Oral report on behalf of the Website Working Group

I am honoured to present the report of the Conference Website Working Group.

First may I acknowledge the work of David Loukidelis, Information and Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia, who has chaired the Working Group. David has not been able to join us today and has asked me to present the report on his behalf. I am sure that the entire conference is grateful to David for his leadership in moving this project towards the goal of a permanent conference website. I am pleased that David is wiling to continue the work into next year.

May I also thank Gary Davis and Timothy Pilgrim from the Irish and Australian Commissioner's offices who have contributed to the work.

The usefulness of a permanent website for the conference has been recognised for several years now. The case for the website continues to strengthen. For example, the Credentials Committee's earlier this morning reported on tot need for accessible working documents of previous committees. Undoubtedly, the newly established Steering Group on International Representation will similarly benefit through an online facility.

The Website Working Group has worked hard to explore the technical, content and organisational needs for an enduring and effective permanent website presence. The OECD has also been exploring the feasibility of a common website platform to assist in cross-border cooperation in the enforcement of laws protecting privacy. Accordingly, the Working Group has invested some effort in exploring with OECD representatives the scope for collaboration. These discussions have been fruitful but are not yet complete.

The Website Working Group has proposed, in its resolution, to further explore the issues with the OECD. If those discussions conclude satisfactorily, the proposed resolution enables practical steps to be taken to establish a website before the next conference, by following a process to seek inter-sessional approval, or if that is not possible to bring the matter back to the 31st Conference for approval.

If, after further exploration, it appears that the Conference's needs cannot be met at acceptable cost by a joint effort with the OECD, the Working Group will explore alternative

website arrangements. They may include, for example, a website created and maintained by one or more volunteer data protection authorities. If this option is taken the resolution anticipates steps being taken to bring that website into reality, following inter-sessional approval, or if that cannot be achieved by brining the matter back to the 31st Conference.

I commend the Website Working Group's plan for bringing a permanent website to a reality and propose the resolution for consideration.