

Government of Ghana

Right to Information Manual

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL
INTEGRATION (MFARI)

2020

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1. Overview

This Right to Information (RTI) Manual is pursuant to the provisions of the recently passed Act, (Act 989) by Parliament and assented to by the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. The Act gives substance to the constitutional right to information provided under Article 21 (1) (f) of the Constitution, enabling citizens' access to official information held by government institutions, and the qualifications and conditions under which the access may be obtained. In accordance with Section 80, the Act applies to information which came into existence before, or which will come into existence after the commencement of the Act.

1.1 Purpose of Manual – To inform and assist the public on the organizational structure, responsibilities and activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI) and provide the types and classes of information available at MFARI, as well as the location and contact details of its Information Officer and Unit.

2. Bureaux and Units under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI)

This section describes the Institution’s vision and mission, lists the names of all Bureaux and Units under the institution, including the description of responsibilities, details of activities, organizational structure and classes and types of information accessible at a fee.

VISION

“To build a well-resourced institution capable of establishing, developing and sustaining international goodwill, solidarity and support for national development.”

MISSION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration exists to promote and protect Ghana’s interests through the initiation, formulation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of Ghana’s foreign policy, execution of bilateral and multilateral engagements with international partners in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Bureaux and Units under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI)

1. Accra International Conference Centre
2. Administration Bureau
3. Africa Bilateral Bureau
4. Americas Bureau
5. Asia and Pacific Bureau
6. Candidatures Unit
7. Consular Bureau
8. Diaspora Affairs Unit
9. Economic, Trade and Investment Bureau
10. Estates and General Services Bureau
11. Europe Bureau
12. Finance and Accounts Bureau
13. Information and Communications Technology Unit
14. Information and Public Affairs Bureau
15. Inspectorate and Internal Audit Bureau
16. Legal and Treaties Bureau
17. Middle East Bureau
18. Multilateral Relations Bureau
19. Passport Office
20. Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Bureau

<p>21. Protocol Bureau</p> <p>22. Regional Integration Bureau</p>
<p>Responsibilities of the Institution:</p> <p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is the Principal Organ of the State responsible for the administrative and proactive initiation, formulation, coordination and management of Ghana's Foreign Policy.</p>

2.1 Description of Responsibilities / Activities of Bureaus and Units

BUREAUX / UNITS	RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES
Accra International Conference Centre (AICC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contributes to the promotion and building of a stronger platform for Ghana's international, political and economic diplomacy engagements. ● Contributes to the development of tourism, cultural and hospitality sectors for the advancement of Ghana. ● Coordinates the implementation of sustainable and innovative institutional development policies and programmes for building and expanding a state-of-the-art facility to support clients' demands and expectations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes and institutionalises top notch conducive environment for the AICC
Administration Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training & Development: - Initiates the review and development of career training policies and guidelines as well as collates the training needs identified through staff performance appraisal systems for implementation. • Human Resources Planning and Performance Management: - Initiates strategies and facilitates the career planning of staff of the Ministry. This involves sector manpower/staff capacity gap and trend analysis, regular postings and development of Schemes of Service as well as conditions of service. The Bureau is also responsible for developing the framework for institutional and staff performance management including staff appraisal and performance contracts/agreements. • Personnel Welfare/Records: - Manages the files and records of staff in the Ministry pertaining to recruitments, leave, promotions, salary issues, transfers, performance appraisals, staff welfare among others. • Special Care Registry: - Ensures the proper storage of documents and information to safeguard their confidentiality. • Communications: - Receives and transmits all electronic correspondences from and to the Ministry. • Dipmails: - Dispatches and receives the Ministry's diplomatic mails. • Information Communication Technology (ICT) Unit: - Initiates and maintains information technology network, infrastructure plans, policies and strategies for the Ministry. It also offers support

	and integrates new technologies as well as information/data access security protocols into the operations of the Ministry.
Africa Bilateral Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs the Government on developments in the African Union (AU) particularly progress in achieving a Union Government for Africa. • Advises the Government on how to protect and promote its interests in the AU. • Co-ordinates and directs the implementation of Ghana's foreign policies through the AU. • Conveys overall policy advice to Ghana's Missions abroad and co-ordinate their activities in so far as they are involved in carrying out Ghana's policy in the AU. • Acts as a point of co-ordination for other Ministries, Departments and Agencies in their dealings with the AU. • Provides other MDAs with advice on the political dimensions of their dealings with the AU. • Informs Ghanaians about the AU and Ghana's involvement in it. • Provides specialized briefing on matters relating to foreign policy for Ghana's delegations to the AU. • Advises Missions on Ghana's opportunities in the AU where this is relevant to their work. • Monitors the workload and activities of the Missions which deal with the AU and provides back-up and advice to assist in their performance. • Conducts trend analysis in the AU for the benefit of Ghana.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides policy advice and recommendations to the Government with respect to countries under the purview the Bureau.

Americas Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a point of co-ordination for all Government bodies with interests in the Americas. • Provides briefing and speech material for Ministers, Senior Officers, and Missions. • Works with Missions in maintaining oversight of Ghana's interests and advises on where Ghana's national advantage lies in case of conflict of objectives. • Serves as a contact on policy issues for foreign diplomatic Missions. • Monitors Missions' workload and provides back-up and advice to assist Missions in the discharge of their duties. • Co-ordinates the process of assessing external trends in the Americas which are of importance to Ghana. • Initiates and facilitates the hosting of Permanent Joint Commissions on Cooperation (PJCC) between Ghana and countries under the purview of the Bureau.
Asia and Pacific Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides policy advice and recommendations to the Government with respect to countries under the purview of the Bureau. • Provides a point of co-ordination for all Government bodies with interests in Asia and Pacific regions. • Provides briefing and speech material for Ministers, Senior Officers, and Missions. • Works with Missions in maintaining oversight of Ghana's interests and advises on where Ghana's national advantage lies in case of conflict of objectives. • Serves as a contact on policy issues for foreign diplomatic Missions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides, in consultation with Missions, policy advice on the deployment of the Government’s resources in external information and public relations. • Monitors Missions’ workload and provides back-up and advice to assist Missions in their performance. • Co-ordinates the process of assessing external trends in the Asia and Pacific region which are of importance to Ghana • Initiates and facilitates the hosting of Permanent Joint Commissions on Cooperation between Ghana and countries under the purview of the Bureau. 	
Candidatures Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates and develops strategies to ensure Ghana’s visibility, presence and influence within international organisations and regional bodies. • Develops and maintains an effective working relationship with all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to solicit inputs for elected country candidatures and international expert positions. • Initiates and coordinates the process of filing candidatures, including seeking requisite endorsements, preparation of necessary documentation (concept papers), campaign strategies and budget, announcement of candidatures and canvassing of support. • Advises the Ministry and Ghana’s Missions Abroad and relevant MDAs on candidates of other Member States that Ghana may lend its support for every election cycle. • Monitors and advises on the recruitment policies and quota systems of the international organisations of which Ghana is a member. • Provides online access to the merit-based non-elected vacancies in international organisations and ensures widespread national circulation of announced vacancies. • Publicizes vacancies within international organisations and regional bodies on Ministry’s website and social media platforms. • Creates and maintains a database of information on elected country positions, elected or appointed national expert positions. 	

Consular Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Ghana's citizens overseas with consular protection and assistance. • Advises the Government on external developments affecting Ghanaian citizens in other countries. • Co-ordinates and directs the activities of Missions abroad in the exercise of consular functions. • Implements Government policy decision on consular matters. • Informs Ghanaians on matters relating to consular protection overseas. • Advises the Ministry and Missions abroad on developments in immigration policies around the world, which have a bearing on Ghana's overseas interests. • Acts as a point of co-ordination for other departments whose activities have a bearing on consular work overseas. • Administers the provisions of the Consular Relations Decree NLCD 150 and the Consular Manual. • Provides advice on the implementation of the manual on the privileges and immunities to the Diplomatic Corps, Consular Posts and International Organizations.
Diaspora Affairs Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates and maintains a comprehensive database of Ghanaians abroad. • Encourages the active involvement of the Ghanaian Diaspora in socio-economic activities of the country. • Identifies and establishes relations with Ghanaian professionals in the Diaspora whose expertise could be tapped for national development. • Conducts research to inform policy on effective participation of the Ghanaian Diaspora in national development. • Disseminates accurate and timely information on government programmes and policies to the Ghanaian communities abroad through the websites and other social media platforms of the Ministry and its Missions. • Mobilises Ghanaian communities abroad to build and sustain a good country image.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements, through the Diaspora Affairs Section of Ghana Missions abroad, a robust engagement with the Diaspora community in accordance with annual strategic work plans. • Initiates policies needed to harness the potentials of the Ghana Diaspora networks and organisations. • Handles all international migration and development issues and representations within the remit of the Ministry such as the Global Migration Group (GMP), the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). • Serves as a liaison between the various MDAs and the Ghanaian Diaspora, as well as organize monthly international meetings to create an avenue for the Ghanaian Diaspora to contribute to the development efforts of the country. • Participates in dialogues and meetings with Governments of receiving countries, as well as Regional and Sub-regional Organisations such as ECOWAS, AU, and EU, on Diaspora matters. 	
Economic, Trade and Investment Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes Ghana's economic interest abroad through our Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts by facilitating and coordinating all economic activities between Ghana and its bilateral and multilateral partners. • Contributes to the formulation and administration of policy relating to Ghana's multilateral trade and economic interests. • Collaborates with relevant MDAs in promoting Ghanaian exports, tourism, attracting foreign investment, and seeking scientific, technological and cultural links between Ghana and other countries. • Acts as a primary point of contact and as a source of information for private sector commercial interests who require information or assistance within the Ministry's area of responsibility. • Facilitates and coordinates foreign Trade Missions into Ghana and Ghana's Trade Missions abroad. • Facilitates and coordinates the organisation of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions abroad. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates all economic activities between Ghana and its Bilateral and Multilateral partners, in close collaboration with key stakeholders. • Supports implementation of policies with other MDAs for Permanent Joint Commissions for Cooperation (PJCCs) and Business Missions. • Provides support for organisations such as the Association of Ghana Industry (AGI), Ghana Exporters Association (GEA), National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI), the Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF), Ghana Export Promotion Centre (GEPC), Ghana Investment Promotion Center (GIPC), the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GNCCI), Ghana Tourist Authority (GTA) and others in their international activities in collaboration with our Missions and Consulates abroad. • Advances Ghana’s economic interest by working with other MDAs and Ghana Missions abroad to achieve targets set by the Government for the expansion of trade, tourism and inward investments. • Develops and coordinates Ghana’s role and negotiating position at Regional, Continental and International Conferences/Meetings/Fora to ensure that the outcomes serve Ghana’s national interests. • Participates in bilateral political/economic dialogues and consultative meetings. • Actively support Ghana’s re-branding as the ultimate investment destination in Africa. 	
Estates and General Services Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estates Headquarters: - Provides advice on estate management issues and ensures that repairs and works on facilities and equipment are properly carried out in the Ministry’s headquarters. • Estates Missions: - Provides advice on estate management issues and ensures that repairs and works on facilities and equipment are properly carried out in the Missions abroad. • Procurement & Stores: - Responsible for managing the procurement services and providing technical support on procurement processes for the Ministry. • Ensures the proper storage and timely restocking of goods procured by the Ministry. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport: - Ensures the proper management and provision of an efficient transport system for the Ministry. • Security: - Responsible for the safety of all staff and property of the Ministry.
Europe Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides policy advice and recommendations to the Government in its relations with countries in Europe particularly with those countries with whom Ghana has exchanged diplomatic missions. • Provides a point of co-ordination for all Government bodies with interests in the countries under the purview of the Europe Bureau. • Provides briefing and speech material for Ministers, Senior Officers and Missions. • Works with Missions in maintaining oversight of Ghana's interests and advise on where Ghana's national advantage lies in case of conflict of objectives. • Serves as a contact on policy issues for foreign diplomatic Missions in Ghana. • Provides in consultation with Missions, policy advice on the deployment of the Government's resources in external information and public relations. • Responds promptly to reports and dispatches submitted by Missions to ensure that dispatches contribute to policy formulation and providing advice and guidelines where necessary to assist in performing this task. • Co-ordinates the process of assessing external trends in Europe which are of importance to Ghana. • Initiates and facilitates the hosting of Permanent Joint Commissions on Cooperation between Ghana and countries under the purview of the Bureau.

Finance and Accounts Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts-Headquarters: - Liaises with the Ministry of Finance, and the Controller and Accountant-General's Department, to facilitate the release of funds and authorization for disbursement. • Leads in the preparation of the Ministry's Annual Budget Estimates and attends Budget Hearings at the Ministry of Finance. • Accounts-Missions: - Liaises with the Ministry of Finance, and the Controller and Accountant-General's Department, to facilitate the release of funds and authorization for disbursement to the Missions abroad. • Treasury: - Takes custody of funds released by Ministry of Finance and effects payments to authorized and approved recipients. • Examines and verifies the authenticity and accuracy of payment vouchers before authorizing for payment. • Prepares annual financial statements on all treasury payments. • Salaries and Pensions: - Examines and verifies the authenticity and accuracy of payment vouchers before authorizing for payment. • Revenue: - Examines and verifies the authenticity and accuracy of payments in the Internally Generated Funds (IGF) activities. • Resource Mobilization: - Develops and reviews sector financial strategy, financial performance gap analysis, identification and recommendation of funding options, as well as facilitates sourcing of funds from donor partners and other stakeholders to support the implementation of policies, programmes, projects and other capital investment initiatives of the Ministry.

Information Communications Technology Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Mail: Manages the Ministry's IT infrastructure and provides email support to the staff. • ICT Support Provision: Provides IT solutions such as PowerPoint, audio, desktop publishing, video, and photograph set- ups for Bureaux and Units in the Ministry • ICT Training: Provides training and programmes to the Ministry's staff to foster quicker adoption and usage of newly deployed and existing platforms. • ICT Advisory: Provides advice/proposals on efficient, quality, and affordable technological solutions required for rendering services at the Ministry. • Provides recommendations on suitable equipment (computers, printers, video conferencing tools, scanners, etc.) needed to improve work output in the Ministry. • Systems/Network Support: Ensures systems are error free and the staff have consistent access to the network and internet. • Passport Office: Provides IT support and solutions for the efficient operation of the Passport Office. • Online application system: Collaborates with the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) as well as other service providers to ensure the efficient operation of the online passport application platform. • Advisory: Conducts research and advises the Ministry on future technological solutions that can enhance the work of the Ministry and its related offices.

<p>Information and Public Affairs Bureau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops, implements and reviews communication strategies to market and communicate the Ministry’s policies, programmes, projects and activities to the public. • Facilitates the Ministry’s participation in the annual “Meet-the-Press” series through the coordination and processing of inputs received from the various Bureaux on activities of the Ministry as well as liaises with the Ministry of Information on the planning and hosting of the programme. • Communicates to the public and wider world, the Ministry’s policies, programmes and projects as well as the opportunities and constraints associated with the implementation of the same. • Publicises the Ministry’s commitment to the planning and execution of programmes and events of the relevant regional and international organisations to which Ghana belongs. • Services the Ministry’s formal relationship with the Parliament of Ghana, and covers parliamentary proceedings related to Foreign Affairs and provides the Honourable Minister and leadership of the Ministry with information on parliamentary bills and insight into legislative procedures. • Ensures effective collaboration with the Scholarships Secretariat for the administration of foreign government scholarships, in consonance with bilateral agreements between Ghana and its foreign partners to the advantage of Ghanaian beneficiaries and the State and for the extension of various forms of assistance to awardees of scholarships. • Liaises with the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSC) for the effective implementation of its international Defence Training Courses for Military personnel across Africa through the communication of correspondences, especially regarding placements and course certificates. • Liaises in close collaboration with ECTIB to obtain trade and investment promotion materials as well as Made-in-Ghana products on behalf of Ghana Missions to facilitate the holding of exhibitions and fairs with MDAs and private sector institutions including GTA, Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), GEPA and GIPC. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receives and manages clients' enquiries through the timely provision of quality information and assistance to the public and Ghanaian Diaspora regarding the various services rendered by the Ministry. • Provides timely information on the Ministry in accordance with the prescribed procedures. • Issues timely and coherent announcements and advisories to the general public on COVID-19 and international travel, regional (Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] and African Union [AU]) tenders and job opportunities, consular matters, etc. • Coordinates the design and printing of the Ministry's seasonal greeting cards. • Prepares daily (morning, afternoon and evening) news updates (international and local) and disseminates the same to the Ministry's top management. 	
Inspectorate and Internal Audit Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures regular submission and examination of Accounting Returns from Ghana Missions abroad. • Evaluates responses to recommendations of external and internal audit inspections and examinations reports. • Coordinates and organizes meetings of the Audit Committee which is to ensure proper and effective financial management practices in the Ministry as established in Section 86 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921). • Coordinates and organises meetings of the Audit Reports Implementation Committee which ensures that recommendations to audit observations (external and internal) are duly adhered to or implemented to avoid or minimize the recurrence of control lapses in the accounts and operations of the Ministry. • Conducts audit inspection visits to our Missions abroad. • Conducts internal audit inspections at headquarters, as well as subsidiary bodies such as the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC) and the regional Offices of the Passport Office. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-checks entitlements of Officers such as car maintenance allowance, freights allowance, pensions, etc. • Audits policies, standards and programmes of the Government of Ghana. • Conducts training for Officers on the various internal audit and Management regulations. • Prepares and submits responses to Management Letters on the Audit of the Ministry and Ghana Missions abroad to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. • Submits Annual Audit Work Plan to the Internal Audit Agency following discussion and approval by the Audit Committee of the Ministry. • Validates Payment Vouchers and Procurement into Ministry's stores as well as the Evaluation of Cash Management at Ministry's headquarters.
Legal and Treaties Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides legal advice to the Ministry in respect of Acts of Parliament administered by the Ministry and other legal matters relating to the Ministry's functions and responsibilities. • Advises the Government on those areas of international law in which Ghana's interests are engaged. • Implements Government policy by providing specialists to participate in the development and codification of relevant areas of international law • Participates in the negotiation and interpretation of international agreements. • Advises the Government on existing treaty obligations and the legal implications of any proposed treaty action regardless of which a government department is proposing the action. • Prepares Instruments of Ratification for various Agreements signed on behalf of Government by some sector Ministries. • Co-ordinates issues arising from Ghana being a state party to the Law of the Sea Convention. • Monitors the legislative proposals and administrative practice of the Ministry and other Government MDAs to ensure they are compatible

	<p>with treaty obligations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the Ministry with legal advice on any matter relating to its management or its conduct of foreign policy. • Arranges on a cost recovery basis for the service overseas of legal documents on behalf of Ghana law firms. • Compiles the Ghana Treaty Series.
Middle East Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides policy advice and recommendations to the Government with respect to countries under the purview of the Bureau. • Provides a point of co-ordination for all Government bodies with interests in the Middle East. • Provides briefing and speech material for Ministers, Senior Officers, and Missions. • Works with Missions in maintaining oversight of Ghana's interests and advises on where Ghana's national advantage lies in case of conflict of objectives. • Serves as a contact on policy issues for foreign diplomatic Missions. • Provides, in consultation with Missions, policy advice on the deployment of the Government's resources in external information and public relations. • Monitors Missions' workload and provides back-up and advice to assist Missions in their performance. • Co-ordinates the process of assessing external trends in the Middle East which are of importance to Ghana.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates and facilitates the hosting of Permanent Joint Commissions on Cooperation between Ghana and countries under the purview of the Bureau.
Multilateral Relations Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs and advises the Government on developments in organisations within the United Nations system, Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth, in particular those developments that affect Ghana's interests. • Informs and advises the Government on developments within other governmental and non-governmental organisations of international scope that affect Ghana's interests. • Advises the Government on how to protect and promote Ghana's interests through the afore-mentioned organisations. • Implements the Government's membership obligations to these organisations. • Co-ordinates and directs the implementation of Ghana's policies through these organisations. • Conveys overall policy advice and co-ordinates the activities of overseas posts as far as they are involved in carrying out Ghana's policy in multilateral organizations. • Provides other departments with advice on the political dimensions of their dealings with these organisations. • Informs Ghanaians about international organisations and Ghana's involvement in them. • Provides specialized briefing on matters relating to foreign policy for Ghana's delegations to these organisations. • Advises regional divisions and Missions on Ghana's opportunities in multilateral bodies where this is relevant to their work. • Monitors Mission's workload and activities and provides back-up and

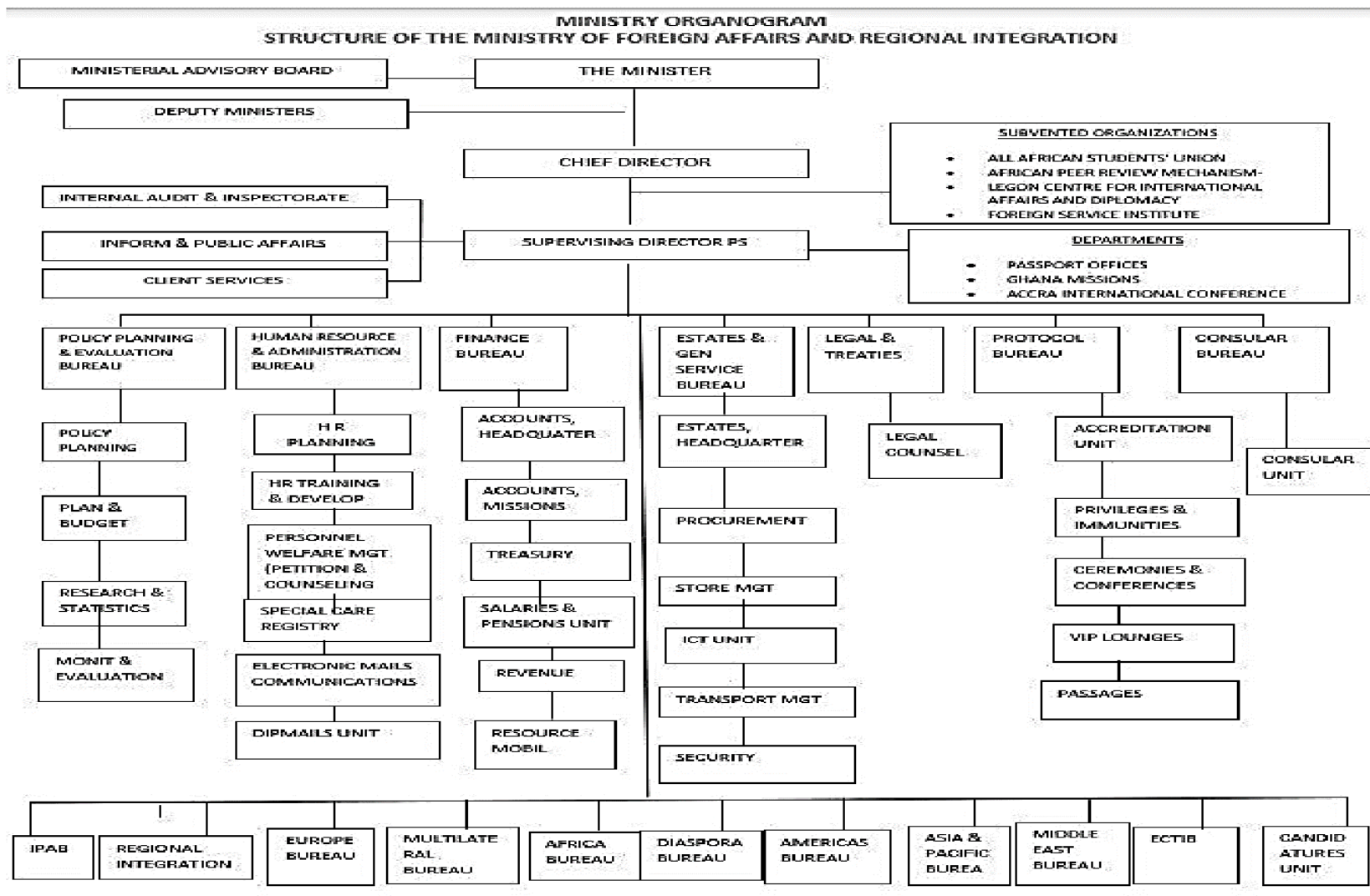
	<p>advice to assist in their performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-ordinates the process of assessing trends in international organisations of importance to Ghana. ● Contributes to the formulation and administration of policy relating to Ghana's multilateral trade and economic interests. ● Advises on and participates in the formulation of Ghana's domestic economic policy where that policy may affect, or, be affected by Ghana's relations with other countries. ● Co-ordinates and provides the Ministry's input to Ghana's membership of international economic organisations. ● Provides a resource centre and specialist advise to others in the Ministry whose work may from time to time require a more specialized economic input and maintains a flow of relevant economic information to Missions abroad. ● Co-ordinates the process of assessing external economic trends of importance to Ghana. ● Holds consultations with and advises the Ministry of Finance on external aid. ● Shares responsibility for certain international organizations with other Bureaux of the Ministry where expert knowledge is required.
Passport Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Issues passports and other travel documents to Ghanaian Citizens. ● Provides files and documents in respect of passports under investigation by the Interpol, the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), and the Ghana Police Service. ● Assists Embassies and High Commissions accredited to Ghana to confirm the personal details of Ghanaians who apply to these Missions for visas.

<p>Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Bureau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy Planning: - Initiates and coordinates the sector policies of the Ministry. ● Leads in the design, review and development of plans, strategies, international protocols and guidelines based on a sound framework for the effective implementation of the Ministry's strategic objectives and operations. ● Leads in the identification of needs, challenges, opportunities and policy options to support overall corporate and business strategy and generate national competitive advantage. ● Planning and Budgeting: - Coordinates the preparation of the sector plans, programmes and budget of the Ministry for the provision of technical guidance to Management on the implementation of the budget, programmes and projects. The Bureau also keeps proper updates of all financial projects. ● Research and Statistics: - Coordinates research information and analysis to support the development of sector policies and strategy options. ● Compiles data and information for future references and education/sensitisation on government policy initiatives /programmes within the sector to facilitate effective decision-making. ● Monitoring and Evaluation: - Ensures the provision of an effective basis for measuring the various stages of implemented strategic objectives and programmes of the Ministry as well as provide an objective basis for assessing the effectiveness of sector policies/programmes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitates the conduct of relations between the Government and the Diplomatic and Consular Missions located in and accredited to Ghana. ● Ensures that members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps understand and comply with local laws and regulations. ● Administers the extension of privileges to the Diplomatic and Consular Corps as contained in the Manual on Privileges and Immunities for the

Protocol Bureau	<p>Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts and International Organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises the Office of the President, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the Diplomatic Corps on matters relating to protocol, ceremony, privileges and immunities. • Administers the formalities associated with the appointment of heads of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts to and from Ghana. • Develops and implements protocol policies and procedures in line with the Government's policies and in accordance with international practice. • Advises Ghana's overseas Missions on matters relating to Ghana's protocol and diplomatic privileges and immunity. • Ensure that Ghana's Missions abroad display the same standards of conduct as is expected of foreign Missions in Ghana. • Co-ordinates the practical arrangements for conferences held in Ghana when required and advises the Ministry of its conference commitments. • Organises, in collaboration with the State Protocol, various high-level visits including State and Official visits by Heads of State and other high-level officials.
Regional Integration Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs the Government on developments within ECOWAS and the African Union (AU), particularly, progress in achieving a Union Government for Africa. • Advises the Government on how to protect and promote its interests within ECOWAS and the AU. • Co-ordinates and directs the implementation of Ghana's policies through ECOWAS and the AU. • Conveys overall policy advice and co-ordinates the activities of Ghana Missions abroad. • Acts as a point of co-ordination for other MDAs in their dealings with ECOWAS and the AU. • Provides other MDAs with advice on the political dimensions of their dealings with ECOWAS and the AU. • Informs Ghanaians about ECOWAS and the AU and Ghana's

	<p>involvement in these organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides specialized briefing on matters relating to foreign policy for Ghana's delegations to ECOWAS and the AU.• Advises Ghana's Missions abroad on opportunities in ECOWAS and the AU which are relevant to their work. <p>Monitors the workload and activities of those Missions dealing with ECOWAS and the AU and provides back-up and advice to assist in their performance.</p> <p>Conducts trend analysis in the AU and ECOWAS for the benefit of Ghana.</p>	
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2.2 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration’s Organogram



2.3 Classes and Types of information

List of various classes of information in the custody of the institution:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administrative2. Financial3. Legal4. Confidential/Exempt
Types of Information Accessible at a fee:
<p>The Government is developing a standardised fee system for all Public institutions to charge people seeking access to information under the Right to Information (RTI) Law. The fees would be made available as soon as Parliament approves it.</p>

3. Procedure in Applying and Processing Requests

Section 18 of the RTI Act provides specific guidelines for application for access to information kept by a public institution. It is thus important that request for information be made in accordance with provisions under this section. The Information Officer or a designated officer is responsible for dealing with applications made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. To requests for information under the RTI Act from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration applicants are to follow these basic procedures:

3.1 The Application Process

- a. Application by any person or organisation who seeks access to information in the custody of must be made in writing, using the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's standard RTI Application Form. (**See Appendix A for the Standard RTI Application Form**). A copy of the form can be downloaded or completed and submitted electronically on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's official website, or the Ministry of Information's website.

- b. In making the request, the following information must be provided:
 - Date of the Application.
 - Name of the applicant or the person on whose behalf an application is being made.
 - Name of the organisation represented by the applicant.
 - Available contact details of the applicant or address of the person/organisation on whose behalf an application is being made (Telephone Number, Email, Postal Address, Fax).
 - Brief description of information being sought. (Applicants are to specify the class and type of information including cover dates).
 - Payment of relevant fee, if applicable.
 - Signature/ thumbprint.

- c. Provision of identification
The applicant must present at least one (1) of the following valid identification cards (IDs) to serve as proof of identity:
 - Driver's License.
 - Passport.
 - National ID.
 - Voter's ID.

- d. The applicant should state the format of information being requested and the mode of transmission. Example (do you need certified true copy, normal photocopy or electronic

copies. Would you want to receive it through a postal address, e-mail, courier services, fax etc.?)

- e. Where an applicant cannot write due to illiteracy or a disability, he/she may make the request orally. However, oral request must conform to the following guidelines.
- The Information Officer must reduce the oral request into writing and give a copy of the written request as recorded for the applicant to authenticate. (s. 18) (3).
 - The Information Officer shall clearly and correctly read and explain the written request to the understanding of the applicant.
 - A witness must endorse the face of the request with the writing; *“the request was read to the applicant in the language the applicant understands and the applicant appeared to have understood the content of the request.”*
 - The applicant must then make a thumbprint or mark on the request.

3.2 Processing the Application

- Applications would be treated on a priority basis. The Information Officer is responsible for handling requests to ensure that statutory deadlines are met.
- He/she reviews and identify which part is exempt based on Section 5 to 16 of the RTI Act and determines which of the units in the institution have the records or is responsible for the subject matter of the request.
- Provision is made under section 20 for the transfer of an application within a period of not more than ten days of receipt where the public institution to which the application was initially made is unable to deal with the application. In such situations, applicants would be notified, accordingly, with the reasons and dates of transfer.
- For information readily available in official publications, the Information Officer shall direct the applicant to the institution having custody of that publication and notify the public institution of the request. (s.21).
- If a requested information is not readily accessible, the estimated time it will take to search for the information would be communicated to the applicant.

3.3 Response to Applicants

a. The Information Officer is required under section 23 of the RTI Act to notify applicants within fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt. Applicant should however note that the time limit does not apply to applications transferred to another public institution or which has been refused due to failure to pay prescribed deposit or fee. (s.23) (6). The notice should state:

- Whether or not full access to the requested information will be granted or only a part can be given and the reason.

- The format and mode of the access.
 - The expected publication or submission day of the information in the case of a deferred access.
 - The prescribed fee (s.24).
- b. The Information Officer can request an extension to the deadline if:
- Information requested is voluminous.
 - It is necessary to search through a large number of records.
 - The information must be gathered from more than one source.
 - Consultation with someone outside the institution is required.
- c. The Information Officer would, in such situations, notify applicants of an extension as well as the period and reason for the extension. An extension should not be more than seven days.
- d. In giving applicants access to information, the applicant would be given the opportunity to inspect the information or receive a copy physically or any other form required such as electronic, magnetic, optical or otherwise, including a computer print-out, various computer storage devices and web portals.
- Where access cannot be given in the form specified by the applicant, access can be given in some other form. In such cases, the applicant shall be provided with a reason why access cannot be given in the specified form.

4. Amendment of Personal Records

A person given access to information contained in records of a public institution may apply for an amendment of the information if the information represents the personal records of that person and in the person's opinion, the information is incorrect, misleading, incomplete or out of date.

4.1 How to apply for an Amendment

- a. The application should be in writing indicating;
 - Name and proof of identity.
 - Particulars that will enable the records of the public institution identify the applicant.
 - The incorrect, misleading, incomplete or the out-of-date information in the record.
 - Signature of the applicant.
- b. For incomplete information claimed or out of date records, the application should be accompanied with the relevant information which the applicant considers necessary to complete the records.
- c. The address to which a notice shall be sent should be indicated.
- d. The application can then be submitted at the office of the public institution.

5. Appendix A: Standard RTI Request Form

[Reference No.:]

APPLICATION FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2019 (ACT 989)



1.	Name of Applicant:			
2.	Date:			
3.	Public Institution:			
4.	Date of Birth:	DD	MM	YYYY
5.	Type of Applicant:	Individual <input type="checkbox"/>	Organization/Institution <input type="checkbox"/>	
6.	Tax Identification Number			
7.	If Represented, Name of Person Being Represented:			
7 (a).	Capacity of Representative:			
8.	Type of Identification:	<input type="checkbox"/> National ID	<input type="checkbox"/> Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Passport
	Voter's ID	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Driver's License			
8 (a).	Id. No.:			
9.	Description of the Information being sought (specify the type and class of information including cover dates. Kindly fill multiple applications for multiple requests):			

<p>10.</p>	<p>Manner of Access:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Inspection of Information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Viewing / Listen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Written Transcript</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Translated (specify language) <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p>
<p>10 (a).</p>	<p>Form of Access:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Hard copy <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic copy <input type="checkbox"/> Braille</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Contact Details:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Email Address _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Postal Address _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tel: _____</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Applicant's signature/thumbprint:</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Signature of Witness (where applicable)</p> <p><i>"This request was read to the applicant in the language the applicant understands and the applicant appeared to have understood the content of the request."</i></p>	

6. Appendix B: Contact Details of IPAB

Name of Information/Designated Officer:

Margaret Yeboah

Telephone/Mobile number of Information Bureau:

0302738473 (rti@mfa.gov.gh)

Postal Address of the institution:

P.O. BOX M53, ACCRA.

7. Appendix C: Acronyms

Instructions: Provide a list of acronyms and associated literal translations used within the manual. List the acronyms in alphabetical order using the table below.

Table 1 Acronyms

Acronym	Literal Translation
<i>RTI</i>	<i>Right to Information</i>
<i>MDA</i>	<i>Ministries, Departments and Agencies</i>
<i>s.</i>	<i>section</i>
<i>MMDAs</i>	<i>Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies</i>
<i>MFARI</i>	<i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration</i>
<i>IPAB</i>	<i>Information and Public Affairs Bureau</i>

8. Appendix D: Glossary

This Glossary presents clear and concise definitions for terms used in this manual that may be unfamiliar to readers listed in alphabetical order. Definitions for terms are based on section 84 of the RTI Act.

Table 2 Glossary

Term	Definition
<i>Access</i>	<i>Right to Information</i>
<i>Access to information</i>	<i>Right to obtain information from public institutions</i>
<i>Contact details</i>	<i>Information by which an applicant and an Information Officer may be contacted</i>
<i>Court</i>	<i>A court of competent jurisdiction</i>
<i>Designated officer</i>	<i>An officer designated for the purposes of the Act who perform similar role as the Information Officer</i>
<i>Exempt information</i>	<i>Information which falls within any of the exemptions specified in sections 5 to 16 of the Act</i>
<i>Function</i>	<i>Powers and duties</i>
<i>Government</i>	<i>Any authority by which the executive authority of the Republic of Ghana is duly exercised</i>
<i>Information</i>	<i>Information according to the Act includes recorded matter or material regardless of form or medium in the possession or under the control or custody of a public institution whether or not it was created by the public institution, and in the case of a private body, relates to the performance of a public function.</i>
<i>Information officer</i>	<i>The Information Officer of a public institution or the officer designated to whom an application is made</i>
<i>Public</i>	<i>Used throughout this document to refer to a person who requires and/or has acquired access to information.</i>
<i>Public institution</i>	<i>Includes a private institution or organization that receives public resources or provides a public function</i>
<i>Right to information</i>	<i>The right assigned to access information</i>
<i>Section</i>	<i>Different parts of the RTI Act</i>