



Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

P O Box 784, VISION CITY—WAIGANI 131, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea Email: ictminister@ict.gov.pg

MEDIA STATEMENT

17th May 2024

PNG NATIONAL DATA PROTECTION AND GOVERNANCE POLICY READY

The Ministry of Information and Communications Technology is happy to announce that the National Data Protection & Governance Policy to manage and protect data is ready and the country will soon have a national data policy.

Minister for Information and Communication Technology Timothy Masiu announced this milestone which is critical due to the rapid growth of digital technologies and data collection globally and in country.

He said that without proper data policy and regulations, data breaches, privacy violations, and misuse of data continues to pose risks to individuals, businesses, and national security.

“The absence of clear guidelines undermines public trust and hinders the benefits of data-driven innovation and economic growth. Therefore, PNG urgently needs a comprehensive National Data Governance and Data Protection Policy to address these issues. This policy is now awaiting the endorsement of a ministerial committee before it makes it way to Cabinet for approval”

Mr Masiu said the policy aims to provide a clear framework for effectively managing, sharing, and protecting data in Papua New Guinea such as:

- Defining clear principles and standards for data governance and protection to guide responsible data handling by government agencies, businesses, and other stakeholders;
- Implementing robust mechanisms for data protection to safeguard privacy, confidentiality, and integrity, enhancing public trust in data handling practices;
- Fostering accountability and transparency in data governance by defining roles, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms across all sectors;

- Encouraging responsible data sharing among government agencies, businesses, and stakeholders to promote collaboration, innovation, and efficient public service delivery while ensuring compliance with privacy regulations;
- Promoting data literacy and awareness among citizens, policymakers, and organizations to empower informed decision-making and responsible data use;
- Creating an enabling environment for data-driven innovation and entrepreneurship by providing regulatory certainty, promoting ethical data use, and fostering innovation;
- Designing a flexible policy framework to adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities in the digital landscape, recognizing the dynamic nature of technology and data practices; and
- Ensuring alignment with international best practices and standards for data governance and protection to enhance PNG's competitiveness and interoperability in the global digital economy.

Mr Masiu said one of the international best practices and standards for data governance and protection is provided by the Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) Forum, which held its Spring 2024 Forum from 15-17 May 2024 in Tokyo, Japan.

"The event underscores the importance of international cooperation in enhancing data privacy and security across borders, and PNG was represented in Tokyo by the Department of Information and Communications Technology's departmental head, Steven Matainaho; principal legal officer, Oala Moi, and; data policy officer, Nancy Kanasa, each of whom are leading and managing efforts to promote and safeguard PNG's data policy."

The CBPR Forum in Tokyo provided a vital platform for the PNG participants to assess PNG's domestic interoperability mechanism for public bodies established under the Digital Government Act 2022, particularly under sections 31 and 36(1)(j).

These statutory provisions reaffirm PNG's commitment to implementing robust privacy measures and facilitating secure data exchange in the digital age.

Minister Masiu said that he will be taking a submission to the National Executive Council to recommend for PNG to join the CBPR Forum membership as the Global CBPR Forum was established on April 21, 2022, by Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, and the United States of America, which are already current economies participating in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CBPR System, to support the free flow of data and effective data protection and privacy globally.

PNG joined APEC in November 1993.

Meanwhile, Secretary Matainaho, Mr Moi and senior foreign service officers from PNG based in Tokyo at the PNG Embassy also engaged in negotiations regarding the draft zero text of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) with Japanese counterparts on the sidelines of the CBPR Forum in Tokyo.

The MoU aims to foster collaboration and mutual advancement in ICT, benefiting both nations through shared expertise and innovation.

Minister Masiu said that PNG's participation in the CBPR Forum and the negotiation of the MoU text highlight PNG's dedication to establishing and maintaining high standards in digital governance and international cooperation.

"We are confident that these efforts will enhance our country's role in the global digital landscape, promoting secure and efficient cross-border data flows and technological collaboration."

Minister Masiu extended PNG's gratitude to the Global Forum Assembly's leadership team led by Chair Shannon Coe, sponsors, and the Government and People of Japan for hosting this significant event and for the opportunity to advance shared objectives in ICT and data privacy.



HON. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP

Minister for Information & Communication Technology
And Member for South Bougainville



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE 2022 GLOBAL CBPR DECLARATION AND GLOBAL CBPR FRAMEWORK

The 2022 Global CBPR Declaration and the Global CBPR Framework set forth the principles and objectives of the Forum, including the Global CBPR Privacy Principles upon which the Global CBPR System and Global PRP System are to be designed.

The Global CBPR Forum seeks to support the free flow of data by providing an interoperable mechanism for effective data protection and privacy globally.

At the core of the Forum's work are the Global CBPR System and Global Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) System. These voluntary, accountability-based systems will allow organizations to demonstrate their compliance to internationally-recognised data protection and privacy standards thus facilitating the seamless transfer of data across borders.

The Forum was established to promote interoperability and help bridge different regulatory approaches to data protection and privacy.

During the first year, Members focused on three primary objectives: (1) establishing the initial Forum governance structure and procedures; (2) establishing criteria and procedures for membership and participation in the Forum, and; (3) promoting the Forum to jurisdictions and stakeholders.

On April 17, 2023, the Forum announced its leadership team and released a set of foundational documents: the Global CBPR Framework, the Terms of Reference (TOR), and the Template Letter of Intent for Associate Status.

Among other things, the TOR established the Global Forum Assembly (GFA) as the Forum's policy-making and governing body and provided that the GFA should develop and implement an annual work program to set forth the Forum's strategic goals and objectives.

Building on the foundation established in 2022/2023, the GFA has identified three strategic goals to guide the Forum's work through April 2024.

One of the strategic goals is, "Promote membership and participation in the Global CBPR Forum". This is a key Forum activity to promote expansion of the Forum and uptake of the Global CBPR and Global PRP Systems.

Having established criteria and procedures necessary for a jurisdiction to participate as an Associate, the GFA seeks to finalize criteria and procedures for a jurisdiction to join the Forum as a Member by the end of 2023. In addition, the GFA will issue guidance for participation in Forum activities by stakeholders to institutionalize active multistakeholder participation.

Following successful engagements which included three Global CBPR Forum multilateral workshops in April and November 2022 and April 2023, the Forum intends

to host two Global CBPR Forum multilateral workshops, in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, to engage jurisdictions and stakeholders. Members will endeavour to promote the Forum independently or jointly with other Members, Associates and stakeholders.

The Spring 2024 Workshop in Tokyo, Japan attended by PNG is a multilateral Global CBPR workshop bringing stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and governments.

The Global CBPR Forum was established on April 21, 2022, by Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, and the United States of America, as current economies participating in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CBPR System, to support the free flow of data and effective data protection and privacy globally.

The Global CBPR Forum seeks to:

- Establish and promote adoption of the Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) System and Global Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) System to facilitate data protection and free flow of data globally;
- share best practices and promote cooperation on data protection and privacy; and
- pursue interoperability with other data protection and privacy frameworks.

Please go to <https://www.globalcbpr.org/about/> for more information on the Global CBPR.

For a copy of PNG's draft National Data Protection & Governance Policy, go to: <https://www.ict.gov.pg/ndgdpp/>