



**Statement of the Moroccan Network for the Right to Access Information
(REMDI) on the submission of Draft law 31/13 on the right to access
information to the Moroccan Parliament**

- The first version of the Draft Law 31/13 on the right to access information (RTI) was published for public consultation on the portal of the General Secretariat of the Government on March 26, 2013. After repeated delays and hesitations, and through an opaque process, the Government finally presented the final version of this law on June 8, 2015 to the Parliament. It will be presented before the Committee of Legislation and Human Rights on June 23, 2015 for discussion and approval.

REMDI reaffirms once again the paramount importance of this project as:

- 1) A means to protect the right to information, which is a basic human right that is enshrined in numerous treaties and international conventions, and which is controlled and governed by international standards;
- 2) A requirement of Chapter 27 of the Moroccan Constitution, and;
- 3) A pillar of freedom of expression, citizen participation, the fight against corruption and poverty, and the realization of development, transparency, accountability and good governance.

- REMDI emphasizes that this, the fourth version of law 31/13, despite some positive improvements on the previous version, remains very weak in comparison to the second version prepared by the Government and deliberated upon in the August 1, 2013 Government Council meeting. The proposed law, does not respond to a number of observations and demands made by REMDI and many other civil society organizations, including those developed by Transparency Morocco on the three versions of the draft law. Moreover, the proposed law is inconsistent in some chapters with the logic and the spirit of Article 27 of the Moroccan Constitution.

- Taking into account the above, REMDI urges the honorable members of Parliament to take into consideration the amendments proposed by REMDI and other civil society organizations, which aim to ensure the adherence of this law with the logic and spirit of Chapter 27 of the Moroccan Constitution, of international norms and conventions related to access to information, and of Morocco's commitments to international bodies, notably the Open Government Partnership.

On June the 23rd, 2015, for The Moroccan Network for the Right to Access Information (REMDI) - Abderrahim Foukahi

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