

IMF Transparency Policy

Document or type of information	Current Access	Recommendation to the IMF	Rationale for the Recommendation
Draft Policy Papers	These documents are currently withheld from publication for 20-years in the IMF Archives.	<p>A consultation document of the policy paper should be published before the policy paper is submitted to the Executive Board.</p> <p>This consultation document should include all substantive details from the policy paper (e.g. deletions and corrections should not be made).</p>	<p>Publication of a consultation document will provide external stakeholders with access to decision-making.</p> <p>This implies that affected and/or interested stakeholders are able to participate by accessing the document and providing analyses and perspectives to their government and representatives at the IMF on critical policy decisions and changes.</p>
Technical Assistance (TA) reports	Current access is uncertain: Disclosure of TA reports is encouraged by IMF staff, but their publication is contingent on written consent by the member country.	TA reports should be made publicly available based on a presumption of disclosure policy (rather than a voluntary but presumed policy that is contingent on written consent by member countries).	<p>TA reports significantly influence country authorities in shaping economic policies, which have important impacts on citizens.</p> <p>TA reports should be made publicly available, based on the principles of the right of access to information and the access to decision-making. This allows citizens to openly debate the merits of the policy recommendations in the TA report, and facilitates informed participation in national economic decision-making.</p>
Data on the use of side letters	Unavailable	First, publish aggregate data on the usage of side letters on a quarterly basis. Second, release a brief summary of the content of side letters.	Information disclosure on side letters is based on the right to request information . It is a significant step toward ensuring citizens' ability to hold their governments accountable on their economic policy decisions.

Data on deletions requests	Unavailable	<p>Regularly publish aggregate data on the number of deletions requested and the number granted.</p> <p>Publish regular information on the specific grounds upon which deletions are granted, including clear definitions of how the deleted material is interpreted.</p>	<p>Information disclosure on deletions data, grounds of deletion approval, and interpretation of deletion content is based on the principles of the right to access key information held by IFIs, regardless of who produced the document.</p> <p>The principle of automatic disclosure also substantiates this recommendation on deletions, as it calls for the disclosure and dissemination of a wide range of information on the decision-making process.</p>
Staff Directory	Unavailable	Publish a staff directory that lists: name, title, department, phone numbers, and email addresses.	A staff directory will play a significant role in better directing requests for information and clarification by external stakeholders and country authorities.
Executive Board documents	Withheld from publication for either 5 or 10 years.	<p>Disclose Executive Board documents, including meeting minutes and statements as soon as the Public Information Notice of the Board discussion is posted online.</p> <p>Publish the Board's discussion schedule for a one-month duration (currently only 7-day period of the Board's schedule is posted).</p>	The disclosure of Board documents reflects perhaps the most credible demonstration of a presumption of disclosure of the Fund's decision-making processes , which is embodied by the Board members. Both shareholders and stakeholders would benefit from more transparency of Board procedures, through which they could better assess how their representatives are performing.
Article IV reports	Currently published only upon receiving " explicit written consent " from country authorities.	Revert to the more transparent 2001 policy of a presumption of disclosure where country reports were published expect when there was a written explanation for a refusal from country authorities.	Moves the IMF towards a true presumption of disclosure regime on its documents. A presumption of disclosure policy will not substantively changing the ability of member countries to withhold sensitive information.

