

**Resolution on achieving global data protection standards: FAQs**

Resolution on Achieving global data protection standards: Principles for ensuring high levels of data protection and privacy worldwide

**FAQs**

1. What is the aim of the 2023 GPA Resolution on Achieving global data protection standards: Principles to ensure high levels of data protection and privacy worldwide?

The Resolution[[1]](#footnote-1) aims to positively impact global data protection law, policy and practice, by setting out the key principles, rights and other elements that GPA members agree are important to achieve high data protection standards in today’s digital economy and that should be implemented in data protection laws, policies and practices worldwide.

1. Why is the Resolution important?

High global data protection standards are vital to provide increased protections for people and certainty for organisations, wherever personal data flows.

The 130+ members of the GPA unanimously agreed the resolution in October 2023 – so the resolution demonstrates a common understanding of, and approach to, data protection principles among the data protection and privacy authorities of the world. This can encourage and support global cooperation on promoting the responsible use of data, in light of the similar challenges we all face, for example in relation to new technologies such as AI.

Greater global coherence on underpinning high standards is also a helpful pre-requisite for managing risks around global data transfers and to contribute in the longer term towards interoperability of global data flows.

1. What does the Resolution say?

The Resolution highlights the value of global standards regarding data protection and privacy and promotes a number of updated high-level principles, rights and other elements important to achieving high standards of personal data protection and privacy in the context of today’s global digital economy.

The Resolution provides vital updates to, and builds on, the 2009 GPA Madrid Resolution’s[[2]](#footnote-2) propositions on international standards on the protection of privacy with regard to the processing of personal data, including but not limited to:

* lawfulness and fairness;
* purpose specification;
* proportionality;
* data quality;
* openness;
* privacy by design and default; and
* accountability.
1. What are some of the key updates and inclusions?

In addition to updating the general privacy principles adopted in the original Madrid Resolution, the Resolution refers to several declarations and position papers that provide insights into current approaches to data protection law, regulation and best practices, and support high standards globally. These include:

* [GPA Resolution on Government Access to Data, Privacy and the Rule of Law: Principles for Governmental Access to Personal Data held by the Private Sector for National Security and Public Safety Purposes](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/20211025-GPA-Resolution-Government-Access-Final-Adopted_.pdf);
* [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities;](https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0487)
* Existing and development of new international transfer safeguards and regimes, including those that promote multilateral cooperation and interoperability; and
* Updated conventions and guidelines from the United Nations, the Council of Europe and other non-governmental organizations.
1. Do the principles set out in the Resolution provide anything that isn’t already set out in data protection laws?

The principles in the Resolution are mostly familiar, though they don’t all exist in all data protection laws. The Resolution also includes important updates that reflect both regulatory and legislative developments as well as the application of case law and best practices, for example:

* the ability of data subjects to exercise their rights and freedoms anywhere in the world and to have redress mechanisms available to do so effectively;
* development of the concept of effective and independent supervisory authorities for not only monitoring but also outreach and training; and
* the application of the principles to advanced technology, cybersecurity risks and the digital economy.
1. How will the standards be applied?

In the Resolution, the GPA members agree to:

* Advocate for, promulgate and promote the principles, rights and other elements set out in this resolution, to ensure they can be effectively implemented and applied in all contexts, particularly in the processing of data with new and emerging technologies and innovations; and
* Call on law and policy makers to consult data protection and privacy authorities as trusted expert advisers when enacting and amending data protection, privacy and related laws.
1. What can my organisation do to promote the Resolution’s principles and implement high data protection standards?

There are a few helpful things organisations can do to spread the message of the Resolution and its important content and principles:

*Outreach sessions* – call GFSWG members to support any webinars or other outreach you want to conduct in your organisation or jurisdiction;

*Social Media posts* – use your organisation's social media channels to share the publicly available Resolution and supporting documents. Social media package and promotion materials are available through the GFSWG members; and

*DPA engagement* – contact your local data protection authority to see how they can support you through guidance, advice and consultation, or other supervisory assistance.

1. [3.-Resolution-Achieving-global-DP-standards.pdf (globalprivacyassembly.org)](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/3.-Resolution-Achieving-global-DP-standards.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [14302 STANDARS.qxp:Maquetación 1 (globalprivacyassembly.org)](https://globalprivacyassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/The-Madrid-Resolution.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)