



GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2025

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards, please complete and email this form to secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **no later than 16 June 2025**.

Note: GPA member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish, but a separate form should be used for each different entry, submitted by the deadline above.

Languages: The GPA documentation Rule 6.2¹ applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection Authority: PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION OF MALI (APDP-MALI)

Authority:

MAMOUDOU SAMASSEKOU

Person completing this form:

First name

Last name

PRESIDENT

Job title:

contact@apdp.ml mamoudousamassekou@apdp.ml

Email address:

2. ELIGIBILITY

By submitting this entry, I confirm that (*please tick all boxes to confirm*):

- ☒ The Authority is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly
- ☒ The initiative described in this entry was undertaken before 16 June 2025.
- ☒ I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the GPA Secretariat.

3. CATEGORIES

Please indicate which category you wish to enter.

*Please tick **one**; please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:*

- ☐ Education and Public Awareness
- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Dispute Resolution and Enforcement
- ☒ Innovation

¹ [GPA Rules and Procedures](#), Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':

Without prejudice to section 4.2, Assembly documents, including accreditation and observer applications may be submitted in English or in another language. In the latter case, the documents shall be accompanied by an English version. Members with the ability and the resources to do so are encouraged to translate proposed resolutions and other Assembly documents such as the Assembly Rules and Procedures.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

a. Please provide a brief summary of the initiative (no more than 75 words)

As part of its 10 year anniversary celebration, APDP-Mali organized, in a partnership with the Kurukanfuga University of Mali, the first symposium of its kind on “Personal Data Protection: Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities for Africa” the 8-9th April 2025.

b. Please provide a full description of the initiative (no more than 350 words)

The symposium on “Personal Data Protection: Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities for Africa” is both ambitious and highly relevant. It resonates deeply in our time, as digital technologies continue to reshape our lifestyles, social interactions, economies, and systems of governance.

Today, personal data has become the raw material of the digital economy. Its collection and use raise immense challenges—especially regarding privacy, security, and digital sovereignty. Protecting personal data is not about hindering technological progress, but about ensuring its ethical, controlled, and rights-respecting use. It is a democratic imperative, a matter of public trust, and a key condition for building a sovereign and responsible digital future for our continent.

Through the Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (APDP), Mali is committed to fostering a culture of data protection. This political will has led to major progress in recent years, including the constitutional recognition of the right to personal data protection in the Constitution of July 23, 2023, and the criminalization of data breaches under Law No. 2024-027 of December 13, 2024, with strong deterrent penalties.

However, despite these advances, many challenges remain. They mirror the exponential growth of digital usage in our societies. We must continuously adapt our legal frameworks, strengthen technical and human capacities, guide young people in their digital practices, regulate organizational behaviors, and ensure that personal data protection is not a privilege for a few, but a real and accessible right for all.

In this context, the symposium takes on its full meaning. Over two days, scientific discussions, shared experiences, and cross-sector reflections have helped provide a realistic assessment of achievements across our countries. More importantly, they have clarified the challenges ahead and revealed the opportunities we can collectively seize to shape an African digital future that is ethical, inclusive, and grounded in respect for human rights.

c. Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award
(no more than 200 words)

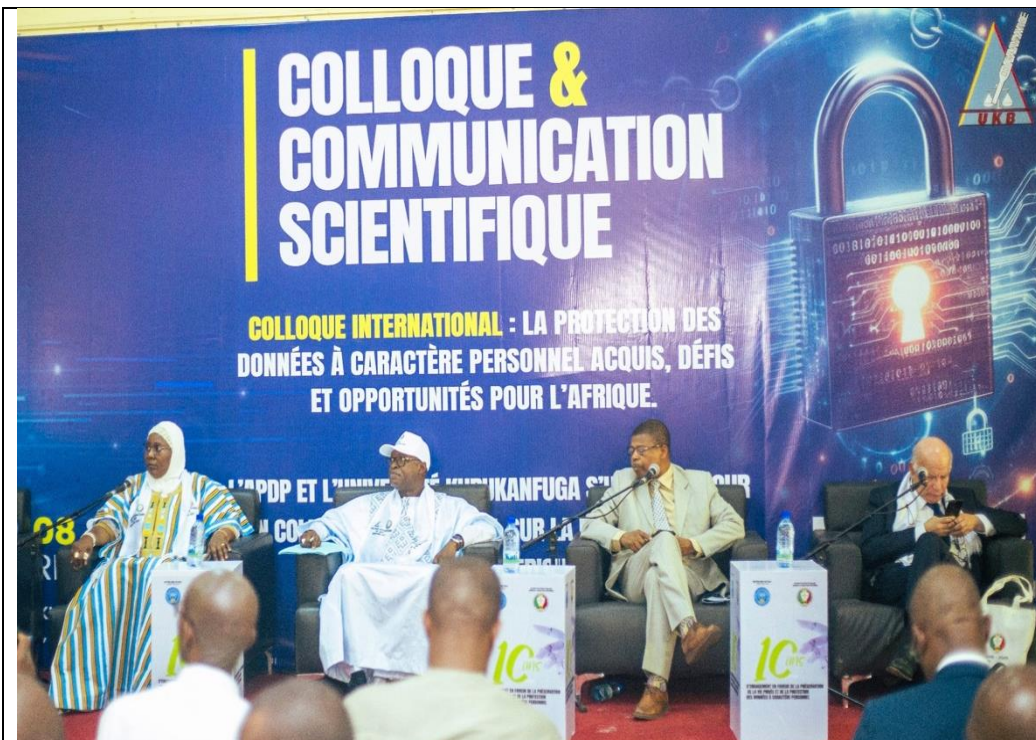
The symposium on “Personal Data Protection: Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities for Africa” is a strategic initiative that fully deserves recognition through an award, both for the relevance of its theme and its pan-African scope.

As the continent undergoes rapid digital transformation, this high-level forum provided a vital platform to assess progress in data protection while identifying common challenges faced by African countries, such as weak legal frameworks, limited technical resources, and insufficient public awareness.

The symposium also highlighted the opportunities offered by tailored data governance in connection with digital sovereignty, the digital economy, and regional cooperation. It facilitated meaningful dialogue among data protection authorities, academics, public policymakers, and private sector actors, encouraging the sharing of best practices and the harmonization of legal frameworks across the continent.

By initiating such a collective and inclusive reflection, the symposium has played a key role in strengthening African capacities for ethical data management. Through its intellectual, institutional, and strategic impact, it stands as a model of continental integration and forward-thinking. For these reasons, it is fully deserving of an excellence award.

d. Please include a photograph or image, if you wish (This will be published with your entry on the GPA website. The image can be pasted into the box below, be sent as an attachment or a link may be provided)



The first inaugural panel during the launch ceremony of the International Symposium “Personal Data Protection: Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities for Africa” held on April 8-9 2025.

From left to right: **Dr Halguiéta NASSA/TRAWINA**, President of Commission for Information Technology and Freedoms (CIL) (Burkina Faso); **Pr Mamoudou SAMASSEKOU**, President of APDP-Mali; **M Adamou IRO**, President of the High Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (HAPDP) (Niger); **M Omar SEGHTROUCHNI**, President of The National Control Commission for the Protection of Personal Data (CNDP) (Morocco)

- e. Please provide the most relevant link on the authority’s website to the initiative, if applicable (*The website content does not need to be in English*)

<https://apdp.ml/events/-----/>

<https://apdp.ml/events/-----/>

- f. Please provide any other relevant links that help explain the initiative or its impact or success (*e.g. links to news reports or articles*):

<https://orbiteinfo.com/dix-ans-de-lapdp-un-colloque-international-pour-repenser-la-souverainete-numerique-en-afrique/>

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid034MAn3ZtYXJE5hnoFCeYBTTe79UbAjFsfKbvP3pwz4pHD4owRbvxc8Nwy1RTAyJmSI&id=100082947927455&mibextid=Nif5oz&rdr

<https://malitribune.com/haute-autorite-de-protection-des-donnees-a-caractere-personnel-la-structure-souffle-sa-10eme-bougie/>

<https://nyelenimagazine.org/colloque-international-des-10-ans-de-lapdp-vers-la-souverainete-numerique-de-lafrigue/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=645318004926678>