

RESOLUTION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONCERNING COUNTRY OBSERVERS

The Credentials Committee proposes the following resolution:

That the International Conference adopts the following policy for admitting observers from the 28th Conference onwards:

1. Observers from countries not represented by an accredited data protection authority may be admitted to the closed session. Such observers will be public bodies, usually having a significant responsibility for data protection activities within their country. Where more than one agency from a country seeks to attend and sufficient space is not available, the government of that country shall nominate the attendee on a one observer per country basis.
2. Admission of observers remains within the discretion of the Conference and the host but will normally be permitted subject to:
 - a. Available space;
 - b. The application for admission having been received by the host at least 1 month before the conference; and
 - c. The applicant having:
 - i. registered for the conference;
 - ii. met any administrative requirements imposed by the host (such as completing a form, supplying supporting documentation or paying additional fees).
3. Hosts are expected to make at least 4 places available for such observers.
4. Hosts may adjust the deadline for applications generally (and notify this in the place where conference registration details are publicised) and may waive or reduce the advance deadline requirement in a particular case.
5. This policy does not limit a host's discretion to admit other observers such as those representing Governmental International Organisations.

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Explanatory Note

At the previous conference, a matter was raised regarding ways in which the conference could better engage with the wider group of data protection bodies that do not meet the accreditation principles. The Credentials Committee understood that it would be useful

to the conference if it considered the issue to see if it could make suggestions for taking the matter forward.

The Committee does not recommend amendment to the credentials framework at this time. The accreditation principles reflect a substantial and recent consensus among participants and it is premature to propose substantial change unless the conference is agreed as to the direction that it would wish to take.

However, it was thought useful to look at the processes for admitting observers. Currently, the decision to permit attendance at the closed session, as an observer, is a matter vested in the host of each conference.

The Committee proposes that, subject to available space and registration at the general conference, any country not represented by an accredited data protection authority should be entitled to nominate a single observer to watch proceedings. It will be at the discretion of the hosts to decide on the total number of places available for observers, although a minimum of 4 places is suggested, and to decide whether to admit more than one observer from a country if space permits.