**FOR REFERENCE – RIPE WG Chairs**

**Department of Commerce and Tourism Marketing (DTCM) Permit**

**General information**

The application of a UAE law applies to all events held in Dubai including the RIPE 75 meeting.

Following this local law, all speakers and attendees must provide additional personal information to the DTCM in advance of the meeting. While the impact will be minimal for attendees, the requirement to have speakers’ passports and other information weeks ahead of the meeting will require the RIPE Meeting agenda to be finalised much earlier than usual, and with less room for last-minute agenda changes.

**What are the requirements of the law?**

1. All RIPE 75 attendees (including RIPE NCC staff) will need to provide the following information:

*Full name*

*Country of residence*

*Date of birth*

*Nationality*

*Telephone number (mobile or landline)*

*Email address*

This information will be collected through our usual registration form and will be passed to the event agency that acts on behalf of the government.

The event agency will use attendees’ information to produce barcodes for each attendee. The meeting badge will include the barcode and barcode number.

2. All speakers (including remote speakers) will need to email the following information to meeting@ripe.net one month before the start of the meeting. We will forward this information to the DTCM:

*Full name, title*

*A colour copy of their passport*

*A copy of their Emirates ID (if a UAE resident)*

*Profile/bio for the speaker (at least 200 characters)*

*Mobile number*

*Email*

According to the law, a speaker will be rejected if any false information is submitted and a new application must be submitted.

**What does this mean for the WG Chairs and PC?**

The agendas for all WG sessions should be finalised one month before RIPE 75 begins, so that all presenters have time to submit their information/passports.

The WG Chairs will need to make people aware of this deadline in their calls for presentations and when soliciting presentations for the meeting.

We suggest that panels be avoided as much as possible, as it might be challenging logistically to ensure that speakers send in their information in time. Another option (“loophole”) would be to have the panel participants contribute as “audience members” from the floor.

**Who counts as a speaker?**

Essentially, this includes anyone who is presenting on stage - plenary and WG presenters, panel participants, WG Chairs and PC members and community members who are chairing or moderating sessions.

Not included in this definition is attendees who are speaking at the microphones during Q&A sessions.

**Why does the government require this information? How will the data be handled?**

The stated reason is to facilitate greater efficiency for event organisers and government entities that are responsible for granting permits. The data is used to conduct analysis, market research and examine industry trends. The data is not shared with other event organisers or ticket resellers/registration companies.

We have also been told that the real reason is for security (to avoid anti-government or anti-religious speakers).

The information on attendees is also used to get an accurate sense of how many attendees were at the meeting.

We do not know how long they will keep the information supplied or how it will be handled.

Telephone numbers/email addresses will not be checked.

**What are the penalties for non-compliance?**

A fee is paid to the government for each individual case of incorrect data submitted. The attendee is liable for this, not the RIPE NCC. However, the DTCM has said if we show good faith, they will be understanding.

Regarding the speakers, the fine is 5-15,000 AUD in the case of non-compliance. The RIPE NCC would be liable for this.

**Are any people exempted from these requirements?**

There are some options for a limited number of people to be exempted, but this is intended for high-level government attendees only.