

ONLINE SEMINAR ON THE IMPACT OF REGULATING DATA PROTECTION IN THE AMERICAS

The 44 Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

CONSIDERING:

a) That ensuring the security of information systems in terms of data protection is a priority matter for the Hemisphere, because information networks play a key role in the critical infrastructure of countries and their economies and societies,

RECOGNIZING:

a) That the safe and effective operation of global telecommunication infrastructure is key for the well-being and development of all sectors of the economy and therefore of vital interest for both governments and the private sector.

b) That a joint seminar with CITEI administrations would foster greater understanding of the crucial issues relative to cybersecurity and data protection for national and state governments and would provide a forum for the exchange of information, human resource capacity building, and ongoing cooperation among participants on the comprehensive protection of data, whether they are electronic or other technical media and whether they are public or private.

c) Over the past few decades, the exponential growth of technology and digitalization has transformed the telecommunication sector, leading to a substantial rise in personal data gathering, storage, and processing. In view of the intrinsic nature of personal data and their importance for individual privacy, various countries of the Americas have adopted or are in the process of implementing regulations to protect those data. These regulations, however, widely differ from one country to another, which raises specific challenges for telecommunication companies that operate regionally or globally.

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the holding of an online seminar on the impact of regulating data protection in the Americas. The seminar would be held before the 46 meeting of PCC.I.

2. To invite member states, associate members, and other relevant organizations to attend this seminar in order to share the progress they have achieved in setting standards or regulations in this area.

3. To hold this seminar at no cost to CITEI.

4. To designate the rapporteur and co-rapporteurs of the Rapporteurship on cybersecurity, privacy and data protection, vulnerability assessment, and confidence building so that, with the CITEI Executive Secretariat, they can prepare for the proposed seminar.

5. To approve the preliminary topics included in the annex to the present resolution as the initial framework for the Seminar's dialogues.

¹ CCP.I-TIC/doc. 5509/24 rev. 1

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 337 (XLIV-24)

Preliminary topics

1. To review personal data protection laws in key countries of the Americas and identify critical differences and similarities.
2. To discuss how personal data regulations shall impact the daily operations of telecommunication enterprises, ranging from data management to security and enforcement.
3. To explore the practical challenges encountered by enterprises when implementing data regulations in different jurisdictions, including cross-border data transfers.
4. To assess the impact of new technologies, such as 5G and artificial intelligence, on data protection and privacy and the strategies to mitigate potential risks.
5. To draw up collaborative approaches among countries for drafting more coherent data policies that would facilitate the international functionality and interoperability of the telecommunication sector without undermining privacy protection.

Format and participants

The seminar shall be organized as a series of online panels. It is expected that the following shall be attending: representatives of regulatory authorities, privacy and enforcement executives and managers of telecommunication enterprises, legal and technical data protection experts, academics, and representatives of consumer organizations.

Expected outcomes

The Seminar's expected outcome would be a series of recommendations and strategies that could serve as guidelines for all stakeholders. It is also expected that a collaborative network would be promoted amongst the participants for future initiatives and joint projects.