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**Privileges for Manipulating a Conference Policy**  
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Abstract

The Conference Policy is defined as the complete set of rules for a particular conference manipulated by the conference policy server. The Conference Policy Control Protocol (CPCP) is the protocol used by client to manipulate the conference policy. This document specifies an Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema that enumerates the conference policy meta data that enable a user to assign privileges to users that enables them to read and/or manipulate parts of or the entire conference policy.



## Table of Contents

<a href="#">1.</a>	Introduction . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">2.</a>	Conventions Used in This Document . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">3.</a>	Terminology . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">4.</a>	Structure of a Conference Policy Privileges XML Document . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">4.1</a>	MIME Type for CPCP XML Document . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">4.2</a>	Privileges Root . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4.3</a>	XML Document Description . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4.3.1</a>	Conference Policy Privileges . . . . .	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">4.4</a>	XML Schema . . . . .	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">5.</a>	Examples . . . . .	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">5.1</a>	A Simple Conference Policy Privileges Document . . . . .	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">6.</a>	Security Considerations . . . . .	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">7.</a>	IANA Considerations . . . . .	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">7.1</a>	application/privileges+xml MIME TYPE . . . . .	<a href="#">15</a>
7.2	URN Sub-Namespace Registration for urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges . . . . .	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">8.</a>	Acknowledgements . . . . .	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">9.</a>	Normative References . . . . .	<a href="#">17</a>
	Authors' Addresses . . . . .	<a href="#">18</a>
	Intellectual Property and Copyright Statements . . . . .	<a href="#">20</a>



## **1. Introduction**

The Conference Policy Control Protocol (CPCP) [[1](#)] specifies an Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema that enumerates the conference policy data elements that enable a user to define a conference policy. It, however, does not define user privileges (who is allowed to read or modify certain parts or all of a conference policy).

In many cases, the creator of the conference policy is the sole user with access rights to the conference policy and other users do not have any rights to view nor modify the document. However, there is a need for different privileges to exist where users can modify certain parts of the conference policy XML document. This document specifies an Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema that enumerates the conference policy meta data that enable such privileges to exist.

## **2. Conventions Used in This Document**

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [[3](#)].

## **3. Terminology**

This document uses terminology from [[13](#)]. Some additional definitions are introduced in [[1](#)], including the definition of a privileged user.

## **4. Structure of a Conference Policy Privileges XML Document**

The conference policy privileges document is an XML [[4](#)] document that MUST be well-formed and MUST be valid. The Conference policy privileges documents MUST be based on XML 1.0 and MUST be encoded using UTF-8. This specification makes use of XML namespaces for identifying conference policy privileges documents and document fragments. The namespace URI for elements defined by this specification is a URN [[6](#)], using the namespace identifier 'ietf' defined by [[7](#)] and extended by [[8](#)]. This URN is:

urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges

### **4.1 MIME Type for CPCP XML Document**

The MIME type for the CPCP XML document is "application/privileges+xml".



## **4.2 Privileges Root**

A conference policy privileges document begins with the root element tag <privileges>. Other elements from different namespaces MAY be present for the purposes of extensibility. Elements or attributes from unknown namespaces MUST be ignored.

A user may create a new conference policy privileges at the CPS by placing a new conference policy document at the CPS. Depending on server policy and user privileges, the CPS may accept the creation. Only the creator of the conference can create a conference policy privileges document for that conference policy.

A conference that exists without a conference policy privileges document allows all privileges to the creator of the conference policy only. A conference policy privileges document can be deleted permanently by removing the conference policy document from the CPS. When the user deletes a conference policy document, the user SHOULD also delete the conference policy privileges document associated with the deleted conference. A CPS may apply local policy in determining when and if to delete the conference policy privileges document if it has not been removed after a the conference policy document was deleted.

## **4.3 XML Document Description**

### **4.3.1 Conference Policy Privileges**

One of the key components of the conference policy privileges document is the set of authorization rules that specify who is allowed to read and manipulate a conference policy. The unordered list of authorization rules together define the conference policy privileges in the form of an authorization policy.

The <xml-document-rules> element appears after the root element and contains the mandatory "uri" attribute. This attribute carries the URI of the conference policy document that the privileges defines within it apply to.

The conference policy privileges are enclosed in the <xml-document-rules> element are formatted according to the XML schema defined in the common policy framework [2]. In the <xml-document-rules> element, there can be multiple rules, each rule is represented by the <rule> element, each of which consist of three parts: conditions, actions and transformations. Conditions determine whether a particular rule applies to a request. Each action or transformation in the applied rule is a positive grant of permission to the conference policy user. The details of each specific element





and attribute is described in [2].

Asking the conference policy server to allow certain users to manipulate the conference policy is achieved by modifying an existing authorization rule or creating a new one.

If the conference is long-lasting, it is possible that new rules are added all the time but old rules are almost never removed (some of them are overwritten, though). This leads easily to the situation that the conference policy meta data contains many unnecessary rules which are not really needed anymore. Therefore, there is a need to delete rules. This can be achieved by removing that portion of the policy.

Conflicting rules may exist (for example, both allowed and blocked action is defined for same target). The common policy directives [2] dictate the behaviour in such situations.

This section outlines the new conditions, actions and transformations for conference policy privileges.

#### **4.3.1.1 Conditions**

##### **4.3.1.1.1 Validity**

The <validity> element, as defined in the common policy framework [2], expresses the rule validity period by two attributes, a starting and an ending time. Times are expressed in XML dateTime format. Expressing the lifetime of a rule implements a garbage collection mechanism. A rule maker might not have always access to the conference policy server to remove some rules which grant permissions. Hence this mechanism allows to remove or invalidate granted permissions automatically without further interaction between the rule maker and the conference policy server.

To give a real life example, there are often meetings where users can have access to modify the dial-out list from 10 minutes before the conference starts until 10 minutes after the conference starts. One rule can be set in this scenario. The following example demonstrates this. The meeting starts at 9:30 and ends at 12:30. A manager with identity "manager@example.com" can read and modify the dial-out list between 8:50 and 9:40. After that time until the conference ends, the manager can only read the dial-out-list



```
<rule id="1">
  <conditions>
    <validity>
      <from>2004-12-17T08:50:00-05:00</from>
      <to>2004-12-17T09:40:00-05:00</to>
    </validity>
    <identity>
      <id>manager@example.com</id>
    </identity>
  </conditions>
  <actions>
    <allow-modify-dol>allow</allow-modify-dol>
  </actions>
  <transformations/>
</rule>
<rule id="2">
  <conditions>
    <identity>
      <id>manager@example.com</id>
    </identity>
  </conditions>
  <actions>
    <allow-read-dol>allow</allow-read-dol>
  </actions>
  <transformations/>
</rule>
...
<time>
  <occurrence>
    <mixing-start-time required-participant="participant">
      2004-12-17T09:30:00-05:00</mixing-start-time>
    <mixing-stop-time required-participant="none">
      2004-12-17T12:30:00-05:00</mixing-stop-time>
    </occurrence>
  </time>
```

#### [4.3.1.1.2](#) Identity

The <identity> element is already defined in the common policy framework [2]. The presence of the <identity> element is a condition requires any identity within it to be authenticated before a rule is applied to it. This includes the <id> element ([Section 4.3.1.1.2.1](#)), the <any> element ([Section 4.3.1.1.2.2](#)), the <external-list> element ([Section 4.3.1.1.2.3](#)), their exceptions, and any future extension that carries an identity. The absence of the <identity> element with in a condition indicated that the rule applies to all unauthenticated



identities. That is participants that have provided no authenticated identity to the conference focus.

#### **4.3.1.1.2.1 Interpreting the <id> Element**

As earlier indicated, the <identity> element is already defined in the common policy framework [2]. However, the rules for interpreting the identities in <id> elements are left for each application to define separately. This document, however, does not define the rules for interpreting identities in <id> elements in conferencing applications since those interpretation rules are signalling protocol specific.

OPEN ISSUE: Do we need to state more than this? How are identities derived from users that join using POTS, H.323, etc.?

#### **4.3.1.1.2.2 Matching Any Identity**

The <any> element is used to match any participant. This allows a conference privileges to be open to any authenticated user. Just as for the <domain> element in <identity> element, The <any> element contains a list of <except> elements and allows to implement a simple blacklist mechanism. The <except> element contains the identity. It differs from the <domain> element in that the domain part is needed in the identity since it has not domain to refer to.

#### **4.3.1.1.2.3 Matching Identities in External Lists**

The <external-list> element can be used to match those participants that are part of a resource list that is created externally. The use of <external-list> is similar to that defined in Section x of [1].

### **4.3.1.2 Actions**

#### **4.3.1.2.1 Modifying Conference setting**

The <allow-modify-settings> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference settings in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the conference settings are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.2 Modifying Conference Information**

The <allow-modify-information> element represents a boolean action.



If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference information in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the conference information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.3 Modifying Conference Time**

The <allow-modify-time> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference time in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the conference time are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.4 Modifying Authorization rules**

The <allow-modify-authorization-rules> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the authorization rules of a conference in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.5 Modifying Conference Dial-out List**

The <allow-modify-dol> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference dial-out list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the dial-out list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.6 Modifying Conference Refer List**

The <allow-modify-rl> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference refer list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the refer list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.





#### **4.3.1.2.7 Modifying Conference media streams**

The <allow-modify-ms> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to modify the conference media streams in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any modifications to the media streams are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.8 Creating Sidebars**

The <allow-modify-sidebar> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to create and manipulate a sidebar by creating and modifying a <sidebar> element in a conference policy. If set to FALSE, any sidebar creation and manipulation is rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.9 Modifying Conference Dial-in List**

The conference dial-in list is virtual and is not represented by a physical list in the conference policy. It is rather a collection of authorization rules that allow users to join a conference. The <allow-modify-dil> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to create an authorization rule in the conference policy that give a user a join handling of "allow". If set to FALSE, any modifications to authorization rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.10 Reading Conference setting**

The <allow-read-settings> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference settings in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the conference settings are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.11 Reading Conference Information**

The <allow-read-information> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference



information in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the conference information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.12 Reading Conference Time**

The <allow-read-time> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference time in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the conference time are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.13 Reading Authorization rules**

The <allow-read-authorization-rules> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the authorization rules of a conference in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.14 Reading Conference Dial-out List**

The <allow-read-dol> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference dial-out list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the dial-out list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### **4.3.1.2.15 REading Conference Refer List**

The <allow-read-rl> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference refer list in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the refer list are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.



#### [4.3.1.2.16](#) Reading Conference media streams Information

The <allow-read-ms> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read the conference media streams information in the conference policy. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read the media streams information are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### [4.3.1.2.17](#) Reading Sidebar Information

The <allow-read-sidebar> element represents a boolean action. If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read side bar information in the conference policy, indicating how many sidebars are currently in a conference. If set to FALSE, any attempts to read sidebar information is rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the modifications to be rejected.

#### [4.3.1.2.18](#) Reading Conference Dial-in List

The Dial-in List is defined in [Section 4.3.1.2.9](#). If set to TRUE, the identity is allowed to read authorizations rule in the conference policy that give a user a join handling of "allow". If set to FALSE, any attempts to read such rules are rejected.

If this element is undefined it has a value of FALSE, causing the read requests to be rejected.

#### [4.3.1.3](#) Transformations

No transformations are defined at this time.

### [4.4](#) XML Schema

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xs:schema targetNamespace="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges"
xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges" xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/
XMLSchema" elementFormDefault="qualified">
  <!-- This import brings in the XML language attribute xml:lang-->
  <xs:import namespace="http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace"
schemaLocation="http://www.w3.org/2001/xml.xsd"/>
  <xs:element name="privileges">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="xml-document-rules"
```

```
type="XMLDocument"/>  
      </xs:sequence>  
</xs:complexType>
```

```

</xs:element>
<xs:complexType name="XMLDocument">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="rule" type="ruleType" minOccurs="0"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="uri" type="xs:string" use="required"/>
</xs:complexType>
<xs:complexType name="ruleType">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="conditions" minOccurs="0">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence>
          <xs:element ref="condition"
minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="actions" minOccurs="0">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence>
          <xs:element ref="action"
minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="transformations" minOccurs="0">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence>
          <xs:element
ref="transformation" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
  <xs:attribute name="id" type="xs:string" use="required"/>
</xs:complexType>
<xs:element name="condition" abstract="true"/>
<xs:element name="action" abstract="true"/>
<xs:element name="transformation" abstract="true"/>
<xs:element name="validity" substitutionGroup="condition">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:all>
      <xs:element name="from" type="xs:dateTime"/>
      <xs:element name="to" type="xs:dateTime"/>
    </xs:all>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

```

```
<xs:element name="identity" substitutionGroup="condition">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:choice>
      <xs:element name="id" type="xs:string"
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
```



```

        <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="domain"
type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:sequence minOccurs="0">
                <xs:element name="except"
type="xs:string" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            </xs:sequence>
        </xs:sequence>
        <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="any"
type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:sequence minOccurs="0">
                <xs:element name="except"
type="xs:string" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            </xs:sequence>
        </xs:sequence>
        <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="external-list"
type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:sequence minOccurs="0">
                <xs:element name="except"
type="xs:string" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            </xs:sequence>
        </xs:sequence>
    </xs:choice>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-settings" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-information" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-time" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-authorization-rules" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-dol" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-rl" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-ms" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-sidebar" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-modify-dil" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-settings" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-information" type="xs:boolean"

```

```

substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-time" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-authorization-rules" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-dol" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-rl" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-ms" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
    <xs:element name="allow-read-sidebar" type="xs:boolean"
substitutionGroup="action"/>
</xs:schema>

```

## **5. Examples**

### **5.1 A Simple Conference Policy Privileges Document**

The following document dictates that Bob and Alice are allowed to read and modify the conference settings at

"http://xcap.example.com/services/conferences/users/Alice/conference.xml"

why John can only read the dial-out list.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<privileges xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges" xmlns:xsi="http://
www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <xml-document-rules uri="http://xcap.example.com/services/conferences/
users/Alice/conference.xml">
    <rule id="1">
      <conditions>
        <identity>
          <id>bob@example.com</id>
          <id>alice@example.com</id>
        </identity>
      </conditions>
      <actions>
        <allow-modify-settings>true</allow-modify-
settings>
        <allow-read-settings>true</allow-read-settings>
      </actions>
      <transformations/>
    </rule>
    <rule id="2">
      <conditions>
        <identity>
          <id>john@example.com</id>
        </identity>
      </conditions>
      <actions>
        <allow-read-dol>true</allow-read-dol>
      </actions>
      <transformations/>
    </rule>
  </xml-document-rules>
</privileges>
```

## 6. Security Considerations

A conference document may contain information that is highly sensitive. Its delivery to the conference server needs to happen strictly, paying special attention to integrity and confidentiality. Reading the document is also a security concern since the conference policy contains sensitive information like the topic of the conference, who is allowed to join and the URIs of the users that can participate.

Manipulations of the conference policy have similar security issues.

Users with relevant privileges can manipulate parts of the conference policy giving themselves and others privileges to manipulate the conference policy, including the dial-out list and the security level settings for a conference. This can happen because the conference policy itself carries the identities and the authorization rules that apply to those identities. Those authorization rules carry the privileges that certain identities have. If an unauthorized user gets access to this document (pretending to be someone else), s/he can manipulate those rules giving himself and other unauthorized users access to the conference policy. S/he can also manipulate other parts of the conference policy under a false identity. Some of the things that a malicious user can do include: denying users certain privileges, giving himself floor moderation, removing users from lists, removing rules for certain identities, giving privileges to other malicious users, changing the media streams and changing conference time. Therefore, it is very important that only authorized clients are able to manipulate the conference policy. Any conference policy transport protocol **MUST** provide authentication, confidentiality and integrity.

In the case that XCAP is used to create and manipulate a conference policy, the XCAP base specification mandates that all XCAP servers **MUST** implement HTTP Authentication: Basic and Digest Access Authentication [14]. Furthermore, XCAP servers **MUST** implement HTTP over TLS [15]. It is recommended that administrators of XCAP servers use an HTTPS URI as the XCAP root services URI, so that the digest client authentication occurs over TLS. By using these means, XCAP client and server can ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the XCAP created conference policy document and its manipulation operations, and that only authorized clients are allowed to perform them.

## **7. IANA Considerations**

### **7.1 application/privileges+xml MIME TYPE**

MIME media type: application

MIME subtype name: privileges+xml

Mandatory parameters: none

Optional parameters: Same as charset parameter application/xml as specified in [RFC 3023](#) [5].

Encoding considerations: Same as encoding considerations of application/xml as specified in [RFC 3023](#) [5].



Security considerations: See [section 10 of RFC 3023](#) [5] and section [Section 7](#) of this document.

Interoperability considerations: none.

Published specification: This document.

Applications which use this media type: This document type has been used to support conference policy manipulation for SIP based conferencing.

Additional information:

Magic number: None

File extension: .cl or .xml

Macintosh file type code: "TEXT"

Personal and email address for further information: Hisham Khartabil  
(hisham.khartabil@nokia.com)

Intended Usage: COMMON

Author/change controller: The IETF

## **[7.2](#) URN Sub-Namespace Registration for urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges**

This section registers a new XML namespace, as per guidelines in URN document [\[8\]](#).

URI: The URI for this namespace is urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:privileges.

Registrant Contact: IETF, XCON working group, Hisham Khartabil  
(hisham.khartabil@nokia.com)

XML:





```
BEGIN
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML Basic 1.0//EN"
    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml-basic/xhtml-basic10.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
  <meta http-equiv="content-type"
    content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1"/>
  <title>Conference Policy Namespace</title>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Namespace for Conference Policy</h1>
  <h2>application/conference-policy+xml</h2>
  <p>See <a href="[[[URL of published RFC]]]">RFCXXXX</a>.</p>
</body>
</html>
END
```

## **8. Acknowledgements**

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