

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED
BY RWANDA**

ARTICLE 10 UNCAC

PUBLIC REPORTING

RWANDA (SIXTH MEETING)

Public reporting (art. 10 of UNCAC)

In order to promote the culture of disclosing information about the activities of public and private organs as well as to ensure effective management of public funds, Rwandan Parliament has passed the law n° 04/2013 of 08/02/2013 relating to access to information which enables the public and journalists to access information possessed by public organs and some private bodies and establishes modalities and procedures to promote the publication and dissemination of information. Concerned private entities "are those whose activities are in connection with public interest, human rights and freedoms." (art. 13)

In order to facilitate the access to information, "A public organ shall appoint or designate an information officer for that organ and its branch, if there is any, to enable it to provide information to persons requesting for it" (art.8). Information is "requested by an individual or a group of persons in any of the official languages provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda verbally, in writing, by telephone, internet or any other means of communication" (art.9).

The Rwandan Government urges citizens to report corruption cases. In this line, the Parliament has passed the law n° 35/2012 of 19/09/2012 relating to the protection of whistleblowers of which purpose is "to protect, in public interest, whistle-blowers who denounce illegal acts and behaviors in public, private institutions and elsewhere". (art.1) A whistle-blower may be civil servant, an employee of a public or private entity and any other person who discloses to relevant organ the information on his/her possession. However, "it is prohibited for a whistle-blower to disclose false information on the

grounds of hatred, jealousy or potential conflict between the whistle blower and the person subject to whistle-blowing. It is also prohibited to make a whistle-blower disclosure against a person in the interest of the person he/she seeks to protect or with intent to defame and dishonour the individual or the entity subject to whistle blower disclosures." (art. 8)

In order to promote public administration accountability, the Rwandan Government established the concept of *open days* whereby the officials provide explanations to the public and interact with the citizens on organs activities. This is the practice in central Government organs as well as in decentralized entities.

Actions required for improvement of the measures above described:

- To increase the number of audited entities yearly;
- To enhance the capacity of auditors;
- To ensure regularly the implementation of recommendations provided;
- To raise citizens 'awareness in relation to public administration accountability.

Challenges:

- Public unaware of its right to access to information;
- Officers who do not respect their obligations as regards tenders awarding and monitoring;
- Insufficiency of equipments;
- Propensity to corruption.

Technical assistance

Technical assistance is required for capacity building and equipments.