Privacy and Humanitarian Action Working Group Update

Convener: Catherine Lennman, Federal Data Protection Authority, Switzerland and Marine Revel, AFAPDP

A few highlights of the second year’s activities of this working group:

- Participation in a workshop on data protection within international organisations on 11 May in Geneva;

- Co-operating with international humanitarian actors in developing guidance, particularly through the working series on Data Protection and Humanitarian Action co-led by the ICRC and the Brussels Privacy Hub. The handbook on data protection in humanitarian action is available here.

- The handbook was presented at the 10th AFAPDP Conference on 4 September in Tunisia, and will also be featured in presentations during the 39th Conference in Hong Kong (details below) and at the 35th Plenary of the Consultative Committee of the Council of Europe Data Protection Convention on 22-24 November in Strasbourg.

With the publication of the Handbook the objectives of the Resolution on Privacy and International Humanitarian Action and the task of the working group is complete. All Conference members are encouraged to promote the handbook. A French language edition should be available in January 2018.

Final deliverable of PAHAWG

ICRC Data Protection in Humanitarian Action side event

27 Sep 2017 3:30–5pm; Harbour Room I

To register: dpo@icrc.org

Featuring: Paul de Hert, Brussels Privacy Hub; Massimo Marelli, ICRC; Jean-Philippe Walter, Federal DPA (Switzerland); Alexandrine Pirlot de Corbion, Privacy International; Giovanni Buttarelli, EDPS; Christina Vasala Kokkinaki, IOM; Marie-Charlotte Roques-Bonnet, Microsoft; Lucie Laplante, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; M. Alexander Beck, UNHCR.
This side event will explore issues surrounding the application of data protection and privacy principles in humanitarian action drawing upon the recently launched *Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action*. The aim is to use the Handbook’s wide-ranging scope as a springboard for discussion. Drawing on the Handbook’s recommendations, the panellists will also consider the implications of applying new technologies – such as biometrics, big data and data analytics, cash-transfer programming, instant messaging applications, cloud-based solutions and drones – to humanitarian work.

*Update report compiled by ICDPPC Secretariat from information supplied by the WG convenor.*