



SUMMARY OF THE 58TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Executive Committee Meeting: 8 April 2020

The Executive Committee held its 58th meeting on 8 April 2020 by teleconference.

The meeting was chaired by UK Information Commissioner, Elizabeth Denham CBE, Chair of the Global Privacy Assembly.

COVID-19

The Chair noted the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both lives and jurisdictions and emphasised the positive step that the GPA has taken with the publication of the GPA Executive Committee Statement, demonstrating pragmatism and recognising that data protection should not stand in the way of critical sharing of information to tackle the pandemic.

The Chair noted that the GPA membership was invited to attend a joint online workshop organised by OECD with the support of the GPA, with the theme “Addressing the Data Governance and Privacy Challenges in the Fight against COVID-19”, on 15 April 2020. The objective of the workshop is to discuss emerging trends and early lessons learned, and how GPA members can best cooperate with other key stakeholders.

GPA 2020

After careful consideration of the unprecedented current global circumstances, the Executive Committee accepted the INAI Mexico’s decision to postpone this year’s in-person Conference. The Committee agreed that the Mexico 2020 in-person GPA should be postponed until October 2021, with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of New Zealand to postpone its planned hosting of the GPA until 2022. The GPA Secretariat will launch the host bid for 2023 in due course.

The Chair emphasised that 2020 must not be a lost year for the GPA. Consequently, the Executive Committee has tasked the GPA Secretariat to explore options on ways to meet on a suitable, secure digital platform, to achieve the essential elements of the Assembly’s Closed Session in 2020.

GPA POLICY STRATEGY

The Chair reiterated the importance of the long-term GPA Policy Strategy implementation. The meeting acknowledged both the commitment and productive work of the Strategic Direction Sub-Committee (SDSC), chaired by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, during the first quarter of 2020, making operational the Policy Strategy as adopted in Tirana. The SDSC has ensured the joined-up approaches between the GPA Working Groups and a clear reporting framework to the Executive Committee. The



Executive Committee agreed with the SDSC proposal on the mechanism for issuing Joint Statements on emerging issues, which is an important step in enabling the GPA to have a strong voice throughout the year.

OTHER GPA MATTERS

Due to the current global circumstances and wanting to reduce burdens on members at the current time, the Executive Committee also agreed to defer the GPA 2020 Census, until later in the year. The Committee agreed that efforts would be concentrated on finalising the questionnaire and its translation into languages of the Assembly, whilst deferring the launch to members. The aim is to publish the results of the GPA 2020 Census in early 2021.

The Chair will consult with the Executive Committee members regarding the latest developments from the Future of the Conference Working Group, notably options for a Permanent Secretariat.

The GPA will work in pursuit of its Strategic Direction adopted in 2019, to ensure that its work continues to make a positive impact for global cooperation, in the current challenging climate.