

37th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Amsterdam, 27 October 2015

Resolution on Conference's Strategic Direction (2016-18)

The 37th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners:

Recalling that:

- a. The 33rd Conference adopted rules and procedures that anticipated the closed session defining the Conference's 'strategic direction':¹
- b. The closed session forms the core of the Conference and provides all members with the opportunity to participate in setting the Conference's strategic priorities:
- c. The 35th Conference adopted an Initial Strategic Plan for 2014 and 2015:²
- d. The 35th Conference established a Strategic Plan Working Group to prepare, in close liaison with the Executive Committee, a revised set of strategic priorities and action plan to commence in 2016:³

The 37th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners therefore resolves to:

1. Adopt the Strategic Plan (2016 to 2018) set out in the Annex to commence in 2016.
2. Direct the Executive Committee at the appropriate time to review the Conference's strategic priorities and prepare, for consideration at the 40th Conference, a revised set of strategic priorities and action plan to commence in 2019.
3. Authorise the Executive Committee to convene working groups to assist with implementation of the action plan or review.

¹ See Conference's [rules and procedures](#), clause 2.1(i).

² See Conference [Mission and Vision](#) and [Strategic Plan](#).

³ See [Resolution on Conference's Strategic Direction](#), 2013.

Annex: Conference Strategic Plan 2016 - 2018

Part A: The Conference's mission

The Vision:

An environment in which privacy and data protection authorities around the world are able effectively to act to fulfil their mandates, both individually and in concert, through diffusion of knowledge and supportive connections.

The Mission:

The Conference seeks:

- To be an outstanding global forum for privacy and data protection authorities.
- To disseminate knowledge, and provide practical assistance, to help authorities more effectively to perform their mandates.
- To provide leadership at international level in data protection and privacy.
- To connect and support efforts at domestic and regional level, and in other international forums, to enable authorities better to protect and promote privacy and data protection.

Part B: Strategic priorities 2016 – 2018

For 2016 to 2018 the Conference's Strategic priorities include:

- A. Strengthening Our Connections, Working With Partners.
- B. Advancing Global Privacy in a Digital Age.
- C. Completing Conference Capacity building.
- D. Assessing Our Effectiveness.

Part C: Action Plan 2016– 2018

The following goals for 2016 to 2018 will support the strategic priorities:

A. *Strengthening Our Connections, Working With Partners*

- a. Improve observer arrangements to ensure we have two way⁴ effective connections between international organisations and the Conference.

⁴ 'Two way' refers both to attendance of international organisations as observers before the closed session of the Conference and also attendance by Conference delegates at closed meetings of International Organisations.

- b. Develop supportive connections between networks involved in cross-border data protection and privacy enforcement.
- c. Explore ways in which the Conference and regional forums of DPAs can better connect and enrich each other.
- d. Develop new and better ways to collaborate to develop, and share results of, education and research efforts.

B. *Advancing Global Privacy in a Digital Age*

- a. Where appropriate to offer advice, and provide assistance, to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy.
- b. Develop common approaches and tools for data protection and privacy.

C. *Completing Conference Capacity building*

- a. Complete or build upon the work of the Strategic Direction Working Group e.g. implement a scheme for funding the Secretariat.

D. *Assessing Our Effectiveness*

- a. Review resolutions adopted since 2003 to better understand whether resolution-making has been effective to date and to identify room for improvement.
- b. Develop and execute a plan for making conference resolutions more effective.

Explanatory note

This resolution proposes that the Conference adopt a new 3 year strategic plan (2016-18) to continue after the expiry of the initial two year strategic plan (2014-15). The strategic plan has been developed by the Strategic Direction Working Group and the Executive Committee.

The Plan has three parts:

A. *The Mission*

The Conference mission statement is unchanged from the statement adopted in 2013. It in two parts:

- The vision – a description of state of affairs that we hope to reach, an end-point or goal.
- The mission - a statement of the Conference's rationale, applicable now as well as in the future; the mission is the means of successfully achieving the vision.

While the Conference is free to revise the mission at any time, it might be expected to remain unchanged for many years.

B. The strategic priorities

The proposal is to set several high level priorities. This will allow actions to be focused and more effective.

Several of the priorities are directed towards reviewing and refining the Conference and enhancing its capacity for action. In addition to such 'inward looking' priorities the plan includes several 'outward looking' priorities to work with external partners and to influence the external environment.

Not all the Conference's actions will be directed to areas of strategic priority. The Conference will continue to engage in ad hoc activities proposed by the membership through resolutions, by hosts or at the initiative of the Executive Committee. However, the strategic priorities will be areas where sustained action is warranted.

C. The Action plan

The action plan outlines some practical and achievable goals to achieve in the relevant time-span. Each action supports one or more strategic direction. The Executive Committee may convene working groups to assist with aspects of implementation.

The Executive Committee is directed to recommend a new strategic plan to replace this plan in 3 years' time.