

# **Openness, Transparency and Accountability: The Case of Mexico**

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**June 2008**

# Access to Information in Mexican Federal Government

- Fundamental right established in the Constitution
- ATI applies to all branches of Federal Government (no exclusions)
- Exemptions are clearly established and frequently require harm test

# ATI - Mexican Federal Government

- Time framework for response and complaints is clearly established
- Complaints to independent Commission with binding decision powers (IFAI)
- Complaints can challenge administrative silence and other ways of not providing information

## **Main results: Trust & Efficiency**

- Anyone, anytime, anywhere, can request information through the Internet
- Anonymity: officials focus on whether the information is public or not; concerns on who is requesting and why are eliminated
- Requesters have confidence and get results in less than 4 months

# Success stories

- Military procurement
- Emails from Interior Department and Presidential House
- Disclosure of public trust funds (previously classified from banking secret)
- Budget transfers to unions
- Access to file on permits, licenses & authorizations

# Challenges - Weakness

- Quality and relevance of information provided is not verified (complying/lying)
- Record keeping failure: frequent “inexistence” of documents in a chaotic archive environment
- Limits of enforcement and open insubordination of some agencies
- Institutional weakness for accountability: ATI cannot resolve, by itself, problems like corruption or impunity

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