Strategic Plan 2023-2025

45th Closed Session of the Global Privacy Assembly

October 2023

Resolution on the GPA's Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

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The 45th Global Privacy Assembly 2023:

Recalling that:

a) The 33rd International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, now the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) adopted rules and procedures that anticipated the closed session defining the Assembly's 'strategic direction';

b) The closed session forms a core element of the Assembly and provides all members with the opportunity to participate in setting the Assembly's strategic priorities;

c) The 40th GPA adopted a Resolution on a Roadmap on the Future of the International Conference, which recognised the importance of increasing the Assembly's ambition in coordinating common positions and key messages towards governments and decision-makers on key policy issues identified in the field of privacy and data protection;

d) The 41st GPA adopted a Resolution on the Conference's Strategic Direction 2019-2021, setting out a new strategic plan and the GPA's first policy strategy. This was a crucial moment in the evolution of the GPA, furthering its ambition to become the global forum for privacy and data protection authorities, advancing effective regulatory cooperation for data protection and privacy at the international level;

e) The 43rd GPA adopted a Resolution on the Conference's Strategic Direction 2021-2023, with The Vision of an environment in which privacy and data protection authorities worldwide can practically fulfill their mandates, both individually and in concert, to ensure high standards of data protection globally and promote and facilitate effective regulatory cooperation;

Recognising that:

a) The Strategic Plan 2021-2023 was crucial for the development and the evolution of the Global Privacy Assembly, becoming a more dynamic platform for international cooperation and policy influence and a permanent network promoting collaboration and information exchange between enforcement authorities to ensure data protection and privacy at the international level

b) The Global Privacy Assembly will continue working to connect efforts, focusing on supporting and influencing the development of international standards and frameworks that promote the human right of personal data protection, strengthening enforcement authorities, and contributing to the generation of ethical standards that guide the development of the digital ecosystem.

Strategic Plan
2023-2025

GPA
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Introduction

The 2023-2025 Strategic Plan aims to guide the Global Privacy Assembly´s (GPA) efforts over the next two (2) years. In a world where the value and volume of data are growing exponentially, data privacy has become a significant issue and a potential source of competitive advantage. Technological innovation and development deepen the digitization of life. In this context, personal data protection is becoming increasingly relevant.

The GPA must act in this context of constant transformation, identifying trends in data processing and the risks this entails for the protection of personal data. Therefore, the Assembly should follow a work plan that supports its Vision, while promoting ethical approaches to frame new processing and emerging technologies, enabling and protecting individuals´ data privacy rights as a central priority.

The 2023-2025 Strategic Plan included a consultative process in which the working groups were sent an opinion survey to express their ideas and expectations. The analysis of these responses highlighted the importance of taking the 2021-2023 strategic plan as a starting point, but always considering the new trends and risks faced by members on a daily basis, in order to offer a modernized strategic plan.

In this sense, the working groups expressed the need to strengthen the capacity of data protection and privacy authorities, the coordination, and the synergy between the working groups and construct clear actions to facilitate its implementation.

Furthermore, the Plan highlights the need to promote communication between the working groups to avoid overlapping tasks and to ensure actions are oriented to empower data subjects.

That is why the planning for 2023-2025 is oriented to:

- Responding to problems, needs, and trends.
- Focusing on the data subject rights
- Enhancing articulation and generating synergies within the GPA and between the Assembly and external actors.
- Developing Capacity Building for DPAs.

Progress so far

The 2021-2023 Strategic Plan was crucial in the development and evolution of the Global Privacy Assembly, furthering its ambition to become the global forum for privacy and data protection authorities, a more dynamic platform for international cooperation and policy influence, and a year-round permanent network advancing data protection and privacy at the international level. Its key achievements include the following Resolutions and products:

1. Resolution on Children's Digital Rights
2. 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
3. Resolution on International Cooperation Capacity Building for Improving Cybersecurity Regulation and Understanding Cyber Incident Harms
4. Resolution on Principles and Expectations for the Appropriate Use of Personal Information in Facial Recognition Technology
5. Resolution on Data Sharing for the Public Good
6. A joint statement on the use of health data for domestic or international travel purposes
7. Stronger engagement with international and regional Networks and Stakeholders;
8. The creation of the first Memory Book of the 43rd Global Privacy Assembly (Mexico 2021);
9. Setting the basis for the Financed Secretariat, which will facilitate the stability and continuity of the Assembly;
10. Continuation of the GPA Newsletter;
11. Launch of the GPA Dialogues.

The GPA will continue working to connect the efforts of data protection authorities, focusing on supporting and influencing the development of international standards and frameworks that promote the human right of personal data protection, strengthening data protection and privacy enforcement authorities, and generating ethical standards that guide the development of the digital ecosystem.

After consultation with GPA working groups the following objectives have been identified as a focus for future work:

1. Tools to improve cross-border regulatory collaboration.
2. Facilitate cooperation on cross-border data flows.
3. Survey the capacity and experience of data protection and privacy enforcement authorities to address ethical and data protection issues in implementing AI systems.
4. Continue to update tools that promote international regulatory cooperation.
5. Continue monitoring and sharing tools to improve the user experience and empowerment online in conditions that are safe for children's privacy.
6. Develop instruments to help countries ratify existing rights-based international instruments.

Structure of Strategic Plan 2023-2025
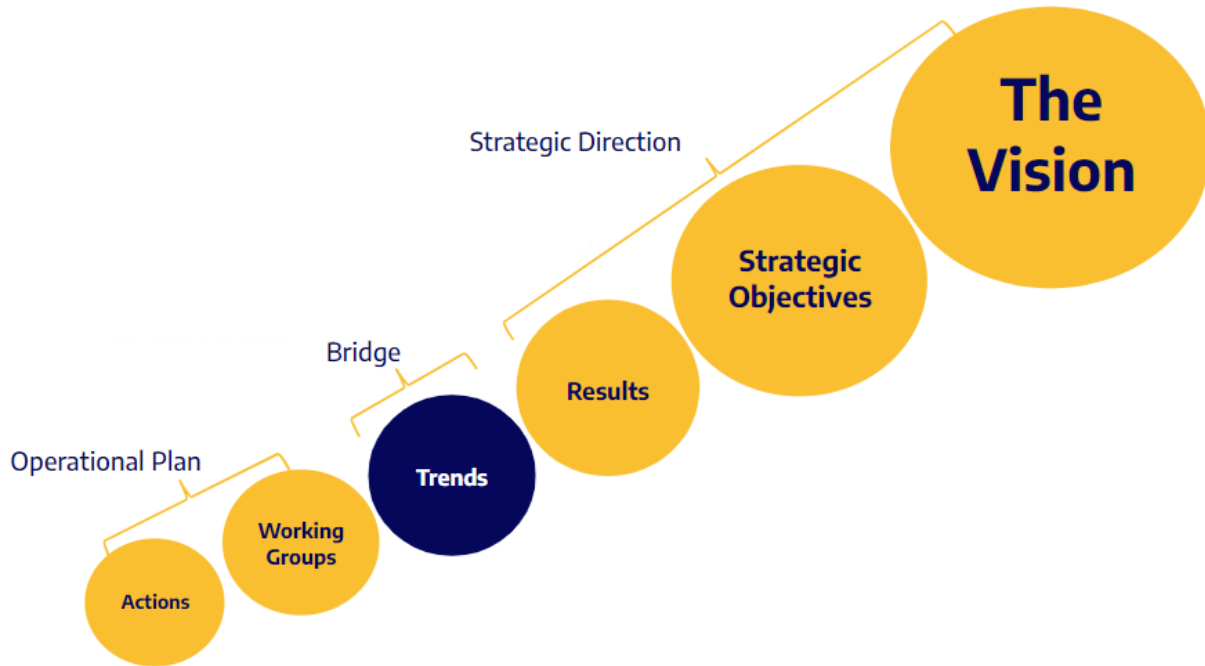
The 2023-2025 Strategic Plan should give continuity to the 2021-2023 Plan, therefore the strategic priorities of that Plan have been embodied into the Vision.

The overall strategy direction includes the Vision which defines the strategic objectives of the plan and informs the results. This represents the strategy that guides the actions of the GPA and transcends biannual planning

To operationalize the plan, the pillars from the 2021-2023 plan -Global Frameworks and Standards, Enforcement Co-operation, and Policy Focus Areas- are presented as objectives and the objectives as results. The trends in this Strategic Plan act as a bridge between the strategic direction and the operational plan, giving a contextual logic to the planning. Likewise, specific actions are proposed to facilitate their implementation.

The changes in the structure of the 2023-2025 plan promote a holistic view of the GPA, graphically reflecting the relationship between the strategic and operational levels and clarifying how trends act as a bridge between both.

In this way, the Plan seeks to facilitate and coordinate the work of the WGs in the direction of the strategic plan, while the specific actions allow for progress against the plan to be monitored

Strategic Direction

The Vision

The Vision

Moving towards a higher level of global data protection and privacy

Maximising the voice and influence of the GPA

Strengthening enforcement capacities

Consolidate the Global Privacy Assembly's leadership on personal data protection and privacy, **maximizing its voice and influence** across geographic and linguistic networks and **strengthening the enforcement capacities of authorities** to **move towards a higher level of global data protection and privacy** that ensures effective protection of data subjects.

To move towards a higher level of global data protection and privacy, our efforts will be focused on being a reference in international policy and regulation on privacy and personal data protection, for promoting, advocating for, and supporting the development of high standards and their consistent implementation.

At this point, collaboration is fundamental to ensure effective enforcement activity, but also to increase the GPA's influence in different geographic and linguistic areas.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives are goals framed for the period 2023-2025, together with the vision and results, that form part of the strategic orientation of the Plan.

The Strategic Objectives for 2023-2025 are:

1. **High level of data protection in global frameworks**

Promote influence and support the development of international frameworks and standards on data protection and privacy and their equitable application to ensure the protection of data subjects, especially those in vulnerable situations, such as children, women, migrants, and indigenous communities, among others.

2. **Strategic Alliances and Impact**

Consolidate the articulation and creation of strategic alliances between authorities and other networks and organizations to strengthen the impact and influence of the GPA in the field of Personal Data Protection and Privacy.

3. **Capacity building for DPAs**

Promote actions for the exchange of experiences and good practices among data protection and privacy authorities that give rise to instruments and mechanisms that facilitate the enforcement of personal data protection and privacy policies.

Result of strategic objectives

SO# 1 High level of data protection in global frameworks	SO# 2 Strategic alliance and impact	SO#3 Capacity building for DPAs
Contributing to influencing and supporting the development of global frameworks with a high and consistent level of data protection, creating standards and models.	Enhance the external involvement of the GPA through increased participation of the Working Groups in other international groups and fora.	Strengthen learning spaces by sharing experiences, strategies, and best practices among DPAs.
Consolidating ethical principles for technological innovation.	Strengthen communication channels between the GPA and international and regional organizations.	Create spaces for dialogue and training between DPAs and individuals to share tools and strategies for the protection of their data.
Maximize the enforcement cooperation of personal data protection standards and frameworks.	Strengthen GPA engagement with external stakeholders, such as other sectoral regulators, and the scientific/academic sector.	Strengthen the data subject for the protection of his or her rights.
Promote the use of Privacy Enhancing Technologies to develop emerging technologies, maximize data security, and empower people.	Improving GPA governance.	Operationalise the GPA fee-funded Secretariat in support of the intent to modernise the Assembly following on from the Resolutions adopted at the 43rd and 44th GPA Closed Sessions.

Trends
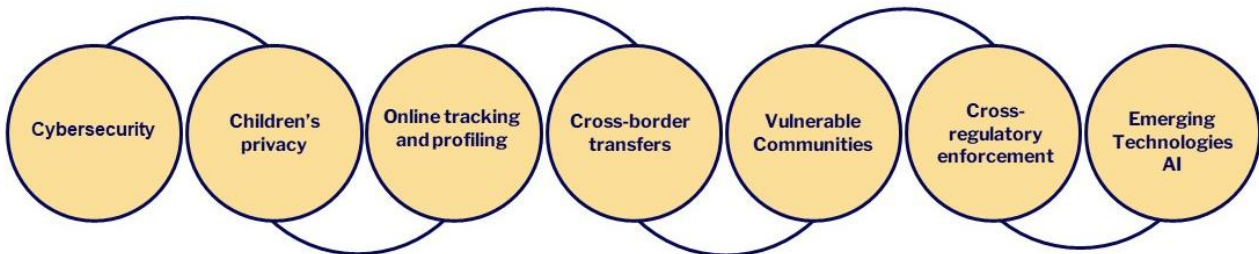
The trends represent the most relevant topics for the members of the groups and the main challenges to be addressed.

In this way, the trends are the bridge between the strategic orientation structured in the vision, objectives, and results and the operational part of the strategic plan composed of the WGs and their actions.

Operational Plan

Actions and working groups

1. **Personal Data Protection in International Development Aid, International Humanitarian Aid, and Crisis Management Working Group (AIDWG):**

- Promote awareness campaigns on PDP in coordination with other organizations.
- Produce joint actions with other organizations and networks that work on issues that are linked to PDP.
- Produce a document that addresses the protection of personal data in vulnerable communities.

2. **Global Frameworks and Standards Working Group (GFSWG):**

- Promote GPA work done to date to set out general principles for a high and consistent level of personal data protection worldwide
- Consider carrying out further comparative analyses of different mechanisms for international transfers of personal data, taking into account work already done and currently underway by other international groups and fora.
- Identify the issues, concerns, and needs of GPA members and organisations in their jurisdictions about cross-border transfers, and consider what practical activities the GPA could undertake to address these.

3. Ethics and Data Protection in Artificial Intelligence (AIWG):

- To highlight the experiences of the DPAs in the implementation of ethical principles in emerging technologies.
- Generate spaces for exhibition and debate on the challenges of privacy in the face of emerging technologies.
- Generate outreach material with recommendations for data subjects on the use of emerging technology such as AI.
- Follow-up work on generative AI systems.

4. Data Sharing (DSWG):

- Produce a comparative study analyzing global regulatory frameworks on data sharing concerning specific sectors.
- Draft manuals or good practice guides for the exchange of data between the private and public sectors.

5. International Enforcement Cooperation (IECWG):

- Promote capacity building through initiatives (e.g. GPA Workshops) that support members' operations and empower newer authorities to learn from the enforcement experience of more mature authorities and to facilitate enforcement cooperation in data protection law.
- Continue to generate synergies with other WGs (DEWG and DCCWG) and stakeholders such as other regional or international networks in the privacy realm.
- Continuing identifying opportunities for cooperation to optimise the global enforcement of Personal Data Protection (including the promotion and exchange of expertise/intelligence between members).
- Continuing the closed enforcement session on privacy matters of global relevance and concern (including urgent issues where multiple authorities are taking or considering enforcement action.
- Continuing enforcement cooperation initiatives in existing topical subgroups, i.e., AdTech, Cybersecurity, Data Scraping, Facial Recognition Technologies, Smart glasses

6. Data Protection and Other Rights and Freedoms (DPORFWG):

- Pilot the new GPA Privacy and Human Rights Award program for the first edition of the Award in 2024.
- Encourage GPA members to produce documents and materials on PDP and its relationship with other fundamental rights with partner organizations, including translation of existing DPORF materials into other languages.

- Engage with academic entities developing research on PDP and its relationship with other fundamental rights.
- Facilitate discussion within the PDP community on linkages to other fundamental rights.
- Encourage GPA members to develop arguments and collect evidence on the intersection between privacy and other rights.

7. **Digital Citizen and Consumer (DCCWG):**

- Engage with academic bodies and/or other stakeholders to better understand the risks and opportunities of PDP from a consumer protection, competition, and anti-trust point of view, as well as in relation to other areas of regulatory intersection identified by the working group.
- Map cases of intersection between personal data protection, competition and anti-trust, consumer protection, and other intersecting regulatory spheres.
- Identify barriers to cross-regulatory cooperation and solutions where they exist, and develop or advocate for solutions where they do not exist.
- Encourage and facilitate greater bilateral or multilateral cross-regulatory cooperation between DPAs and other regulatory authorities on matters of mutual interest.

8. **Digital Education (DEWG)**

- Assist the enforcement authorities in the construction of mechanisms for the repair or attention of complaints or via other channels with institutional actors in the face of possible violations of the privacy of children and adolescents.
- Promote awareness campaigns on privacy and PDP of children and adolescents.
- Ensure that education professionals benefit from data protection and privacy awareness and training to be equipped with the necessary competencies to educate young people about digital citizenship.
- Produce joint actions with partner organizations to have an impact on stakeholders for more transparent and child-friendly PDP policies.

9. **Digital Economy (DEWG):**

- Generate actions or products that address the impact of surveillance technologies on privacy.
- Identify courses of action carried out by different data protection authorities in the face of security breaches.
- Create a procedures manual that condenses these experiences.

10. **Data Protection Metrics (DPMDWG)**

- Assist the working groups in the creation of their management indicators.
- Follow up on the indicators of the 2023-2025 strategic plan.
- Carry out metrics on the progress of compliance with the resolutions made by the WGs.

Implementing the Strategic Plan

Developing a roadmap to follow up the implementation of the Strategic Plan allows the actions carried out by the different working groups to be evaluated in terms of the achievement of the objectives set out here.

To this end, the working groups, according to their respective scope of responsibilities (or terms of reference, where these have been developed) and expectations, will establish indicators that will allow them to monitor their actions to self-evaluate the progress of their work.

These indicators will be shared through reports, according to the schedule established by the Strategic Direction Sub-Committee (SDSC), which will have the task of systematizing this information.

The indicators will be defined according to the following criteria:

- The level of coordination and engagement achieved with other international spaces or fora.
- The tools or instruments created for the implementation of public policies on privacy and data protection.
- The influence and impact of the GPA on the decisions of policymakers and lawmakers.
- GPA's participation in the creation and adoption of high standards and regulatory frameworks at the global level.
- GPA's contribution to the empowerment of data subjects in relation to the fundamental right to the protection of their personal data and privacy.