

THE RIGHT TO ACCESS CLIMATE INFORMATION AS AN ENABLING TOOL TO ADDRESS THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

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Received: 09-01-2026 Accepted: 06-06-2026 Published:09-06-2026

Abstract:

The importance of enshrining the right to access information increases as it is one of the fundamental rights that enable individuals to exercise other rights and serves as a guaranty that allows individuals and communities to actively participate in climate action. It is considered a procedural right that contributes to the success and support of implementing adaptation and mitigation measures against the impacts of climate change. Thus, activating and facilitating access to environmental data and climate information is a necessary condition, especially as the need for this type of information has become more urgent and in demand due to the noticeable acceleration of climate change impacts at both the global and national levels. This reality requires continuous awareness and knowledge of environmental and climatic developments in order to adapt to them and mitigate their negative impacts, within a framework of transparency and accountability in administrative and political work.

In this context, effective participation in climate issues cannot be achieved without effective environmental communication, which provides accurate and updated information related to environmental policies, emission levels, climate-impacting projects, and relevant national plans, thereby contributing to the enhancement of sound environmental governance. Although this right has gained wide recognition at the international level and has been enshrined in numerous international instruments and treaties, it still faces a series of restrictions and multiple challenges, especially in developing countries.

Keywords: the right to access climate information; the impact of climate change; adaptation; mitigation

Introduction:

The efforts made at the national level face increasing challenges that limit their effectiveness in addressing the issue of escalating and accelerating climate change. They are no longer sufficient and do not meet the goal of the Paris Climate Agreement, which is to keep the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This was once again confirmed by the 2025 edition of the Emissions Gap Report issued by the United Nations Environment Program, titled "Out of Reach." It indicates that the world is not on the right path to achieving the required reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and that global gas level scenarios all point to an increase in the planet's temperature, placing the world in a situation of warming, at best estimated to be an increase of 2.6 degrees Celsius within this century; thus, we are heading toward a serious escalation of risks.

This increase in air temperatures, which is associated with causing numerous imbalances and resulting in a series of disasters and consequences on ecosystems and human systems,

varies from one region to another according to the geographical location of the affected area; it also interacts with other issues, making it more complex. Thus, climate change today is no longer confined to environmental, economic, and social dimensions, affecting many vital sectors including energy, transportation, agriculture, and water services (Odeku & Meye, 2010, p. 159). It has become a comprehensive issue, even a security concern and an existential threat (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2019).

The magnitude of the challenge is undeniable, increasing with the impacts that become harder to mend day by day, or even to adapt to, especially in developing countries that lack the technological and financial capabilities to face this burden. Perhaps their struggle with numerous crises makes the climate issue far from their priorities. But at the same time, there are ample opportunities to push efforts in this field. Perhaps involving individuals and organizations in national efforts and sharing part of the burden of climate work with them, in accordance with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which states that "the best way to address environmental issues is thru the participation of all stakeholders," could help remedy this shortfall. In addition, for individuals to successfully participate in the collective efforts being made, a set of requirements must be met, the most important of which is the implementation of human rights related to the environment, especially the right to access climate information.

What are the legal rules that underpin the right to access climate information? And what is the impact of exercising this right on promoting national climate action?

To address the issue, we will attempt to study it thru the following plan:

First: The concept of the right to access information related to climate change.

Secondly: A survey of the most important international instruments containing provisions on the right to access climate information.

Thirdly: Examples of national legislation on the right to access information.

I.The concept of the right to access information related to climate change

Climate action requires a collective effort from all actors in society without exception, in order to take practical and swift measures to address it comprehensively and avoid the worst consequences. Any delay in action could waste the limited and precious time needed to achieve a sustainable and viable future. Perhaps the implementation of certain rights associated with the knowledge era, foremost among them the "right to access information," could accelerate efforts to achieve the national and international goals set in this regard.

I.1-The Emergence of the Right to Access Climate Information

Before addressing this right, it is necessary to consider the right to access information as the general framework under which a set of subsidiary rights fall, such as the right to health information, environmental information, climate information, and other areas related to it and the activities of public administration.

Historically, we find that this right has developed thru three waves, the "first wave" included Sweden, Finland, and the United States of America. Sweden is considered the first pioneering country to legislate this right in 1766, which coincided with the rise of the Swedish "Hats" party to power and their efforts to access documents that the previous pro-king government kept secret (Brooke, 2006, p. 19), amidst the decline of the monarchy and the increasing importance and dominance of the parliament in the political landscape. The "Freedom of the Press and the

Right to Access Public Records" law was enacted, allowing journalists to obtain information with the freedom to print and publish it, as well as to report news related to the government, courts, and parliament. Although the right was limited to a specific group and for political purposes, it was the actual starting point in legislating this right. With the "second wave," a few European countries followed suit, in addition to Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. As for the "third wave," it included Britain and most of the new and emerging democracies (Robert, Worthy, & Glover, 2010, p. 3).

It is noted from this historical development that this right originated in countries that chose to adopt the democratic approach or were in the process of building it. This approach, one of whose foundations is the freedom to access public information, is considered essential for promoting the principles of transparency and democracy based on the individual as the source of all authority and the right to know and participate in managing the affairs of their country (Kashkoul & Al-Bayati, 2017, p. 2). The greater their ability to acquire knowledge and access information, the more it strengthens their position and influence. As for the second observation, it is that this right is part of the right to freedom of expression (United Nations, 1966), which, in its broader concept, is linked to the obligation of public authorities to proactively disclose information (Irene, 2023). Receiving and transmitting information remains not just a necessary outcome of freedom of opinion and expression, but a right in itself and by itself (United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 2000).

As for the final observation, it is the origin of this right, which was thru individual national initiatives that sought to establish its context and scope of application according to their circumstances before gradually transitioning to international legislation in the mid-20th century. Where it was recognized and protected in international instruments under the supervision of the United Nations, which, thru its agencies, worked to protect and promote human rights, as well as its efforts to provide a set of mechanisms that contribute to the dissemination of standards and monitoring the extent of the application of this protection. Today, this right has a special rapporteur dedicated to freedom of opinion and expression. The United Nations also designated September 28, 2019 (United Nations General Assembly, 2019), as the International Day for the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression due to its importance and its close connection to the exercise of other procedural rights, primarily the right to participate in public affairs and access to remedies, and it contributes to the exercise of other fundamental rights.

This right allows individuals to request and receive information held by public authorities in the state and private entities responsible for managing public facilities. That information includes public interest or information that may affect individual rights, as well as the procedures by which the public can request and receive that information (United Nations General Assembly, 2013), except for information that cannot be disclosed because it causes harm to the public interest or individuals (Maazouzi, 2020, p. 262). Thus, it appears that this right has two characteristics:

A- The binding legal nature of the right: This means that this right is guarantyd by the law that explicitly recognizes it, and it may include penalties for public institutions that refuse to provide information without a legal justification. This right may be elevated to the status of constitutional rights in some legal systems, such as Algeria, which enshrined it in Article 55 of

the 2020 Constitution. In other legal systems, it has been protected and guarantyd by ordinary legislative texts.

The non-absolute nature of the right: Although this right is extensive, it is not absolute. The international human rights charter permits restrictions on this right, provided they are specific and necessary, aimed at protecting certain legitimate interests. This is reflected in paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which allows for restrictions if they pertain to protecting the rights and interests of others, their reputation, public security and morals, public health, and so on. The public authority is exempt from the obligation to disclose when it does not possess the required information. However, we note that the process of publishing and making information available remains the general rule, and restriction is the exception, as the right is based on the principles of maximum disclosure and proactive disclosure. The first principle assumes that all information held by the public administration is considered disclosable, except in specific cases, while the principle of proactive disclosure refers to public bodies publishing information of public interest proactively without an explicit request (ARTICLE 19, 2009, p. 18).

As for "public access to information related to climate change and its impacts," we find that the first official use of the concept was with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Article 6. The latter, which enumerated a set of activities whose implementation at the national level supports the goals of climate action within the framework of what is called "Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)." It includes: education, training, public awareness, public participation, access to climate information, and finally, international cooperation. In addition, several other provisions in the agreement stipulate numerous obligations related to providing and disclosing information on climate change, especially within the framework of the reporting mechanism. To enhance this approach, Article 4(1)(h) obliges the parties to "cooperate in the full, open, and rapid exchange of scientific, technological, technical, social, economic, and legal information related to the climate system and climate change, as well as the economic and social outcomes of various response strategies."

In general, it is noted from the provisions of Article 6 that it came as a comprehensive framework to assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under Article 4 of the Framework Convention. Thus, it is considered a fundamental procedure that contributes to the efforts made at the national level without being described or referred to as a right in itself. This approach has been followed by the successive Conferences of the Parties to the Framework Convention. Where many decisions related to the implementation of the provisions of Article 6 of the agreement were adopted and principles concerning access to information were established, little attention was paid to its aspect of being a right.

It is also noted that the text of Article 6 was flexible and softened in implementing the procedure for information accessibility by stating "working at the national level, where appropriate, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities to encourage and facilitate the following: ... Providing the public with access to information related to climate change and its impacts; ...".

Although the framework convention emphasizes principles of particular importance in the context of climate change, it is less developed in human rights law (UNHCR, 2009). It also included general commitments without being legal obligations (Roeben & Amakoromo, 2022,

p. 34), and pledges that do not entail specific penalties for their violation (Matz-Luck, 2009, p. 442). While, on the other hand, it sought to provide the foundations for climate action, one of whose components is access to information and data related to the climate and its impacts.

This right was strengthened and expanded with the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, dated June 25, 1998, also known as the "Aarhus Convention." Where the concept of access to environmental information transitioned into a binding procedural right, and the concepts in the environmental context expanded, extending its scope to understanding the causes and consequences of these impacts, especially since their effects touch upon human rights and endanger them due to environmental harm, such as the right to health, life, a sound and safe environment, the right to food, and others.

By adopting the right to access environmental information, which encompasses and covers the right to access climate information, citizens have gained the right to seek climate information, participate in climate decision-making, and contribute to the efforts made in this regard. This aligns with the call of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to integrate stakeholders and encourage them, thru the exercise of this right, to be partners in participating and contributing to the formulation and implementation of national plans and climate goals, ultimately allowing for the achievement of national and then global climate goals in a bottom-up approach.

It appears that access to information is a firmly established right under international human rights law. However, it is only recently that this right, along with the right to public participation and the right to justice and fairness, has become part of the discourse of international environmental law (Alam, Atapattu, S., Gonzalez, C. G., & Razzaque, J. , 2015, p. 254), after having been confined to international human rights legislation.

I.2-Definition of the Right to Access Climate Information

The process of defining the concept of this right leads to the necessity of defining the concept of climate information, and then the right associated with it.

A- Definition of climate information

The concept of "information" in general is subject to multiple definitions depending on the field in which it is used, so there is no consensus definition for it. As for general and official information, it is one type of information that has legal value and significance due to its content. People need it and request it when it is not available for various purposes.

Regarding climate information, and given the relative novelty of the concept, there are different definitions and interpretations of this concept. It means transforming climate-related data—along with other relevant information—into customized, readable, and usable products, such as forecasts, predictions, information, trends, economic analysis, assessments (including technology assessments), best practice consultations, solution development and evaluation, and any other climate-related services that may be beneficial to society as a whole (Stree, Parry, Scott, Jacob, & Runge, 2015, p. 10). In general, it refers to the collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of data, research, and insights related to climate change or showing a connection to it.

Therefore, climate information can encompass all data related to the various and interacting dimensions of climate change (United Nations General Assembly, 2024):

- **Scientific and technical data:** These are the possible information about climate change and its potential developments from months to many decades, including:
 - The causes of climate change, its extent, and consequences; including levels of greenhouse gas emissions and high-emission activities from governmental and non-governmental entities, climate change projections based on models such as temperature and precipitation, meteorological data and weather patterns, natural disasters, sea level, environmental information, and scientific research in this regard;
 - Information related to infrastructure projects and their environmental impact assessments, as well as information related to the planning of low-carbon developments and their compatibility with human rights;
- **Information related to impacts and risks:** including:
 - The potential and actual negative impacts of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity, including on humans and social and economic systems, especially on groups living in vulnerable conditions;
 - The short- and long-term negative risks and their assessments on humans and their rights, ecosystems, and assets related to livelihoods;
 - The state of natural resources and measures for their protection and exploitation within the framework of sustainable development;
 - Disseminating and updating information related to the degradation or loss of biodiversity and ecosystems that contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change, such as glaciers, forests, and coral reefs;
- **Information on policies and measures taken or planned:** including:
 - Proposed and ongoing climate response measures, to enable the public to assess their adequacy;
 - The cost of climate action and whether economic models exclude the cost of inaction;
 - The priorities and number of climate finance projects, and the public budgets allocated to combat climate change;
 - Consultations with the local community and free, prior, and informed consent regarding measures related to mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to it.

B- The right to access climate information:

Despite the emergence of the right to access public information under various terms such as "freedom of information" and "right to know," which differ according to legislation and context, it must be noted that these are synonymous terms expressing the same meaning. They always carry the same connotation, and thus using one of these terms instead of another does not necessarily mean they are different, as they ultimately lead to the same meaning. Among the various definitions of this comprehensive right, which differ according to the context in which they are presented, we mention:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization defines it as "the right of the individual or group to know what is happening in public life and to be informed about it, and the freedom of information exchange as the right of the individual to publish or transmit information thru any medium without regard to borders." (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, s.d.)

The American Convention on Human Rights of 1969 defined in the first paragraph of Article 13 as follows: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and thought, which includes the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of borders, whether orally, in writing, in the form of art, or thru any other medium of one's choice."

Transparency International believes that "the information held by public authorities is a valuable public resource, and making this information accessible to people greatly supports transparency and accountability of public authorities, and this information is indispensable in the context of the democratic process" (Transparency International, 2013).

According to David Boyd, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, states "must provide the public with accessible, affordable, and understandable information regarding the causes and consequences of the global climate crisis, including the integration of climate change into educational curricula at all levels".

And as a comprehensive definition, it can be said that it is a right recognized as part of human rights, allowing individuals to seek and obtain data and information related to climate change regardless of their form or medium, including the state of the climate, factors or measures that affect or are likely to affect the climate or those designed to protect it, costs and implications of climate action measures, information on the state of human health and safety, including air pollution, the food chain, human living conditions, and cultural sites and infrastructure as far as they are affected or may be affected by any of these matters.

Thru the previous definitions and as a summary of the features of this right, we find that:

- All definitions agree that the information concerned with access is that which is produced and held by the public authority, regardless of its source. This includes information from the private sector that is provided to the public administration within the framework of its legal obligations, such as periodic reports related to environmental impact, reporting, and disclosure;
- The diverse nature of the information (document, tape, electronic recordings, data, statistics...);
- The concept of the right varies from one country to another depending on its legal system and the level of freedoms granted to individuals, as this right can be restricted or expanded according to the relative frameworks of different political;
- The concept of the right varies from one country to another depending on its legal system and the level of freedoms granted to individuals (Al-Masaid, 2017, p. 244), as this right can be restricted or expanded according to the relative frameworks of different political systems or diverse cultures (Zaabat, 2014, p. 10);
- The right to access information extends to all individuals in society without discrimination or bias (ARTICLE 19 Global Campaign for Free Expression, 2007);
- This right represents one of the indicators supporting the trust relationship between the state and its citizens, reinforcing the principles of transparency and open government, which leads to good governance;
- Exercising this right involves two methods: a direct method where the individual approaches information sources and directly obtains and reviews them, and an indirect method where the individual receives information thru media and various channels such as official bulletins and administrative periodicals.

I.3- The Importance of Establishing the Right to Access Climate Information

Human rights are closely intertwined with environmental protection and development in complex and multidimensional relationships. So that comprehensive environmental protection, which is essential for human well-being and the enjoyment of basic rights (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 1998), and any environmental harm that prevents the enjoyment of those rights. Exercising these rights also contributes to the advancement and improvement of the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Perhaps the right to access climate information is one of those rights, as it includes two aspects: the first falls under the category of first-generation human rights. And a second aspect covers the means supporting environmental protection (Jaber, 2017, p. 91). Given its importance, the United Nations General Assembly considered the year 1946 as the "cornerstone of all freedoms that are dedicated to their defense," due to its contributions to building more just and democratic societies and, before that, to building individual capacities and enhancing individual rights.

This interplay between the environment and human rights, as much as it has positive impacts, it also has negative effects that increase with environmental damage. Among the consequences of climate change, we mention:

- **The negative impact of climate change on rights:** Many human rights are undermined directly and indirectly by the harmful effects of climate change, affecting the full and effective enjoyment of these rights, especially the fundamental ones such as the right to life, the right to food, the right to water, health, housing, etc. This impact, despite varying across different parts of the world, has spared no region. The parties in the climate agreements acknowledged that developing countries are more exposed to the threat. Perhaps the effects of climate change on human rights are more significant due to the fragility of their societies and the vulnerability of their groups, caused by factors such as poverty, lack of awareness, and underdevelopment... This is what human rights specialists have begun to advocate for, considering climate change as a legitimate and urgent concern for the international human rights movement.
- **The impact of some measures taken to combat climate change on the realization of basic human rights:** For example, the establishment of environmental reserves or the construction of projects aimed at adapting to reduced rainfall, such as dams, or the promotion of renewable energy by building wind farms, all of which may lead to forced displacement and the uprooting of indigenous populations from their lands. Moreover, the implementation of green economy transition programs results in inequality among different segments of society in bearing these additional burdens, such as rising energy prices. Moreover, enacting legislation to protect resources from depletion hinders entire communities that used to have the right to access resources such as land and water, which are their means of livelihood. On this basis, the parties to the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015 pledged to respect and promote their respective human rights obligations when taking measures to address climate change.

To mitigate the impacts and reduce the risks associated with climate change, the need for individuals to seek and understand climate information has increased. This aims to provide a better understanding of the effects of climate change on humans, awareness of the damages occurring, and comprehension of the climate challenges and stakes. This is of utmost importance and a prerequisite (United Nations General Assembly, 2024) for activating public participation, protecting their rights, and exercising other rights. There is no doubt that a safe

climate is a vital element (United Nations General Assembly, 2019) in exercising most rights, unlike in the case of a climate emergency, where it becomes difficult to enjoy these rights, which are threatened, and it is also difficult or even impossible to enshrine them, ultimately affecting human well-being and existence.

Thus, we find that exercising the right to access climate information increases public awareness of climate issues and encourages them to learn extensively about matters affecting the climate and the environment. Given that this type of climate information is linked to science, it can be difficult to understand. Therefore, we should not only think about the type of information that should be provided but also about how to present it in a way that is accessible and understandable to a wide range of "users." (ARTICLE 19 Global Campaign for Free Expression, 2009, p. 19)

The connection between the right to access climate information and the right to knowledge and learning contributes to building the knowledge of individuals and communities and educating them, including understanding the causes of climate change, its extent, and its negative impacts. It also involves understanding the sound practices thru which climate change can be confronted and measures can be implemented, whether by reducing greenhouse gas emissions or adapting in the best ways to its effects. All of this contributes to enhancing individuals' capacities and their understanding of the climate challenge and ways to confront it, enabling them to withstand climate shocks and pressures, which benefits their rights and reduces their risks and fears. Therefore, the process of integrating climate-related knowledge accompanied by scientific evidence, as well as confrontation strategies, and incorporating them into curricula and educational programs, both formal and informal, at all educational levels with mandatory implementation, is a necessary and inevitable requirement imposed by circumstances to help the public become "resilient" to emerging conditions, avoid or minimize impacts to the lowest possible extent, and seize new opportunities. This also builds individuals in the community who are capable of fulfilling their roles and responsibilities toward the environment and increases their preparedness for disasters and climate fluctuations. It also contributes to ensuring the exercise of other rights according to the best scientific findings, such as the right to expression, participation, redress in environmental matters, and the formation of associations.

As for considering this right as one of the means supporting climate and environmental protection in general, its implementation achieves a series of benefits that go beyond providing society with increasing amounts of technical and scientific data. The public awareness resulting from the availability of climate information enhances every citizen's right to participate in managing public affairs, improving the quality of public climate policies and making them more responsive to reality. Additionally, early involvement in climate decision-making leads to more rational and reasoned interventions that achieve national goals. This participation allows for the democratization of public management and fosters public trust in its administration under transparent decision-making.

The right to seek information is of utmost importance for accessing other rights, including the right to participation and meaningful consultation. Climate information holds immense value due to its content. Therefore, the scholar "Peter Drucker" considered that information now replaces authority, and those who possess information hold power and good management.

Therefore, it is impossible to imagine strong participation from individuals and civil society organizations without their possession of information and understanding of the subject. This conscious participation will contribute to decision-making in a way that ensures quality and effectiveness, especially regarding matters that affect their interests and affairs, knowing that the issue of climate concerns everyone and no one is far from its impacts. Therefore, taking into account the opinions of stakeholders to reach the best available means to confront and address climate dangers, in light of the principles of participation and transparency, allows these decisions and policies to withstand, be accepted, and then implemented, ultimately reflecting positively on environmental protection, as these decisions better consider the public's needs without neglecting environmental considerations. This is confirmed by studies that show governments operating transparently are less prone to shocks and disturbances compared to those that keep their operations and activities secret.

Moreover, exercising this right enhances the citizen's position and power beyond their direct relationship with the administration to its overall performance. This allows for the development of the citizen's ability to assess the level of authority's performance and support the process of horizontal monitoring and accountability. Freedom of access to information can also serve as a key tool in combating corruption and errors that occur within administrations, helping to build a sound governance system based on integrity and transparency. Additionally, it allows for tracking the commitment to fulfilling climate pledges and revealing shortcomings or delays, thereby creating positive pressure to work and drive efforts to improve government performance in this area. However, this can be undermined by the public administration's secrecy about its activities and the unavailability of information to those who request it, creating a suitable environment for the spread of corruption and its various forms.

Therefore, it has become imperative for public authorities, as representatives of the public, to provide full access to information related to the various and interacting dimensions of climate change. This information and data should be published in a timely, organized, and proactive manner without the need to prove a legal or other interest. Immediate publication of all information that enables the public to take preventive measures is also necessary, as any failure to publish such information is considered a violation of rights and exacerbates negative impacts (United Nations General Assembly, 2024). Moreover, the dissemination must be extensive, covering all segments of society, allowing for improved response, reduced losses, effective adaptation to the changes occurring, and efforts to avoid the most significant possible impacts. The information should also be "high-quality, trustworthy, and evidence-based" due to the increasing concerns about the spread of false and misleading information (United Nations General Assembly, 2024).

The process of disseminating and empowering individuals to access public climate-related actions allows for the enhancement of government measures to combat climate change, thereby creating essential components for public policy on climate change mitigation. Awareness of the required actions is a driving force for effective participation in the efforts to combat climate change under the framework convention, which called on the parties to enhance and facilitate "public participation in addressing climate change and its impacts." Where such participation allows for meaningful discussions and consultations that include decision-making, evaluating its adequacy, and improving it. Moreover, access to climate information is equally important as

the right to express opinions, engage in discussions, criticize, and protest. Therefore, providing information and closing the door to dialog and discussion does not lead to an effective climate decision; rather, it is necessary to listen to the voices of the groups.

II. Survey of the most important international instruments that include provisions on the right to access climate information

The right to access information has been recognized at the international level and protected in numerous international instruments, subsequently being incorporated into specialized instruments with meanings and implications that align with the specific instrument and its purpose. Such as poverty alleviation (United Nations General Assembly., 2000), reducing inequalities, and environmental protection.

II.1- The Right to Access Climate Information in International Treaties

- **Stockholm Declaration 1972:** The declaration and its principles are considered among the first international legal texts that affirmed the right to public environmental information (Abrek, 2002, p. 199). In the nineteenth principle of the declaration, it was stated that education on environmental issues is essential to expand understanding and create an informed opinion and responsible behavior by individuals, companies, and communities in protecting and improving the environment. Educational information is disseminated about the need to protect and improve the environment to enable human development in all aspects.
- **The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992:** with its twenty-seven global principles, which were adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. In the text of Principle 10, it states: "... And it provides every individual, at the national level, with the opportunity to access the information held by public authorities related to the environment, including information about hazardous materials and activities in the community. The principle also aims to enhance public participation in decision-making processes and to facilitate and encourage public awareness and engagement by making information widely available, as well as providing opportunities to resort to judicial and administrative procedures in environmental matters within the framework of fairness.
- **Aarhus Convention 1998:** It is considered the most directly related treaty to the issue of access to environmental information, including climate change, and it provides strong guaranties for the right to access environmental information. The convention set a main goal of achieving the right of every individual from current and future generations to live in a healthy environment. To achieve this goal, the right to access information was considered one of the three pillars, in addition to public participation and access to justice. Article 39 states that: "The public has access to information, has the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and has the right to access justice in environmental matters without discrimination on the basis of citizenship, nationality, or residence, in the case of a legal entity, without discrimination regarding the location of its official seat or the center of its activities."

The Aarhus Convention also imposes positive obligations on public authorities, including working to possess and update information related to the environment, including collecting reliable data on the state of the climate and its impact, improving access to this information for the public in a transparent and easy manner, and disseminating information immediately in the event of an imminent threat to health or the environment, which may enable the public to take necessary measures to prevent or mitigate potential harm to those at risk of being affected.

- **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992:** Despite the flexibility of international environmental law, we find that paragraph 1(c) of Article 4 has obligated the parties to work and cooperate on education, training, and public awareness related to climate change; Article 6 further allows parties to ensure the public's access to information related to climate change and its impacts, as well as their participation in addressing climate change and its impacts and preparing appropriate responses; in addition to developing and implementing programs for public education and awareness about climate change and its impacts.
- **Kyoto Protocol 1997:** Aiming to enhance international climate action and increase ambition, the Kyoto Protocol was added to the framework convention, containing new commitments mostly related to developed countries and primarily concerning the quantitative reduction of greenhouse gasses. Thus, there was not enough attention given to human rights, as it merely reiterated the elements mentioned in Article 6 of the Framework Convention in Article 10 (e) of the Protocol, calling for "facilitating public awareness and public access, at the national level, to information related to climate change."
- **The Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2015:** The preamble of the agreement emphasized the importance of "public awareness, public participation, access to information, and cooperation at all levels on the matters addressed by this agreement." Article 12 of the agreement also included the same content as Article 6 of the Framework Convention: "The parties shall cooperate in taking the necessary measures, as appropriate, to promote education, training, public awareness, public participation, and access to information in the field of climate change." (Presidential Decree No. 16-262, 2016) The agreement also emphasizes the importance of the participation of all levels of governance and various stakeholders in accordance with national legislation in addressing climate change. Although the agreement acknowledges the importance of individuals accessing public information related to climate as an essential part of the efforts to combat climate change, it does not include an explicit provision that refers to it as an independent right. Instead, it presents it as a measure that enhances transparency and includes provisions related to reporting mechanisms, cooperation among various parties, and the transfer of technology and information.
- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** In 2015, the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, agreed to establish 17 goals, each complementing another, with each new goal addressing a different aspect in an interconnected manner. These goals cover a wide range of social and economic development issues. Due to the importance of information and climate awareness, the plan included in Goal 13, titled Climate Action, a sub-goal 13.3, which calls for the necessity of "improving education and increasing awareness and human and institutional capacity to mitigate the impacts of climate change, adapt to it, reduce its effects, and provide early warning."

Goal 16 also dedicates itself to promoting peaceful societies without marginalizing anyone, achieving justice, and building effective, accountable institutions. By encouraging the establishment of communities that respect and support individual rights, as well as the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information, achieving justice for all, reducing corruption, ensuring decisions are made in a responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative manner. Given the importance of achieving Goal 16, 16 secondary goals have

been set, which include other sub-goals. Among those goals is target 16-10: Ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms in accordance with national legislation and international agreements (United Nations General Assembly, 2017).

- **The United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003:** Article 10 obliges the parties to the convention to take necessary measures to enhance transparency in their public administration,... And these measures include the following:

- a) Adopting procedures or regulations that enable the public to obtain, when necessary, information about how its public administration is organized, operates, and makes decisions, as well as about decisions and legal instruments that concern the public, while giving due consideration to preserving their privacy and personal data.
- b) Simplifying administrative procedures, when necessary, to facilitate people's access to the competent authorities that make decisions,
- c) Disseminating information that may include periodic reports on corruption risks in public administration.

II.2- The right to access information in the main international charters:

- **Resolution No. 59/1** of the United Nations General Assembly in 1946: which stated, "Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated". One of the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly was the establishment of an international committee to protect human rights, which immediately began working on drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights upon its formation.

- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** in 1948: Article 19 states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes... the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas thru any media and regardless of frontiers."

Some have considered this declaration to be the legal foundation for the freedom of information exchange, as it did not restrict the exercise of this right unlike other international covenants. This right has also been regarded as one of the universal rights rather than a local one.

- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** of 1966: thru Article 19, paragraph 2, which recognized the right to knowledge and freedom of information exchange, in a manner similar to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression." This right includes the freedom to seek various forms of information and ideas, to receive them, and to impart them to others without regard to frontiers, whether in the form of written or printed matter or in the form of art or thru any other medium of one's choice.

The addition lies in restricting the exercise of this right by the provision of paragraph 3 of Article 19: "Therefore, it may be subject to certain restrictions, provided that they are defined by law and are necessary: respect for the rights of others; respect for the reputation of others; protection of national security; public order; public health; public morals."

- **The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** of 1966: Article 15 affirmed the right to knowledge and access to information, and the wording here is more tangible and specific, "the right of everyone to participate in cultural life, to enjoy the benefits

of scientific progress and its applications," which falls within the scope of seeking knowledge and requesting information.

Also, the obligation of the state parties to respect the indispensable freedom for scientific research and creative activity, and it is obvious that these two fields cannot be accessed without the right to knowledge and the freedom to exchange information being guarantyd by the state parties. Especially with governments owning the primary sources of information and controlling the means of disseminating and making it available (Ezzat, 2011).

II.3- Regional Recognition of the Right to Access Information

- **The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** of 1950: Article 10(1), explicitly recognizes the right of "everyone to freedom of expression." This right includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas, regardless of frontiers. Furthermore, on 28 January 2003, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2003/4/EC on access to environmental information. According to Article 1, the Directive aims to guarantee the right of access to environmental information held by or on behalf of public authorities and the practical arrangements governing the exercise of this right.
- **The American Convention on Human Rights** of 1969: Article 13 states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thot and expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of the medium used, whether orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or thru any other medium of one's choice." The legislator then noted that this right "is not subject to prior restraint, but may be subject to subsequent liability as determined by law, and is necessary to ensure: respect for the rights or reputations of others; protection of national security, public order, public health, or morals."
- **The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights** of 1981: This charter was adopted by the Organization of African Unity, which later became the African Union, in Nairobi and came into force in 1986. The text of the first paragraph of Article 9 states, "Every individual has the right to access information." Every person has the right to express and disseminate their thoughts within the framework of laws and regulations.
- **The Arab Charter on Human Rights** of 2004: Adopted by the sixteenth Arab Summit hosted by Tunisia. Article 32 states: "This charter guarantees the right to information and freedom of opinion and expression, as well as the right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas to others by any means and regardless of geographical boundaries."

These rights and freedoms are exercised within the framework of the fundamental principles of society and are subject only to the restrictions imposed by respect for the rights or reputation of others, the protection of national security, public order, public health, or public morals.

- **The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean** of 2018: The Escazú Agreement is the first international treaty in Latin America and the Caribbean related to the environment, and the first in the world to include provisions on the rights of environmental defenders. The Agreement aims to ensure the full and effective implementation of the rights to access information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters.

- **Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context of 1991:** The "Espoo Convention" for Europe was adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission. Article 2 of the convention sets the goal of preventing, reducing, and controlling significant adverse environmental impacts across borders from projects and activities that may have substantial environmental effects across national borders. To achieve this goal, several principles were established, such as the formulation of proactive policies, prevention, mitigation, and monitoring of significant negative environmental impacts; enhancing international cooperation in environmental impact assessment, especially in the context of transboundary activities; facilitating the exchange of environmental information and involving affected countries in the decision-making process; the need to consider environmental factors early in the decision-making process by applying environmental impact assessment as a necessary tool to improve the quality of information provided to decision-makers, enabling them to make environmentally sound decisions that, in turn, would reduce significant negative impacts. The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment annexed to the Convention, in its Article 8 titled "Public Participation," stipulates that each Party to the Convention must determine the specific arrangements for informing and consulting the public, with information being made publicly available (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2003).

III- Models of National Legislation on the Right to Access Information

International human rights law, environmental agreements, and the 2030 Agenda (United Nations, 2015), particularly target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals and indicator 16.10.2, encourage and require countries to establish and ensure favorable conditions for the protection and exercise of the right to access information by incorporating it into national legislation and adopting policies that guaranty public access to information. As of 2022, this right had been adopted in the internal legislations of 126 countries, encompassing 91 percent of the world's population, leaving one-third of UN member states without legislation regarding this right.

The regulation of this right varies from one country to another; some have enshrined it in the highest legislation of the state, while others have placed it in ordinary or subsidiary legislation, and some have dedicated it to separate and independent legislation. Despite the differences in legislative levels and their impact on legal strength, enforcement, protection, and the stability and consistency of the right; any legislation related to this right, whether it is existing legislation or a new legislative proposal, must comply with the nine principles outlined in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which are (Hussain, Abid, (2000, January 18)):

- The law should stipulate that any other legislation, as much as possible, be interpreted in a manner consistent with its provisions; the system of exceptions provided for in the Freedom of Information Act should be defined, and it should not be expanded by any other law;
- The Freedom of Information Act should, at a minimum, provide for public education and the dissemination of information related to the right to access information, and it should include a number of mechanisms to address the issue of a culture of secrecy within the government;
- The refusal to disclose information cannot be driven by protecting the government from getting into trouble or being exposed to wrongdoing; the law should specify a limited list of

legitimate reasons for not disclosing information, with exceptions clearly defined to avoid including documents that do not undermine any legitimate interest in any way;

- This law should stipulate the principle that all meetings of presidential bodies are open to the public;
- The obligation of public bodies to provide information, and that every member of the public has an equal right to receive information, including all records held by public authorities, regardless of the method of storage;
- Individuals must be protected from legal, administrative, or professional penalties for disclosing information about the news;
- Freedom of information requires public bodies to publish and widely distribute documents of significant public interest, such as any important decisions or policies. The public;
- All public bodies should be required to establish open and easily accessible internal systems to enable the public to exercise their right to receive information; the Freedom of Information Act should set strict time limits for processing information requests and require that any denial be justified in writing;
- The cost of accessing information should not be prohibitively expensive, as this would deter those seeking it and contradict the very purpose of the law.

III.1- Models of National Legislation for the Right to Access Information in Europe

The legislation of this right has gradually expanded in Europe to include most of its countries. As an example, we find that the Spanish Constitution in Article 20 states "the right to freely communicate and receive accurate information by any means of dissemination." In the Finnish Constitution, Article 12 states that "documents in the possession of authorities are accessible unless their disclosure is restricted for necessary reasons specified by law." The first law in this regard in Europe was enacted in 1951, numbered 9.2.1951/83, known as the "Act on Openness of Government Activities." This law enshrines the right of the public, whether citizens, residents, or visitors, to access all records and documents held by state officials, municipalities, and registered religious communities, unless they are subject to exceptions. It also enhances public oversight of the activities of the public administration. As for the German Constitution, Article 5 states that "everyone has the right to express their opinion in speech, writing, and pictures, and has the right to freedom of information from "generally accessible sources."

In 2000, the British government adopted the Freedom of Information Act, a law that allows for the dissemination of information, which came into effect in 2005. The law grants individuals the right to request information from over 100,000 government entities. The law consists of 13 pages, including exceptions for confidential information that fall into three categories: court records, information related to private life, and security information that is protected by other laws from disclosure. The law established the position of Information Commissioner, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the law (Khaleel, 2008).

III.2-Models of National Legislation on the Right to Access Information in the Americas and Australia

The first law enacted on the new continent was in the United States of America, known as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which came into effect a year after its enactment in 1966. The law allows public access to records created by federal agencies and maintained unless

they are protected from disclosure. It does not cover records maintained by Congress, the courts, or state and local government agencies. As for Canada, it followed the path of the U.S. U.S. A, where an independent law was enacted that includes the right to access information, the "Access to Information Act," in 1983. Which allowed the public to retrieve information from government files, determine the information that can be accessed, and impose response timelines. In Argentina, Law No. 27.275 was adopted in 2016, which includes access to public information, allowing citizens to understand how public institutions operate, how decisions are made, and how public resources are managed, in addition to guaranteeing their right to access public information held by the state, including companies operating with government funding.

As for Mexico, the right to access information was included as a fundamental right in Article 6 of the Constitution (Mexico, 2017), which states that every person has the right to obtain various types of information in a timely manner, as well as the right to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas of all kinds thru any means of expression. The state guaranties the right to access information and communication technologies, in addition to broadcasting and telecommunications services, including broadband internet. Article 6 of the regulation referred to the establishment of mechanisms to ensure access to information and the institutions subject to this obligation, as well as the penalties for non-compliance with the provisions related to access to public information, according to the conditions specified by the laws. This constitutional approach was reinforced by the establishment of a legal framework issued in 2002, known as the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law, which was updated in 2015. It aims to ensure citizens' right to access information at the federal and local levels held by government entities, thereby enhancing transparency in public administration. To ensure the monitoring and implementation of the right, the law established the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information, and Personal Data Protection (INAI) as an independent body responsible for ensuring respect for the right to access information.

In Brazil, paragraph 33 of Article 5 of the State Constitution states (Brazil, 2010) the right "for every individual to obtain from public bodies information that concerns them or is of collective or public importance, which will be provided within the time stipulated by law, under penalty of liability, except for information whose confidentiality is necessary for the security of society and the state"; Article 22 of Federal Law No. 159.8/1991, which regulates the national policy for public and private archives, also guaranties citizens the right to full access to information stored in public archives. While the legislation that regulates the right to access public information in Brazil is Federal Law No. 2011/527.12, known as the Access to Information Law, it came into effect on May 16, 2012. The law applies to the three branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) at all levels (federal, state, municipal); public bodies, including government companies and mixed-economy companies; non-governmental organizations and private entities that receive public funds. Paragraph 1 of Article 11 of the law also specifies the method and timeline for the state to provide information, setting a response time of 20 days for requests, with the possibility of extending the period by an additional 10 days if necessary.

The Chilean Constitution recognizes the freedom of information in Article 8 within the framework of transparency, stating, "The actions and decisions of state agencies, as well as their fundamental principles and procedures, are public." The text was reinforced by the entry

into force of the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law No. 20,285 on April 20, 2009. In addition to guaranteeing the right of every person, without discrimination or justification, to request information, the law obliges public bodies to publish information regularly and respond to requests within a period not exceeding 20 days. It also established an institutional mechanism represented by the Transparency Council, to which appeals can be submitted in case of violations of the law, imposing penalties on officials who refuse to provide information without legal justification.

The amended Colombian Constitution of 2015 enshrined the right to access public information. Article 15 stipulated the right of individuals to know the information collected about them in databases and records of public and private entities, to update and modify it. Article 20 obligated the state to guaranty "the freedom of every individual to express their thoughts and opinions, to publish them, to transmit and receive accurate and neutral information, and to establish collective means of communication." To ensure political oversight, Article 112 allowed "political parties and movements with legal personality that declare their opposition to the government to freely take a critical stance toward the government and plan and formulate alternative policies." For these purposes, those parties enjoy the following rights: access to information and official documents, subject to constitutional and legal restrictions. In order to regulate this right and the procedures for its exercise and the exceptions related to the provision of information, Law No. 1712 was enacted on March 6, 2014, which established the Transparency and Right to Access National Public Information Law and included other provisions as part of democratic practice and anti-corruption efforts. Article 2 states that "all information held by public authorities is public information and cannot be retained or restricted except by constitutional or legal provisions."

As for Australia, it enacted the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) in 1982 to regulate the citizens' right to access information held by the Australian government and all "ministers, departments, and public authorities" in the Commonwealth. The law enshrined the right with the aim of promoting transparency and democratic participation, ensuring government accountability, and improving information management. The law was amended in 2010 with the aim of including the establishment of new bodies and introducing principles that facilitate access to information, such as the creation of the Australian Information Commission, the abolition of application fees, improving the response timeframe and speeding up the process, and expanding the scope of the right to access information.

The legislative models demonstrate the progressive transition from the simple recognition of freedom of information as a bare constitutional or legal principle to the creation of complete institutional and procedural structures for the sake of transparency, accountability and meaningful public participation. Evidence of this is not only the constitutional guarantee of the right, but also the adoption of specialized legislation regulating access procedures, specifying duties of public authorities, imposing deadlines for responses, restricting exceptions to disclosure, and establishing independent oversight bodies responsible for monitoring implementation and handling complaints.

Furthermore, these legislative regimes reflect an emerging trend to move away from the traditional reactive model based on simply responding to individual requests for information,

to a proactive model focused on the regular publication and dissemination of information of public.

III.3- National Approaches to Access to Environmental and Climate Information in the Arab World

In general, the legislation of this right in Arab countries has been delayed despite these countries' ratification of the international instruments that recognize it. Whereas some internal legislations of these countries included this right, its establishment as a distinct and independent law did not emerge as independent legislation until the beginning of the third millennium. Where it all began in Jordan, which enacted a special law on the right to access information, No. 47 of 2007. Jordan emptied the law of its substance when it restricted this right exclusively to Jordanian citizens, especially since more than a third of the residents in Jordan do not hold Jordanian citizenship. Then Yemen issued Law No. 13 of 2012 concerning the right to access information, followed by Tunisia with the Basic Law No. 22 of 2016 related to the right to access information.

As for Algeria, the Algerian legislator enshrined the right to access information in the national legal system like other Arab countries, starting with Decree No. 88-131 (Decree No. 88-131, 1988), which regulates the relationship between the administration and the citizen. Article 10 states, "Citizens can access administrative documents and information," reinforcing the principle of transparency in the relationship between the administration and the public. Perhaps the reason for the precedence of the law before the constitutional acknowledgment is primarily due to the then-existing political system's awareness of the prevailing tension, which was followed by the events of October 1988, and as a remedy for the situation, this law was enacted (Boukethir, 2017, p. 138). Moreover, Law No. 03-10 concerning environmental protection within the framework of sustainable development states in Article 7: "Every natural or legal person who requests information related to the state of the environment from the relevant authorities has the right to obtain it." This information can relate to all data available in any form related to the state of the environment, regulations, measures, and procedures aimed at ensuring the protection and organization of the environment. It is also found in Law No.04-20, which includes the Law on the Prevention of Major Hazards, where Article 17 states, "The right to access information related to the knowledge of hazards, susceptibility to injury, and awareness of the arrangements for preventing major hazards in the place of residence or activity and the arrangements for disaster management." This right is also inferred from Law No.11-10 related to municipalities, Law No.12-07 related to provinces, and Executive Decree 16-190 related to determining the methods for accessing extracts of municipal deliberations and decisions.

And for reference, the Algerian legislator has regulated the mechanism for accessing or obtaining information for organization purposes. For example, the last paragraph of Article 11 of Law No.03-10 states, "The methods of preparing, distributing, and accessing this information are determined by regulation." Additionally, Article 12 of Law No.04-02 states, "The methods of organizing and promoting any media campaign on major hazards, their prevention, and the management of disasters that may result from them are determined by regulation." Accordingly, the regulatory texts to activate the right to information and access to information and to

demonstrate how to implement the legislation related to exercising this right remain unimplemented and have not been issued to this day.

As for constitutionalizing the right to access information, it came late despite being included in many of the aforementioned laws. Article 51 of the 2016 (Law No. 16-01, 2016) constitutional amendment recognized the citizen's right to access information and left the determination of how to exercise this right to the law. The same applies to the 2020 constitution, where Article 55 recognized this right, but it remains unimplemented due to the delay in regulation.

We also refer to the circumstances and context of the 2016 Algerian constitutional amendment and the popular uprisings in the Arab world demanding reforms, which resulted in the fall of some regimes in the context of the "Arab Spring." Where the current political system addressed the issue again by constitutionalizing a set of rights and freedoms, including the right to access information, in addition to attempting to keep pace with international and regional changes and transformations, in line with the agreements that Algeria has ratified in this regard.

And perhaps this can also be said about the 2020 Constitution, which came as a demand of the popular movement for the necessity of establishing a political system that enhances public freedoms and curbs the increasing administrative and financial corruption in light of the undermining of the work of oversight bodies such as the Court of Auditors and the influence of money on politics. Moreover, enshrining this right also aligns with building a strong democratic system in the context of an information and knowledge society, as it is impossible to keep pace with the information age without enabling citizens to access and utilize information.

Conclusion:

The analysis of various aspects of this study leads to the conclusion that information is an enabling tool related to the principle of availability and disclosure and is linked to the right when the law recognizes it. Thus, it becomes an obligation on the state to ensure the maximum possible dissemination of information or to provide it to those who request it and facilitate access procedures within a framework of transparency.. The right of access to climate information is no longer a mere procedural extension of the freedom of information, but has become an internationally recognized right in legal systems, where international human rights law intersects with international environmental law, and is a fundamental pillar of the modern climate governance architecture.

Democratic systems seem to have done a lot in terms of enshrining and updating this right, supported by the existence of a clear legal framework which has made the exercise of this right possible for everyone and has widely established it. Meanwhile, contemporary democracies still struggle with how to govern it and are waiting for the real political will to implement this right, making sure it is not an ignored right left in the law.

The right to exercise is a strategic entry point to trigger the national climate action, to build bridges between the state and society on the principles of transparency and openness, to ensure the quality of climate policies and to expand the scope of conscious community participation. and the activation of accountability and oversight mechanisms, and the reduction of practices of corruption and opacity, which positively impacts on the effectiveness of the implementation of climate commitments.

This right has positive effects but with the increase in laws and restrictions and the shrinkage of human rights, this right is being contracted. Some countries are faced with a series of challenges and barriers that impede the availability of the information it relies on. Like the volume and availability of this kind of data, which might not be as reliable as it is predictive, and the lack of historical data on climate change (United Nations General Assembly, 2024). The right to information on climate change is seriously undermined, a study by Article 19 in collaboration with other human rights and environmental organizations around the world showed, depriving many individuals of exercising this right. This includes: the lack of or weak legislation on freedom of information and the existence of institutional secrecy in many authorities; laws that prevent or hinder the flow of information and access thereto, which restrict the activities of environmental activists and impede scientific research and exchange; the inconsistency of data collection processes, which results in a lack of understanding of impacts, as well as the obfuscation or difficulty in obtaining specific climate information about certain vulnerable groups and impacts due to privacy concerns; and the weakness of environmental assessments and climate studies due to their difficulty or limited resources, whether technological or financial, and regulatory constraints.

Today there is reliance on digital development which gives new possibilities for humanity in welfare, knowledge and discovery. This informational transformation and the shift to the digital technology have not been far from the public administration. Today, due to its openness and communication with individuals, it is required to publish statistics and information either voluntarily or according to its legal obligations by way of various traditional means such as official bulletins or modern means such as websites and digital copies. And environmental information is just as important as any other kind of information. With environmental problems and hazards becoming more complex and interacting with each other, interest in it has increased.

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