



IOTA Annual International Conference 2026

Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Tax Administrations

29 - 30 October 2026 | Budapest, Hungary | Hybrid

Background Note

BACKGROUND

The global digital ecosystem creates high value for our society, transforming communication and services through interconnected data, platforms and applications. At the same time, this transformation has increased exposure to cybersecurity risks targeting sensitive data and information, and cooperation among stakeholders becomes essential to build a trusted and integrated digital ecosystem.

The tax administration is a key stakeholder within this ecosystem and has vast experience in securely governing sensitive data and managing the exchange of information at national and international level. Expanded digitalisation of the taxation systems and use of advanced technologies determine that tax administrations must prioritise information security management, implementing the policies, procedures and tools **foundational for trustworthy systems**.

The Annual Conference will focus on two key pillars for secure systems:

- **Cybersecurity - protecting the systems against threats that could compromise data and operations, and**
- **Data protection - preserving the integrity and confidentiality of the information managed within the system.**

Cybersecurity and data protection are complementing each other to protect systems' information, addressing enterprise-wide threats and risks.

The conference brings together international organisations, tax administrations, businesses and Academia with a focus on the strategic and operational governance frameworks safeguarding critical data and infrastructures.

OBJECTIVES

This Annual Conference aims to strengthen the capacity of tax administrations to protect digital infrastructures and taxpayer information while maintaining trust and transparency in digital interactions.

The main objectives of the conference:

- Strengthen resilience of tax administrations against cyber threats by exchanging experiences on cybersecurity frameworks, vulnerabilities and risk management
- Share best practices on protecting critical information and sensitive taxpayer data
- Align approaches with international frameworks and regulations
- Improve governance and compliance structures
- Foster collaboration and information sharing among IOTA members for building secure systems.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of the conference are as follows:

- Increased awareness of balancing innovation, security, and privacy compliance
- Overview of effective cybersecurity and data protection practices and common approaches in the taxation system
- Insights on evolving technological tools and practices for detection, prevention and response to cyber-attacks.

This Conference shall be a key platform for fostering collaboration and building up a network of senior officials/experts from IOTA member tax administrations to accelerate best practices implementation and capacity building.

METHODOLOGIES

The Annual International Conference is the second largest technical event of the IOTA, bringing together commissioners and senior officials of IOTA member and non-member tax administrations, international organisations, tax professionals, academia and the private sector to engage in high-level international debates on evolving global trends fostering the tax administrations.

This Conference will be a practical event, using a combination of **presentations, panel discussions and interactive open sessions** to illustrate working methods, challenges, innovations and good practices in the implementation of cybersecurity and data protection actions.

IOTA Expo “Cybersecurity and Data Protection Technical Knowledge” will run in parallel with the Conference, showcasing technological advancements towards building resilient tax systems.

Therefore, we believe there is added value in the in-person participation of delegates who will enjoy a fully interactive experience at the event in both plenary and parallel sessions.

The event sessions will be recorded and will be available after the event on the IOTA website (only for registered users) to watch on demand.

Participants who want to attend the Conference virtually will receive from the IOTA Secretariat an MS Teams link to have access to the event’s sessions. **Joining instructions** will be provided for registered online participants on how to join and participate in the event using the Microsoft Teams platform. There will also be an opportunity for delegates to test their connection 30 minutes prior to the start of the event’s sessions.

Please note that it is not possible to provide any interpretation facilities at this event, and IOTA expects that all participants will have **sufficient language skills for active participation in English**.