
The New Zealand Privacy Commissioner and I participated in the OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy in Cancun, Mexico, on 21-23 June 2016.

We were able to highlight several relevant ICDPPC resolutions in his presentations to both a BIAC Stakeholders Forum as well as a panel presentation in the Ministerial itself.

Personally I was impressed by the way the OECD does not limit its deliberations to public officials but formally brings together four groups of stakeholders to contribute to the policy debate: business, trade unions, civil society and the technical community (BIAC, TUAC, CSISAC and ITAC). This certainly enriched the deliberations.

The outcome from the Ministerial was the Cancun Declaration. The 41 signatory countries vowed to:

- increase access to broadband Internet and services to bridge digital divides.
- reduce barriers to investment in and adoption of digital technology in all sectors.
- work to develop global technical standards that enable interoperability and a secure, stable, open and accessible Internet.
- develop privacy and data protection strategies at the highest level of government, while also encouraging the availability and use of data, including public sector data.
- adopt technologically neutral frameworks that promote competition.
- use open, transparent and inclusive processes to shape global Internet governance.
- reduce impediments to e-commerce within and across borders with policies that strengthen consumer trust and product safety.
- improve education and lifelong training to respond to the demand for general and specialist digital skills.

I have written two blog posts on the event:

- Joined-up international privacy problem solving;
- OECD declaration on the digital economy.

I also attended the CDEP meeting on the day following the Ministerial. Highlights of that meeting involved:

- Debrief on the Ministerial.
- Discussion of the proposed OECD Recommendation on health Data Governance.
- OECD horizontal work on digitisation.

Blair Stewart, 5 July 2016