

To: The Executive and Programme Committee and all Members of the 2017 International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in Hong Kong

We, the undersigned organizations, seek the ICDPPC's commitment to increasing the role for civil society at the annual conference, as well as to concrete steps to enhance transparency.

The ICDPPC represents a key space for policy development on the world's most urgent data protection and privacy issues. Diverse and representative viewpoints at this forum for data protection leaders is essential to both strong policy-making and meaningful debate on issues which impact increasing numbers of people around the world.

We believe that civil society has an essential role to play in representing the diversity of public interest views on privacy and data protection-related issues, including the voices of underrepresented stakeholder groups.

Building on the ICDPPC's years of experience, annual meetings and its intersessional work, the Conference provides important opportunities to deliver solutions to the international challenges faced by increased data generation, collection, storage, and transmission. The Madrid Privacy Declaration, adopted by over 100 civil society organizations and privacy experts from more than 40 countries in 2009, offers solutions to these international trends by reaffirming international instruments for privacy protection, identifying new challenges, and calling for concrete action.

We represent a global group of civil society organizations with expertise in internet and information and communication technology (ICT)-related issues who share a common belief that the ICDPPC has an important role to play in assisting all stakeholders to protect and respect fundamental rights, confront challenges, and harness opportunities.

To this end, we make the following recommendations to the ICDPPC and its members, to support greater transparency and participation:

- **Include civil society in the Programme Committee:** The ICDPPC should include a civil society member to its Programme Committee and therefore allow greater scope for participation of civil society in discussions.
- **Include civil society in the sessions:** The ICDPPC should also commit to including civil society representatives as speakers in the majority of both open and closed sessions of the main Conference.
- **Enhance civil society participation and meaningful dialogue:** The ICDPPC should commit to facilitating civil society participation at the Conference by removing, or at least, significantly reducing the high registration fee for NGOs.
- **Increase online transparency on deliberations:** The ICDPPC should make all documents publicly available on the ICDPPC website, with the exception of cases in which disclosure would cause potential harm to a legitimate private or public interest.

We look forward to working with the ICDPPC and to constructive dialogue going forward.

## Signatories:

Access Now, International  
African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX)  
Amnesty International  
Association for Progressive Communications (APC), International  
Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, Argentina  
Bits of Freedom, The Netherlands  
Centro de Estudios Constitucionales y de Derechos Humanos de Rosario, Argentina  
Coding Rights, Brazil  
Derechos Digitales, Chile  
Electronic Frontier Norway  
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), USA  
European Digital Rights, Europe  
Foundation for Information Policy Research (FIPR), United Kingdom  
Fundación Acceso, Centroamérica  
Frënn vun der Ënn, Luxembourg  
Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo de Ecuador  
Fundación Datos Protegidos, Chile  
Fundación Vía Libre, Argentina  
Global Partners Digital, International  
Hiperderecho, Perú  
Horizontal, México  
ICT Watch, Indonesia  
Internet Freedom Foundation, India  
Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (Idec), Brazil  
Instituto panameño de derecho y nuevas tecnologías (ipandetec), Panama  
IT-Political Association of Denmark  
KICTANet, Kenya  
Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)  
Media Rights Agenda, Nigeria  
Metamorphosis Foundation, Macedonia  
Open Rights Group, United Kingdom  
Panoptykon Foundation, Poland  
Privacy International  
SonTusDatos, Mexico  
Sulá Batsú Cooperativa, Costa Rica  
Sursiendo, Comunicación y Cultura Digital, México  
TEDIC, Paraguay  
Usuarios Digitales, Ecuador  
Xnet, Spain