



## **88th Meeting of the GPA Executive Committee July 28, 2025**

### **Attendees:**

Chair:	Borislav Bozhinov, Chairperson, Bulgarian Commission for Personal Data Protection
Morocco:	Omar Seghrouchni, President Commissioner, National Commission for the Protection of Personal Data Protection (CNDP)
Korea:	Haksoo Ko, Chairperson
Dubai:	Lori Baker, Vice President – Data Protection & Regulatory Compliance
South Africa:	Pansy Tlakula, Chairperson
Secretariat:	National Privacy Commission

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

The GPA Chair - Bulgarian Commission for Personal Data Protection, presided over the 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GPA Executive Committee (ExCo) and welcomed the members present and confirmed the existence of a quorum.

Thereafter, the Chair inquired if there are any comments on the Minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting. None of the members raised any issue. The 87<sup>th</sup> Minutes of the Meeting was therefore adopted. Then, the Secretariat presented the agenda for the 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The Chair asked if there are any additional matters from the members. The Secretariat requested the Chair for the inclusion of membership concerns and payment of fees in any other business.

There being no concerns from the members, the Minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> ExCo Meeting and the agenda for the 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting were adopted.

### **Item 2: Updates on the GPA Conference 2025**

The Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) of Korea provided an update in relation to its preparations for the upcoming 47<sup>th</sup> GPA Annual Meeting in Seoul, Korea:

- PIPC presented the Program for the Global Privacy Assembly and mentioned the key date which will take place from 15 to 19 September 2025 preceded by a welcome reception on 15 September 2025 to kick off the event.
- Speaker invitations are now in the final stage. There are five (5) distinguished keynote speakers.
- Program will discuss key issues. Details can be found in the updated program draft.
- PIPC will also host pre-events on 05 September 2025 on a pre-registration basis.
- Networking opportunities will be provided by a reception hosted by various organizations.
- Participants will enjoy and create opportunities to experience some city tours, k-food, etc.
- Early bird registration with 10% discount has been extended until 08 August 2025. Final registration will close by the end of August.

South Africa inquired about the information on the website of the GPA and the regional reports. The Chair clarified that there is a different and separate website for GPA registration. The updated program will then be circulated.

### **Item 3: Closed Session Program for the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The Secretariat presented the draft Closed Session Program for the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly with the comments previously received and asked whether the members have any further comments.

A member asked about a concern regarding the payment of the registration fee of the Assembly. The Secretariat will share the details to the members for proper coordination with the host authority. The next version will be circulated in the next meeting this September.

### **Item 4: Updates from SDSC**

Lori Baker, Chair of the Strategic Direction Sub-Committee (SDSC), will have a meeting on 29 July 2025 with ICO for feedback and hopefully, it will be submitted by the end of the week with any other additions or changes.

The working group chairs are getting their annual reports in. There will be another working group chairs' meeting sometime at the end of August for any updates during the Closed Session in Seoul, Korea.

### **Item 5: Updates on the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Award 2025**

The Chair mentioned that the Secretariat received 76 entries, 33 projects for public education and awareness, 18 projects for innovation and 14 projects for accountability and 11 projects for dispute resolution and enforcement. It will be uploaded for voting in August.

The Secretariat reported that it is still waiting for feedback from the ExCo members. Nonetheless, it shared the initial result of the GPA Awards. There are 9 shortlisted entries for education and public awareness, 7 entries for innovation, 7 entries for

accountability and 7 entries for dispute resolution. Once the entries for initial votes from the ExCo members are completed, the Secretariat will circulate the feedback.

#### **Item 6: Presentation of the proposed host authority for the GPA Annual Meeting 2027**

The Secretariat reported that Commissioner Paul Vane, the Chairperson of the Reference Panel, submitted their initial recommendation as the host bid authority subcommittee. However, Commissioner Vane requested for additional time to further assess the application that was received by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will provide updates to the members once it receives Commissioner Vane's recommendation.

#### **Item 7: Updates from the Accreditation Subcommittee**

The Chair reported that there are 4 member applications and 10 observer applications. Chairperson Ko, the Chair of the Accreditation Subcommittee, added that out of the 10, there are 7 new observer applications and 3 observer applications for renewal.

Chairperson Ko shared that they have reviewed preliminary reviewed application materials and have not found any serious deficiencies in the documentation. For observer applications, more applicant authorities have submitted their applications.

As regards the schedule of eligibility, the committee will have a subcommittee meeting for accreditation between 12 and 14 August 2025. The plan is to submit the result of accreditation subcommittee to the Executive Committee by 18 August 2025.

#### **Item 8: Updates of the NPC-GPA Fee-funded Secretariat regarding fund management**

The Secretariat presented updates on the status of collections for calendar year 2025 invoices and the summary of the approved budget utilization as of 25 July 2025.

#### **Item 9: AOB**

As raised by the Secretariat, there are certain GPA members who have expressed their intention for the non-renewal of their membership. The Secretariat gave recommendations for the next steps for approval.

There were also concerns on the payment of membership fees. The Secretariat informed the body of Adopted Resolution of the Conference and the Secretariat, 43<sup>rd</sup> Closed Session, October 2021 and thereafter, recommended the next steps for approval.

The Chair remarked that the recommendations are reasonable and therefore, suggested to support them.

South Africa asked about the reason why other authorities have expressed their intention to withdraw their membership. The Secretariat stated that some authorities have withdrawn their membership due to their concerns on payment of fees.

Chairperson Ko inquired whether there are separate rules or provision regarding withdrawal of membership. The Secretariat clarified that currently, the rules and procedures do not have any provision on withdrawal of membership due to non-payment of the fees. However, there is a working group on amending the rules and procedures and would take the matter into consideration in the revision thereof.

Chairperson Ko then agreed to the recommendation for the next steps.

#### **Item 10: Giovanni Buttarelli Awards 2025**

A member asked about having special recognition. Chairperson Ko commented that they can possibly consider but it is not a prerogative for PIPC to determine. Before making a decision, there should be deliberation of the significance and the contribution that the individual has made. The determination must be based on the contribution of the individual in its role in the GPA. He added that steps must be taken in that regard. The Chair suggested to include it in the next meeting for comments.

The Chair stated the list of nominees for the Giovanni Buttarelli Award and asked for comments from the members. The Chair remarked that the list was cutdown to 5 nominees.

EDPS reported that they have proposed to shorten the list and now, from having 10 candidates, it was cut down to 3 to 5 candidates, in order to ease the process of election of the recipient of the award.

Mrs. Buttarelli, on behalf of the Buttarelli family, thanked everyone for the opportunity to be part of the process and shared that she looks forward in listening to all the discussion and contributing later, if useful. She added that during the process and to be on schedule, she will be taking notes to share with the family.

EDPS then shared the shortlist of candidates. Chairperson Ko clarified whether the concern is on the recipient of the award or the procedure of the determination of the award. The Chair explained that the procedure is the same. The Secretariat narrated the process for the determination of the award. The Chair suggested to have the voting for the Giovanni Buttarelli Awards 2025 on 29 July 2025.

The EDPS thanked everyone for the opportunity to be part of the discussion and agreed with the decision of having a shortlist of 3 to 5 persons.

No additional matters were raised. The meeting was adjourned.