchronous consultations are selected based on their profile and experience working on issues of access to information, transparency, and open government. Among the organizations included are those that participated in the 2019 consultation process on the profile of the draft policy. Also included are organizations that have experience working on issues of transparency and access to information from a stakeholder mapping exercise enriched through suggestions from each country and from other civil society organizations working in this area.

To ensure that all organizations that have been contacted (whether they work on issues of transparency, access to information, or open government), or any other organization that deems that its input would add value to the policy document can participate in the consultation process, they can access the asynchronous consultation on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#) for a period of 90 days (The number of days was increased from the 60 originally established in the consultation plan, to further expand stakeholder access to the consultations).

Access, the timetable, and additional details on the process are available on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#).

5. Is there a cap on the number of participants in the synchronous consultations?

Answer: Yes. The synchronous consultations are held in virtual forums in real time and have a maximum capacity of 100 participants per session.

However, to ensure representativeness and diversity among participants, any person or organization that deems that its participation would add value to the policy document is ensured the opportunity to provide input during the period the asynchronous consultation is open on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#).

6. In what languages are the consultation materials available?

Answer: The consultation materials are available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and can be accessed on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#). The proposed new Access to Information Policy will also be available in the Bank's four official languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French).

7. How can I access the consultation materials?

Answer: All the materials can be accessed in English, Spanish, and Portuguese through the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#), including the consultation plan, the presentations on the different phases of the consultations, and the proposed new Access to Information Policy.

8. How can I send other opinions?

Answer: You can send comments and opinions on the proposed policy and attach files to the form through the [Contact Us](#) section of the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#), or by email to consultapai@iadb.org.

9. How do I know my opinions were taken into account?

Answer: All the input and opinions received during the consultation process will be analyzed and evaluated to determine potential changes to the proposed new Access to Information Policy. The following will be shared by email with participants in the consultations, as well as on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#): the new Access to Information Policy approved by the Board of Executive Directors; the methodology and criteria used for including or setting aside input; the list of inputs considered but not included, together with those that were included in the final document (for more details, see Phase III of the [Public Consultation Plan for the Access to Information Policy](#)).

10. Do I have to provide my personal information to participate in the consultation?

Answer: Yes, you do need to provide your personal information. To participate in the synchronous and asynchronous consultations, you must pre-register on the platform, to ensure transparency regarding the profile of participants in the consultation process.

The personal information the Bank receives will be handled in accordance with the [terms and conditions of use of the public consultations platform](#) and the [privacy policy](#). In the final report on the results, the responses received will be published anonymously.

11. How do I know my personal information is protected?

Answer: The information users provide as part of the requirements for participating in the consultation process will be handled in accordance with the [privacy policy](#).

12. How can I send the Bank information on a subject other than the Access to Information Policy?

Answer: This public consultation is designed to receive comments and opinions on the new proposed Access to Information Policy. To send information to the Bank not related to the Policy, the official channels of communication at the following link can be used: [Contact Us | IDB](#).

13. How can I access information on a Bank project?

Answer: Under the Bank's Access to Information Policy, the public can access project information on the Bank's website: [IDB Projects | IDB](#). In addition, information can be requested by filling out the form available at the following link: [Information Request | IDB](#).

14. How do I find out about the result of the consultation?

Answer: Anyone who participates in Phases I and/or II of the public consultation process on the proposed new Access to Information Policy will be emailed the new Policy approved by the Board of Executive Directors; the methodology and criteria used to include or set aside inputs; the list of inputs considered but not included, and those that were included in the final document. This information will also be posted on the [Public Consultation Process Virtual Platform](#).

In addition, the documents will be made available to the general public on the Bank's webpage on the updating of the new Access to Information Policy through [this link](#).