

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AI	artificial intelligence
API	application programming interface – allows one piece of software to send and receive data to another and request it to take actions
CERT	computer emergency response team
CNI	critical national infrastructure
CRA	communications (including broadcasting) regulatory authority/agency
CSIRT	computer security incident response team
DDoS	distributed denial of service – a type of online attack where a site and its ISP are flooded with traffic from other devices across the internet, slowing down or stopping the site from responding to legitimate users
DPA	data protection authority (or commission), referred to in some countries as an information or privacy commissioner, responsible for enforcing data protection and privacy laws
DRE	direct recording electronic (machine) – a type of voting machine that records a voter's choice in a polling station
EMB	electoral management body
EVM	electronic voting machine
FIRST	Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams, a global non-governmental association of computer emergency response teams
GDPR	The European Union's 2016 General Data Protection Regulation
GIS	geographic information system – computer tool used to manage and visualise geographical data, such as constituency boundaries
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a core UN human rights treaty
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, an intergovernmental organisation with 33 members

IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISP	internet service provider
ITU	International Telecommunication Union, United Nations treaty body for communications
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority (Pakistan)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, defensive alliance with several Commonwealth countries as members
NCSC	national cyber security centre (or authority) – increasingly common national governmental institutions, for example UK’s National Cyber Security Centre
NIS	network and information security
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – an intergovernmental economics ‘think tank’ with 36 members
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RTS	Results Transmission System – used to digitally transmit provisional election results from polling and counting centres to Electoral Management Body headquarters
SIDS	small island developing states
SMS	short message service – short text messages sent between mobile phones; used, for example, in Pakistan to provide voters with details of their polling station, and in some multifactor authentication systems
VVPAT	voter verifiable paper audit trail