

**85th Meeting of the GPA Executive Committee**

**February 03, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Chair: Ventsislav Karadjov, President Commissioner (Bulgaria)

Morocco: Souhaila Chaoui, in representation of President Commissioner Omar Seghrouchni

Bulgaria: Ventsislav Karadjov, President Commissioner

Jersey: Paul Vane, Commissioner

Korea: Haksoo Ko, Chairperson

Mexico:               Haroldo Sanchez, in representation of Commissioner Josefina Román Vergara

Dubai: Lori Baker, Vice President – Data Protection & Regulatory Compliance

South Africa: Pansy Tlakula, Chairperson

Secretariat: National Privacy Commission

**Item 1: Welcome and Scene-Setter**

Chairman Ventsislav Karadjov welcomed the members present and confirmed the existence of a quorum. Moreover, members were asked as to whether they received the Minutes of the 84th Meeting of the GPA Executive Committee and if there are questions regarding said meeting.

Chairperson Pansy Tlakula mentioned that they did not receive a notification for the 84th Meeting. In this regard, Chairman Karadjov requested to verify the email address of the Information Regulator of South Africa.

Afterwards, the Minutes of the 84th Executive Committee Meeting and the agenda for the 85th Meeting were adopted.

**Item 2: Welcome Remarks from the Interim Chair**

Chairman Karadjov began by thanking Mexico and the Philippines for the backup for the unexpected transition and further showing his appreciation to Mexico for the outstanding work they delivered in promoting privacy efforts worldwide.

In addition, Chairman Karadjov expressed his gratitude for the trust reposed in him as Interim Chair of the GPA’s ExCo, introduced himself, and highlighted his extensive experience in data privacy and protection.

**Item 3: Updates on the GPA Conference 2025**

Director Yoon Jeong Choi provided an update on the Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) Korea’s preparations for the upcoming 47th GPA Annual Meeting on 16-19 September 2025 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul:

* The first two days, 16 and 17 September 2025 will consist of Open Sessions while the last two days on 18 and 19 September 2025 will feature Closed Sessions.
* On 15 September 2025, in addition to the Welcome Reception, PIPC is planning pre-event activities such as site visits to Korean companies at the forefront of technology and other cultural events.
* The theme for this year’s Assembly is Artificial Intelligence in our Daily Lives: Data and Privacy Issues. This is designed to explore AI’s impact on privacy, innovation, and governance while also showcasing privacy enhancing technologies and best practices.
* The official website for this year’s annual meeting is now live but the registration page is yet to open. PIPC will inform the members once it is available.
* In the coming months, PIPC will focus on finalizing the agenda, confirming the speakers, and ensuring seamless logistical coordination.

Chairperson Tlakula raised the question on whether there will be payment of registration fees. Director Choi answered in the affirmative. Chairperson Haksoo Ko added that information regarding this will be updated on the website.

Chairman Karadjov thereafter requested a separate meeting with the PIPC and the Secretariat regarding the possibility of early bird discounts or other kinds of incentives.

In addition, Chairperson Tlakula asked if the payment of subscription fees will have a bearing on the amount of registration fees. To answer, Chairman Karadjov stated that he understands that the subscription fee is for administrative processes of the Secretariat but he believes there may be a need to think of incentives for the members with which they are already in talks with the Secretariat regarding the matter.

**Item 4: Selection of the SDSC Subcommittee and its Chair**

The Secretariat presented the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Direction Subcommittee (SDSC) including its functions and constitution.

Chairman Karadjov inquired as to whether Mexico would like to stay in the SDSC. Haroldo Sanchez answered that in view of the current situation of INAI, it would not be possible for them to participate in the SDSC.

In line with this, Chairman Karadjov asked for volunteers to be members of the SDSC. Dubai volunteered to be the Chair. Also, South Africa and Jersey volunteered to be members of the SDSC.

**Item 5: Selection of the Accreditation Subcommittee**

Chairman Karadjov stated that there are usually three (3) members of this Subcommittee who will assess applications that will be transmitted to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will be opening the application cycle for 2025-2026 by February and the deadline will be in July 2026.

Jersey signified its intention to withdraw their participation in the Accreditation Subcommittee. On the other hand, Morocco, Bulgaria, and Korea volunteered to be members, with Korea acting as Chair.

**Item 6: Selection of the Host Bid Assessments Subcommittee**

Chairman Karadjov asked for volunteers to be members of this Subcommittee. Jersey volunteered to Chair while South Africa, Dubai, Morocco, and Korea agreed to be members.

**Item 7: Presentation on the proposed timetable for resolutions 2025**

The Secretariat presented the proposed timetable for resolutions 2025. Chairman Karadjov thereafter opened the floor for members’ comments.

The Morocco Authority inquired as to whether they will have to notify the Secretariat of an intention to submit a resolution between April 07-11,2025 and that they are still awaiting the members who will be joining the groups and further clarified as to how it will be organized.

The Secretariat replied that it had already sent to the members a call to join the working groups and set the deadline by the middle of February. An updated list will subsequently be sent to the Working Group Chairs by the end of February.

Having no other concerns from the members, Chairman Karadjov then declared the timetable for resolutions 2025 as adopted.

**Item 8: 4th Quarter Report of the NPC-GPA Fee-funded Secretariat**

The Secretariat presented the status of collection for 2024 and the budget of the GPA Secretariat for 2025.

* Target collections for 2024 total USD 227,586.00. These are classified in different tiers with corresponding fees with one hundred thirty-six (136) members, six of which are exempted. As of 31 December 2024, there are forty-seven (47) paid members and eighty-three (83) unpaid.
* The GPA Secretariat Budget for 2025 total USD 218,598.93. This is composed of USD 164,732.27 for human resources and USD 53,866.67 in administrative costs.

Chairman Karadjov asked who the unpaid medium and high tier members are. He further asked the Secretariat to furnish him with a list of countries in Europe that remain unpaid and their corresponding tier to determine any concerns in paying.

In the same manner, Chairperson Tlakula suggested that Morocco act as secretariat for the African countries. Also, Mariana Gomez of INAI Mexico volunteered to do the same for the Latin-America network.

Paul Vane inquired if there is any reasoning provided for these countries’ non-payment. Chairman Karadjov expressed that it could be due to the lack of incentives for paying on time. Thus, he stated that incentives or discounts should be developed for the annual events in order for the people to see the benefits of being a member of the Assembly.

Chairperson Tlakula stated that when Mexico was the Secretariat, there were no payment of subscription fees. The Secretariat clarified that on the basis of the Adopted Resolution during the 43rd Closed Session, the funds are allotted for the Secretariat operation only since this Resolution also provided that the GPA will have a fee-funded Secretariat to have a stable Secretariat moving forward. INAI Mexico supported such statement in view of the abovementioned Resolution.

Chairman Karadjov questioned the inclusion of the consultants, specifically as to how they will contribute to the work of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat mentioned that since it is the first time of the Philippines to act as one, it is vital to have the guidance of the consultants for the logistical and administrative aspects in presiding the Closed Sessions.

Chairperson Ko requested that relevant material be circulated ahead of the Executive Committee meeting. Chairperson Karadjov agreed that such information be released on a quarterly basis to apprise the members as to how the money is being spent.

The Secretariat confirmed that these materials will be circulated after this meeting.

**Item 9: Presentation of the Budget Allocation of the Secretariat**

Chairperson Karadjov mentioned that the budget allocations have already been discussed unless the Secretariat has other matters to share. The Secretariat stated that there are none.

To add, Chairperson Karadjov asked for a copy of these budget allocations. He further requested that he, together with Morocco and Mexico be furnished with the list of countries that have not yet paid their fees.

**Item 10: AOB**

Chairperson Ko invited the members to the AI Action Summit in Paris, France where the PIPC together with the OECD and the French CNIL will have a roundtable event. The event which can be attended online, will focus on data governance and privacy in the age of AI.

The Secretariat stated that should PIPC require assistance in promoting said event, it could publish details regarding the event on the website and other social media platforms.

Moreover, the Secretariat confirmed that it will send the allocated GPA Budget quarterly including any expenses incurred.

Additionally, the Secretariat extended an invitation for the Philippines’ Privacy Awareness Week 2025. It informed the members that it will be sending the invites soon and that the National Privacy Commission will shoulder their transportation and accommodation expenses should they decide to attend.

Morocco raised the issue that some members are asking for the results of the voting regarding the resolution on surveillance since the voting was not done during the Closed Session, but virtually instead.

The Secretariat answered that during its transition meeting with INAI, said resolution has already been adopted and is already for posting on the website.

Mariana confirmed that INAI is in the process of uploading the resolution on the website and it will coordinate with the Secretariat once it has been published.

No additional matters were raised. The meeting was adjourned.