



**Resolution giving directions to the
Steering Group to consider seeking
observer representation before
Internet Governance Forum,
London Action Plan and ICANN**

Available in: English

31st International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Madrid, Spain
4 – 6 November 2009

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The Steering Group proposes the following resolution:

The 31st International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners:

1. Notes that the Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations has, in accordance with directions given by the 30th Conference, sought or obtained observer representation before the appropriate committees or working groups of APEC, Council of Europe, ISO and OECD;
2. Further notes that while the Steering Group has not considered it appropriate to seek representation before the International Law Commission, International Telecommunications Union and UNESCO at this stage that it plans to continue to explore the usefulness of seeking representation at a future date; and
3. Now directs the Steering Group to explore the usefulness of obtaining observer representation, and if appropriate to obtain observer representation from the following:
 - a) Internet Governance Forum;
 - b) London Action Plan (on spam); and
 - c) Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Proposed by the Data Protection Authorities from: Australia, Canada, European Data Protection Supervisor, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain

Steering Group on Representation before International Organisations

Explanatory Note

The Steering Group has reviewed the international scene and recommends that the Conference give it additional directions to seek observer status, if warranted, from three further international bodies.

The [Internet Governance Forum](#) (IGF) was established to support the United Nations Secretary-General in carrying out the mandate from the World Summit on the

Information Society (WSIS) for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue. The IGF facilitates discussion on Internet governance issues through that website, workshops and through an annual meeting (in 2009 to be held in Egypt). Being an observer to this forum would give a higher visibility to data protection issues and enhance engagement with elements interested in Internet issues.

The [London Action Plan](#), a joint initiative of several international organisations. This is a group of enforcement authorities that aim to coordinate action in relation to spam. Several data protection authorities already participate in this forum.

[ICANN](#) describes itself as a 'not-for-profit public benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable'. It develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers.

These forums are less formal than traditional international governmental organisations. However, that does not mean that they are unimportant. In the challenging area of Internet regulation and enforcement, it may be that new means of innovative cooperation in standard setting and enforcement are needed.

While the Steering Group has identified these groups as of potential interest to the Conference it has not completed a detailed evaluation. The direction sought in the resolution will provide a basis for the Steering Group to take the matter further. Further examination of the bodies' work plans for 2010 and beyond will assist in determining whether engagement as an observer will offer value to all parties. The Steering Group will also examine logistical issues including whether there are DPAs available to be the Conference's delegates.