



43rd Closed Session of the Global Privacy Assembly

20 October 2021

Accreditation Resolution

Having regard to Rule 5.1 and Rule 5.3 of the GPA Rules and Procedures (Consolidated version, October 2020),

The 43rd Global Privacy Assembly Closed Session Meeting accredits the following new Members and Observers:

1. New Members

- Office of the Queensland Information Commissioner, **Australia**
- Commissioner of Data Protection, **Abu Dhabi Global Market**

2. New Observers

- National Data Protection Authority (Autoridade Nacional de Proteção de Dados), **Brazil**
- Saudi Data and AI Authority, **Saudi Arabia**
- Ministry of Transport and Communication, **Qatar**
- Data Protection Office, **Qatar Financial Centre**
- Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, **United States**
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, **United States**
- Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IAIHR)
- Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities Forum (APPA)

The Observer Status of existing Observers, which applied for renewal, has been granted:

- Association Francophone des autorités de protection des données personnelles (AFAPDP)
- African Network of Data Protection Authorities (Réseau Africain des Autorités de Protection des Données Personnelles - RAPDP)
- Common Thread Network (CTN)
- European Data Protection Board (EDPB)
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Industrial Security Directorate, Canada
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, India
- Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Department of Justice, United States
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), United States

Explanatory Note

The accreditation process begins when an applicant completes an online application to become a [Member](#) or [Observer](#). This application requires all relevant details to establish eligibility. The GPA Secretariat forwards each application to the Executive Committee members who have been assigned the responsibility to undertake the assessment. Each application has first been reviewed by an Accreditation Subcommittee, comprising three Executive Committee members, who are tasked with producing an accreditation recommendation for each candidate, subsequently approved by the Executive Committee as a whole.

Traditionally, the Accreditation Resolution would normally be adopted on the first day of the Annual Meeting during the Governance Matters session, where GPA members would have the opportunity to raise objections on the Executive Committee's recommendation. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decision of the Executive Committee to hold the 42nd Annual Meeting last year as an online event translated into the need to take a pragmatic and flexible approach to accreditation of new members. In view of the fact that the 43rd Annual Meeting, hosted by INAI Mexico, has also had to resort to online-only, it was decided to pursue the precedent set successfully at the 42nd Annual Meeting. As a result, mirroring the process for the accreditation of Observers, an objection period on the Executive Committee's recommendation of new members was also introduced, envisaging an electronic vote taking place on the Accreditation Resolution in the event an objection was raised.

With respect to the applications made by the Office of Commissioner of Data Protection, Abu Dhabi Global Market and the Office of the Queensland Information Commissioner, all membership criteria were fully met. The Abu Dhabi Global Market Authority was granted Observer status at the 40th (ICDDPC) Annual Meeting. Following legislative changes in its jurisdiction, the authority from Abu Dhabi has been found to meet the criteria for membership, having applied to upgrade its status this year. Accordingly, the Executive Committee decided to recommend the accreditation of these applicant authorities as GPA Members.

With regard to the application made by the Saudi Data and AI Authority, the authority did not meet the full membership criteria at this stage because the Saudi Data Protection Law had not been approved by national legislature by the deadline for new applications. Therefore, the Executive Committee recommended the authority for Observer status.

In accordance with the GPA Rules and Procedures, organisations for which the Executive Committee recommends an accreditation as GPA Observer are those public entities that do not meet the criteria provided for in Rule 5.1, but are involved in dealing with the protection of personal data and/or privacy; or international organisations whose activity is related to the protection of personal data or privacy; or any other organisation that has granted Observer status to the Assembly, under the principle of reciprocity.

In line with the GPA Rules and Procedures, where the Executive Committee supports an observer application, the Secretariat will circulate it to the membership and invite objections within a period designated by the Executive Committee. If no member objects within this period, the recommendation becomes the decision of the Assembly.