

Annual Report



Annual Report

2023

Secretary General's Message

2023 was a year full of significant milestones for the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). First and foremost, it was a special year, because in 2023 the HCCH celebrated its 130th anniversary. On Tuesday 12 September 1893 Tobias Asser opened the very first "Hague Conference". Exactly 130 years later – on Tuesday 12 September 2023 – I had the immense privilege of commemorating, on behalf of the



Organisation, this very special occasion in a speech, which I delivered in Hong Kong as part of the HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2023. In this speech I looked back at the rich history of the HCCH, and as I stated that evening: we can do so with pride.

A few months earlier, in May 2023, the HCCH had reached another historic milestone: the 1000th treaty action relating to an HCCH Convention or Protocol (*i.e.*, the ratification,

accession, approval or other instance in which one of the HCCH instruments is about to be brought into effect for a Member or Contracting Party). It was Canada's accession to the 1961 Apostille Convention on 12 May 2023 that marked this momentous occasion. I see this number as an impressive reflection of the practical importance and effectiveness of the HCCH's multilateralism. And we keep on counting!

Another milestone was reached on 1 September 2023, with the entry into force of the 2019 Judgments Convention, following the European Union (EU)'s accession and Ukraine's ratification in 2022. It took only a little over four years for this Convention to enter into

"[...] it was a special year, because in 2023 the HCCH celebrated its 130th anniversary."

2023



force (significantly shorter than the average) – a reflection of its importance. Furthermore, on the same day, Uruguay deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention, becoming a new Contracting Party to the Convention.

"Another milestone was reached on 1 September 2023, with the entry into force of the 2019 Judgments Convention [...]."

and by providing tailored post-Convention assistance to eight States. I let you discover and read more about these publications and events in this Annual Report.

In March 2023, it was possible for the HCCH Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) to meet in person again – following two years during which CGAP could meet online only because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a particularly memorable meeting, as CGAP made the historic decision to adopt Spanish as the third official language of the Organisation. From 1 July 2024, Spanish will join English and French as an official language of the HCCH. In my view, this is a most meaningful further step contributing to universality and inclusiveness at the HCCH.

As Secretary General of the HCCH, I am profoundly grateful to the Members of the HCCH for their continued trust in recommending me for reappointment for a third term during CGAP 2023, and I pledge to uphold this privilege with unwavering dedication and commitment.

Amongst the various meetings held in the course of 2023, allow me to highlight in particular the Eighth Meeting of the Special Commission (SC) on the Practical Operation

2023 was not only about reaching milestones. The work of the Permanent Bureau (PB) continued in full force with the organisation of many meetings, but also, for example, by bringing forth six new publications

"It was a particularly memorable meeting, as CGAP made the historic decision to adopt Spanish as the third official language of the Organisation."

of the 1980 Child Abduction and the 1996 Child Protection Conventions, which was held in October. The meeting was held in hybrid form and attended by over 470 delegates from around the world. The SC discussed many different aspects of the practical operation of both the 1980 and 1996 Conventions. I am pleased to report that the SC concluded, in general, that both Conventions are operating effectively.

It follows that it has not only been a special, but also another busy and fruitful year for the HCCH. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues at the PB, the many delegates and other experts from our Members and Contracting Parties – without our shared and collective efforts, the HCCH would not have reached any of the 2023 milestones in the first place. May the HCCH continue to flourish – for another 130 years and beyond!

"[...] the HCCH had reached another historic milestone: the 1000th treaty action relating to an HCCH Convention or Protocol [...]"



Dr Christophe Bernasconi
Secretary General

Contents



06	Milestones
08	Facts & Figures
10	New Members & Treaty Actions
12	International Family & Child Protection Law
20	Transnational Litigation & Apostille
30	International Commercial, Digital, & Financial Law
34	Governance & Cooperation
42	The Staff
44	Interns
45	Organisational Chart

Milestones

YEAR
2023

JANUARY



International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group



Working Group on Matters Related to Jurisdiction in Transnational Civil or Commercial Litigation

FEBRUARY

Kick-off of Central Bank Digital Currencies Project



AUGUST

JULY



Entry into force of the 2019 Judgments Convention



HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2023

SEPTEMBER



130th anniversary of the HCCH



Working Group on Matters Related to Jurisdiction in Transnational Civil or Commercial Litigation



HCCH-UNIDROIT Joint Project on Law Applicable to Cross-Border Holdings and Transfers of Digital Assets and Tokens



CODIFI Edition 2023 – CBDCs Colloquium

OCTOBER



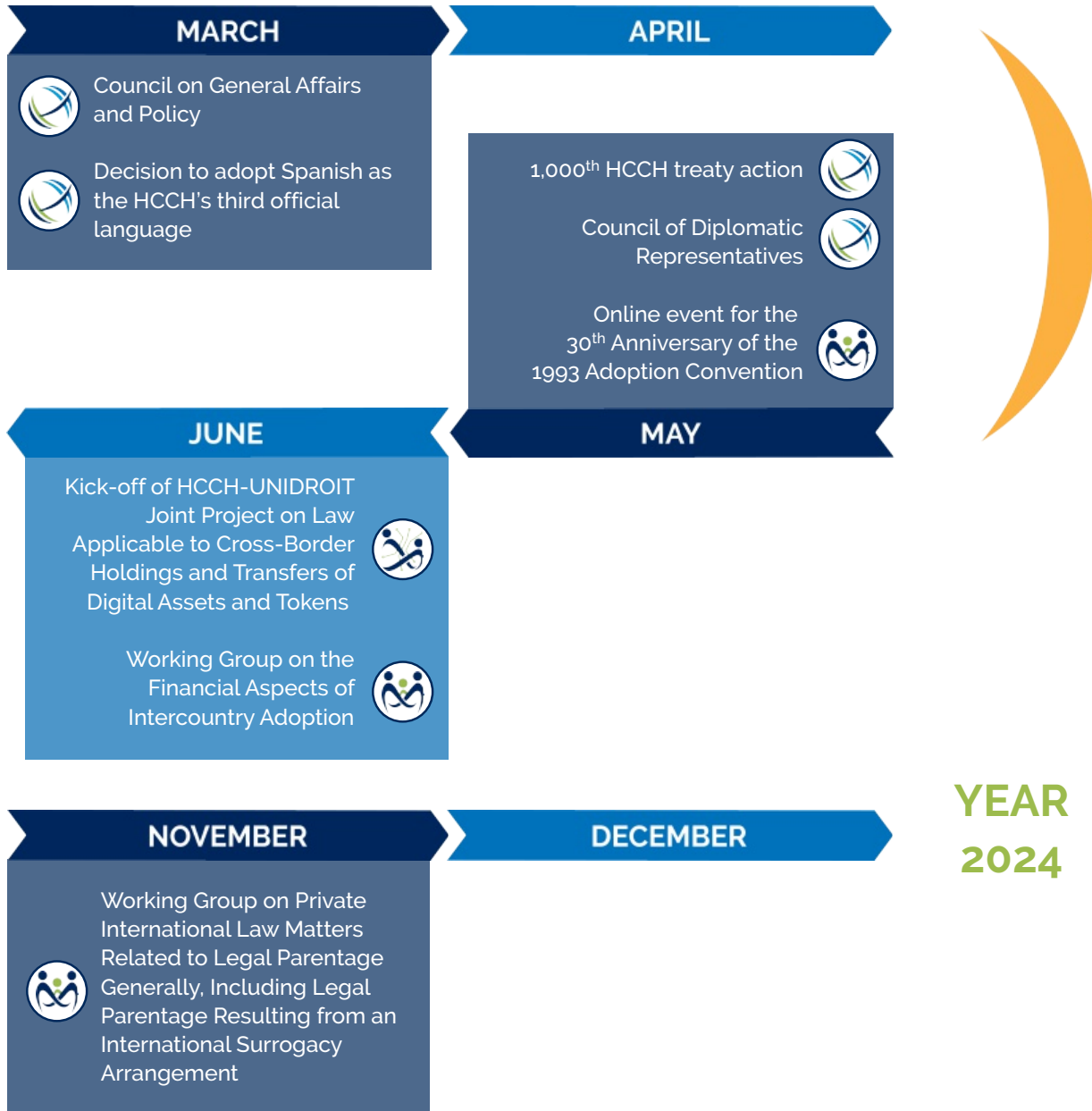
Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and the 1996 Child Protection Conventions



International Hague Network of Judges (25th anniversary meeting)



The Working Group on the Practical Handbook under the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention met regularly from April 2021 to June 2023 (online)



Facts & Figures

20

Signatures, Accessions & Ratifications

4 New Signatures

(2007 Child Support Convention, 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol, 2019 Judgments Convention)



10 New Accessions

(1961 Apostille Convention, 1965 Service Convention, 1970 Evidence Convention, 2007 Child Support Convention)

4 New Ratifications

(2000 Protection of Adults Convention, 2005 Choice of Court Convention, 2007 Child Support Convention, 2019 Judgments Convention)

as well as the extension of the application of the 1980 Child Abduction and the 1985 Trusts Conventions to Curaçao

18+

Meetings



8+

Public Events

- 1 Experts' Group
- 4 Working Groups
- 1 Special Commission
- 2 Governing Bodies
- 1 Network



31

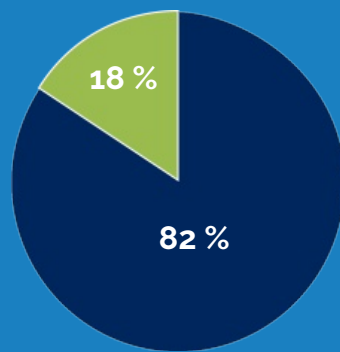
Staff members
from 20 States

6

Secondees
from 3 States

44

Interns
from 14 States



■ Budget
■ Voluntary Contributions

€ 4,998,744

Budget for
Financial Year 2023-2024

€ 1,075,220

received in monetary voluntary
contributions in 2023



8

States received tailored
post-Convention
assistance



6

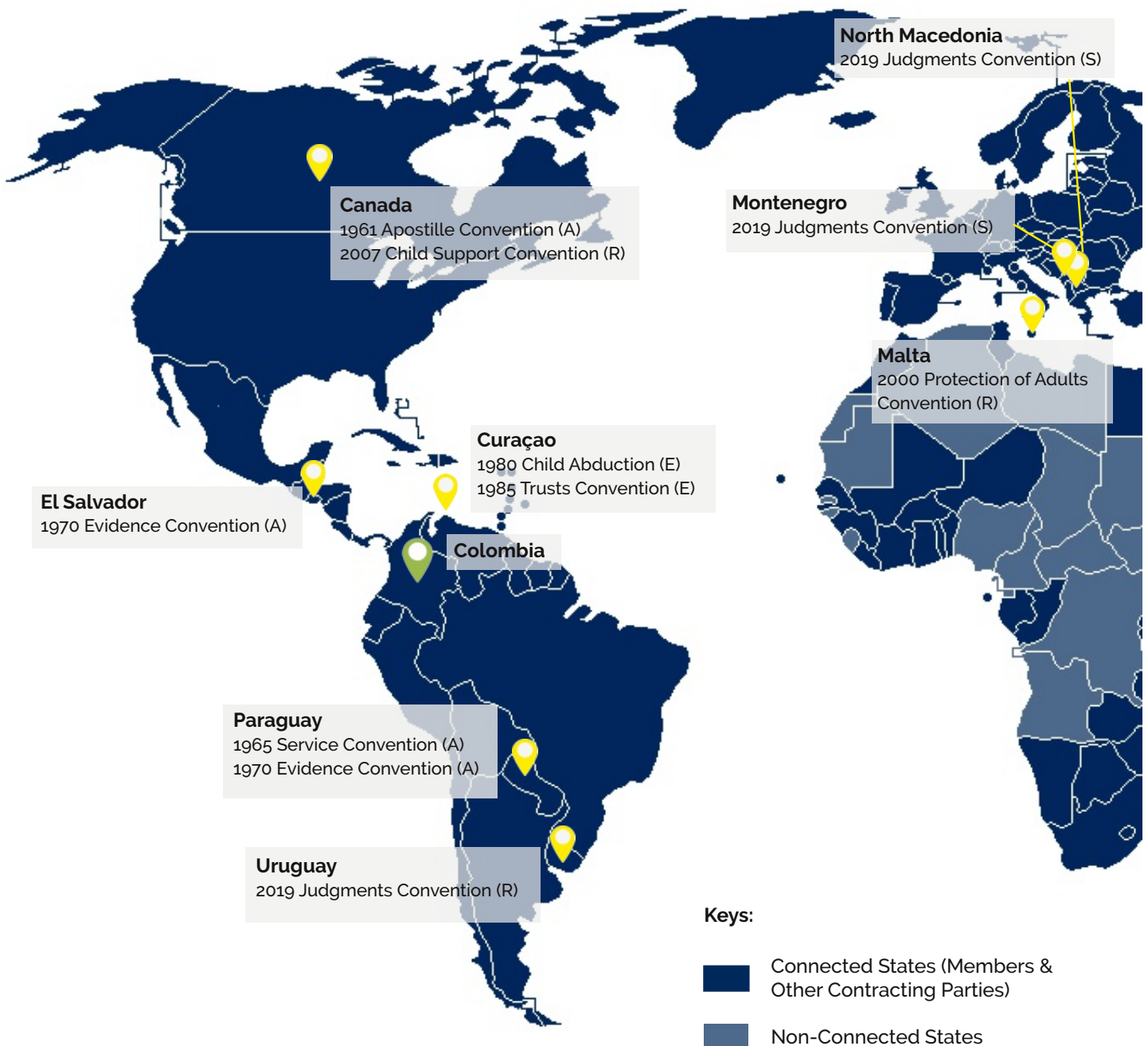
New publications

(per 31 December 2023)

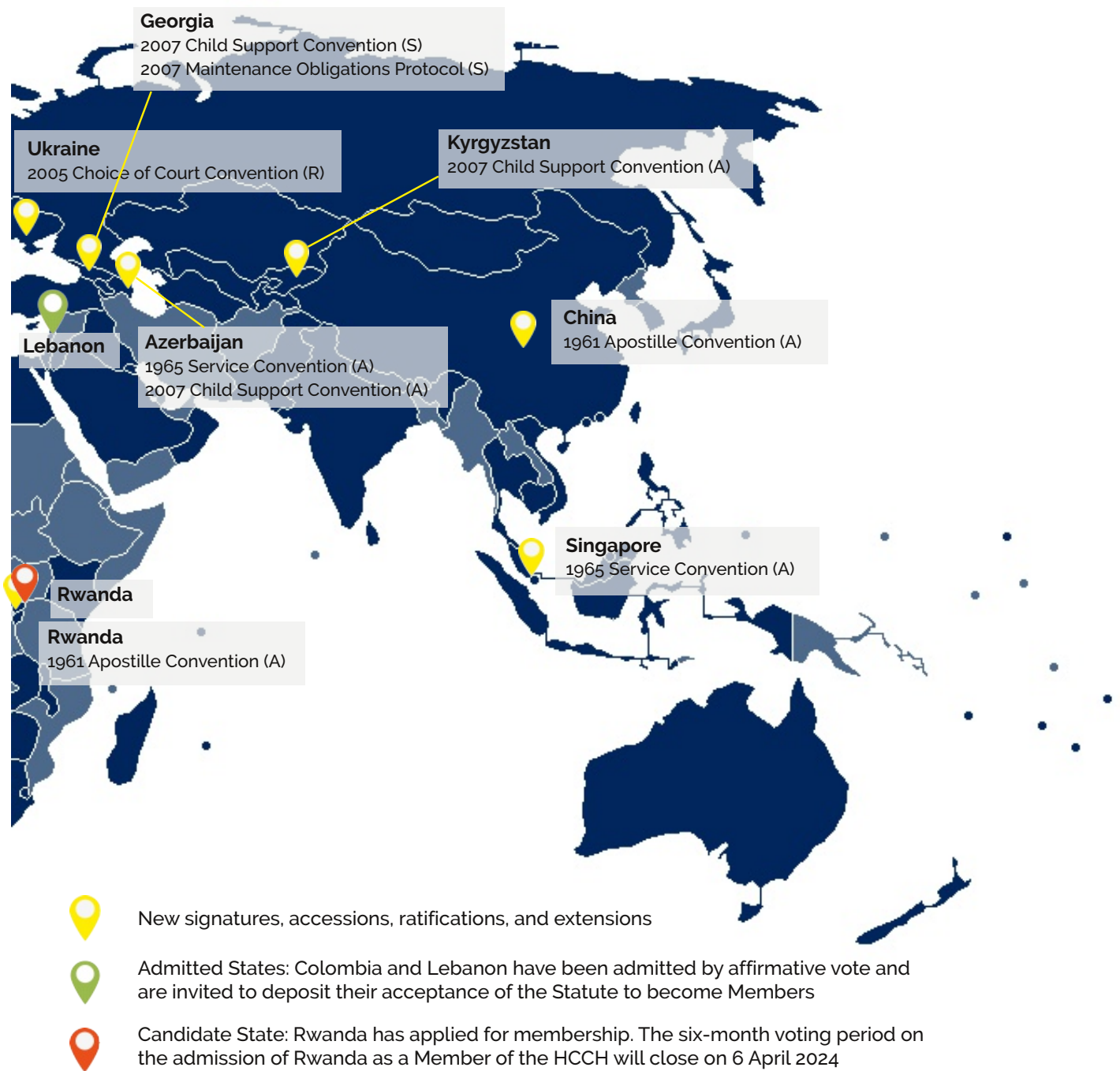
New Members & Treaty Actions

The HCCH has 91 Members (90 Member States and the EU) representing regions across the globe.

Members determine the Work Programme of the Organisation and play an active role in its normative, non-normative, and governance work.



Contracting Parties to the HCCH Conventions benefit from an extensive legal cooperation network and uniform international standards. The Conventions are open to Members of the Organisation, but also to non-Members, of which many have either signed or become Contracting Parties to one or more HCCH Conventions. As a result, there are a total of over 150 States connected to the work of the Organisation worldwide.





International Family & Child Protection Law

1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions

SC on the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions

The Eighth Meeting of the SC on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and the 1996 Child Protection Conventions was held on the premises of the Peace Palace in The Hague in October 2023. The meeting resulted in the adoption of over 100 Conclusions & Recommendations (C&Rs), providing guidance to Contracting Parties on a wide range of issues relating to the implementation and practical operation of these Conventions. The topics discussed included, in relation to the 1980 Child Abduction Convention: delays, return applications and the enforcement of return orders, rights of custody and access / contact; and, regarding the 1996 Child Protection Convention: issues relating to jurisdiction (*e.g.*, change of habitual residence, transfer of jurisdiction, coordination of jurisdiction issues, the definition of "urgency" under Art. 11); applicable law; recognition and enforcement of measures of protection; cooperation, measures of protection and the placement or provision of care of the child in another Contracting Party. Other topics discussed in the context of both Conventions were direct judicial communications, the determination of parental responsibility and rights of custody, mediation, and international family relocation. The SC assessed the application of the Article 13(1)(b) exception to the return of the child in the context of domestic violence and supported the proposal of the Secretary General to hold a forum on this topic bringing together organisations representing parents and children and officials responsible for applying the Convention.

The 1980 Child Abduction Convention seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of wrongful removal and retention across international boundaries, by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return and ensuring the protection of rights of access.



The Hon. Justice Victoria Bennett
(Australia), co-Chair of the SC on the
1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child
Protection Conventions



Eighth Meeting of the SC on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and
the 1996 Child Protection Conventions



Dr Daniel Trecca (Uruguay), co-Chair of
the SC on the 1980 Child Abduction and
1996 Child Protection Conventions

International Child Abduction Database (INCADAT)

The PB continues to support the operation of INCADAT, the only global, free legal database on international child abduction law. Available in English, French and Spanish, INCADAT is a comprehensive tool that facilitates the research of cases by providing case summaries and legal analyses within the scope of application of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention. Some of the decisions are provided in their original language, reflecting the wide reach of the database which currently covers over 55 jurisdictions. In 2023, INCADAT continued to grow both in terms of users and content, supported by the ongoing cooperation of the PB with INCADAT correspondents, universities, and Central Authorities across the world, which assist with the addition of new content and the translation of existing content.

International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ)

The IHNJ, specialising in the cross-border protection of children, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2023. Established in 1998 with a focus on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, its remit was eventually progressively extended to cover other family law matters, including under the 1996 Child Protection Convention and, since March 2023, the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention. At the time of writing, the IHNJ comprised 152 judges from 88 States across all regions of the world. Following two online meetings held in 2022, the IHNJ gathered in person, for the first time in five years, in October 2023, during the Eighth Meeting of the SC on the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions. The meeting provided the opportunity for participating judges to discuss the role of IHNJ judges, the expansion of the IHNJ, the use of INCADAT, the Judges' Newsletter, as well as future meetings and projects.



25th anniversary of the IHNJ

The 1996 Child Protection Convention provides a comprehensive framework to protect children in cross-border situations, with uniform private international law (PIL) rules that prevent conflicting decisions regarding civil measures of protection for children and their property.

1993 Adoption Convention

30th Anniversary of the 1993 Adoption Convention

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1993 Adoption Convention, the PB organised an online event featuring adoption experts from around the world, as well as persons with lived experience in intercountry adoption. The event provided an opportunity to recall the historical circumstances that motivated the Convention's adoption in 1993 and to review its implementation in the 30 years since, with a focus on good practices and remaining challenges.

The 1993 Adoption Convention provides safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect for their fundamental rights.



Ms Eliana Santos (Portugal), Chair of the WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption

New Working Group (WG) on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption

In March 2023, the CGAP mandated the establishment of a WG on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption, in recognition of the importance of preventing illicit practices arising in this area. The WG is to take stock of current practices, identify possible coordinated, targeted, practical approaches, and to prioritise them with the understanding that the objective would be to raise standards using the HCCH Guides to Good Practice and the *Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption* as the starting point. The WG met for the first time in June 2023 and will meet again in January 2024, before reporting on its progress to CGAP in March 2024.



First meeting of the WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption



Signature of the MOU with the Government of the Netherlands

Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme (ICATAP)

As in previous years, the PB continued to receive requests from Contracting Parties for tailored post-Convention assistance, provided through the generous support of the Government of Norway. Notably, the PB, with the assistance of consultants, provided further technical assistance to Paraguay, resulting in the development of a guide on the administrative procedure for adoption, the training of staff of the Central Authority and other relevant actors, and the provision of guidance on the different stages of the adoption procedure, as well as on specific cases. The PB also provided technical assistance to Mongolia through the organisation of a training on the operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention for its Central Authority and other relevant actors. Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, the PB aims to expand its capacity to provide post-Convention assistance to certain States of origin through the generous support of the Government of the Netherlands, following the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August 2023.

Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption

The PB published the *Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption* in June 2023, following its approval by CGAP in March 2023. Developed by the WG on Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption, the Toolkit provides practical guidelines on what must be done to identify, prevent, and address illicit practices and their enabling factors. It is intended to assist Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention, as well as all actors and persons involved in adoption, in the proper implementation and operation of the Convention.



Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption



Hague Conference on Private International Law – Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé



Recommended Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention



Other Tools to Assist with the Implementation of the Convention

In March 2023, CGAP approved Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention, now available on the HCCH website. It also mandated the development of a Template for Country Fact Sheets on available post-adoption services relating to search for origins.

2000 Protection of Adults Convention

New Contracting Party

In March 2023, Greece ratified the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention, which then entered into force for Greece in July 2023. With this ratification, the Convention now has 15 Contracting Parties.

The 2000 Protection of Adults Convention applies to the protection of adults in international situations who, by reason of an impairment or insufficiency of their personal faculties, are not in a position to protect their interests.

New Tools to Assist with the Implementation of the Convention

The WG on the development of a draft *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention* met multiple times throughout 2023. Once published, the Practical Handbook will provide guidance on the scope of the Convention and factors to be considered in the process of its implementation, including rules of jurisdiction, the law applicable to measures of protection and powers of representation, recognition and enforcement as well as judicial and administrative cooperation. In parallel with the Practical Handbook, the WG continued to work on the finalisation of the draft *Implementation Checklist under the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention*, a tool highlighting implementation issues which may need to be considered by current and prospective Contracting Parties, as well as the draft *Country Profile under the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention*, a tool for Contracting Parties to provide information regarding their domestic laws in the area and their implementation of the Convention.



Mr Geraldo Rocha Ribeiro (Portugal), Chair of the WG on the Practical Handbook on the Operation of the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention

The draft Practical Handbook, Implementation Checklist, and Country Profile were circulated for consultation among HCCH Members and Contracting Parties to the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention in 2023, and will be submitted to CGAP for final approval, before being published in 2024.

2007 Child Support Convention and 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol

New Contracting Parties

In 2023, Azerbaijan, Canada, and Kyrgyzstan joined the 2007 Child Support Convention, and Georgia signed both the Convention and the 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol. The Convention entered into force for Azerbaijan in July 2023, and will enter into force for Canada (in the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario) and Kyrgyzstan in 2024. With these new treaty actions, the 2007 Child Support Convention now has 49 Contracting Parties, while the 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol has 32.



Fourth meeting of the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds

Experts' Group (EG) on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds

The EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds was established in March 2019 in light of persisting challenges to the smooth cross-border transfer of child support payments, such as high transfer costs and other difficulties of an organisational nature. The EG held its fourth meeting in February 2023, continuing its work discussing good practices in relation to the cross-border transfer of maintenance payments, with a view to identifying solutions that are cost-effective, transparent, prompt, efficient, and accessible.



Mr Arnaldo José Alves Silveira (Brazil), co-Chair of the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds

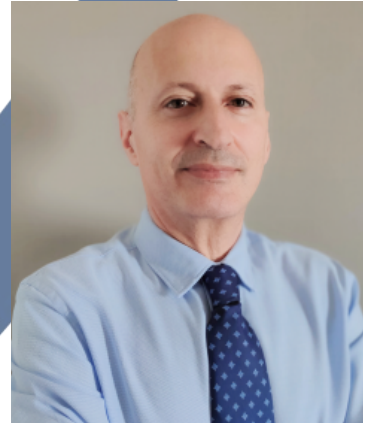


Dr Sarah Gerling-Stock (Germany), co-Chair of the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds

The 2007 Child Support Convention and 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol seek to establish a modern, efficient, and accessible international system for the cross-border recovery of child support and other forms of family maintenance.

iSupport

Throughout 2023, the PB continued to work on the maintenance and improvement of iSupport, the electronic case management and secure communication system for the cross-border recovery of maintenance obligations under the EU 2009 Maintenance Regulation and the 2007 Child Support Convention, as well as other international and bilateral instruments. Considerable advances were made in the use of e-CODEX, the secure electronic communication system, both in terms of reducing the number of components and updating its installation procedures.



Mr Paulo Jorge Gomes Gonçalves
(Portugal), Chair of the iSupport Governing
Body

Parentage / Surrogacy Project

In March 2023, CGAP welcomed the final report of the EG on the feasibility of one or more PIL instruments on legal parentage, bringing the work of the EG to its conclusion. On the basis of the EG's recommendations, CGAP mandated the establishment of a WG on PIL matters related to legal parentage generally, including legal parentage resulting from an international surrogacy arrangement. The WG met for the first time in November 2023 to begin its consideration of draft provisions for a new instrument in this area.



Ms Joëlle Schickel-Küng (Switzerland),
Chair of the EG on Parentage / Surrogacy



Prof Michael Hellner (Sweden), Chair of the
WG on Parentage / Surrogacy

Other Post-Convention Work: Seminars, Conferences, and Trainings

As part of its ongoing cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the PB hosted a group of European judges, prosecutors, and court officials for a study visit at its premises in September 2023. Over the course of two days, the PB offered training on various HCCH Conventions in the area of family law and child protection, including the 1980 Child Abduction, 1993 Adoption, 1996 Child Protection, and 2000 Protection of Adults Conventions. The PB also collaborated with universities, organising, for example, lectures and workshops on the HCCH Children's Conventions for the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, the University of Ghent in Belgium, and Kyushu University in Japan.

In addition, members of the PB participated actively as speakers in various other international events discussing the operation of these Conventions. For example:

- the 1980 Child Abduction and the 1996 Child Protection Conventions were the focus of the Anglophone-Germanophone Judicial Conference on International Family Law, the International Congress on Child Abduction organised by the *Asociación de Profesionales contra la sustracción internacional de menores (ASIME)*, and the Second Annual Meeting of Family Law Europe;
- the 1993 Adoption Convention was the focus of conferences and events organised by the European Parliament, by several Latin American Central Authorities (in particular Brazil and Ecuador), by the Italian Central Authority, by the French Central Authority, by the University of Angers in France, and by *Association RAIF*;
- the 1996 Child Protection Convention was the focus of a seminar for social workers from the Norwegian Child Welfare Services;
- the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention was promoted by the PB on the occasion of a Workshop on the Cross-border Protection of Vulnerable Adults hosted by the Czech Republic Presidency of the EU.

Finally, regarding the Parentage / Surrogacy Project, the PB participated in events organised by the European Parliament, the International Commission on Civil Status, the International Law Association, and UNICEF.



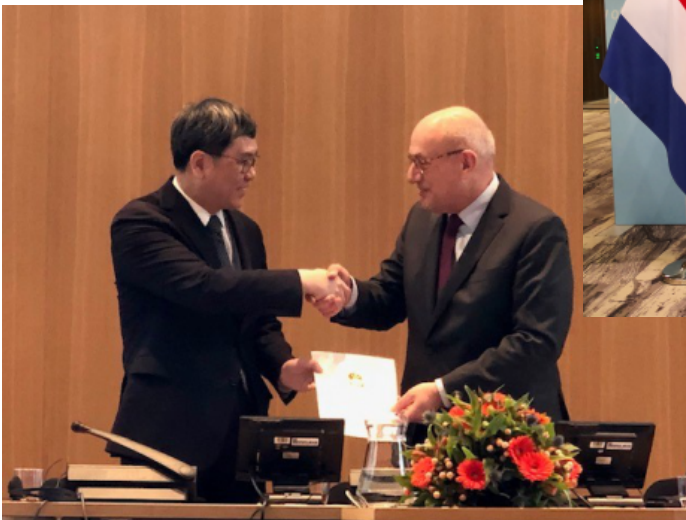
First meeting of the WG on Parentage / Surrogacy

1961 Apostille Convention

New Contracting Parties

In 2023, Canada, China, and Rwanda joined the 1961 Apostille Convention. The Convention entered into force for China in November 2023. The Convention was already in force in the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (SARs), since 1965 and 1969 respectively. The Apostille Convention, which now has a total of 126 Contracting Parties, will enter into force for Canada and Rwanda in 2024.

The 1961 Apostille Convention facilitates the use of public documents abroad, replacing the traditional legalisation process with the issuance of a single Apostille certificate.



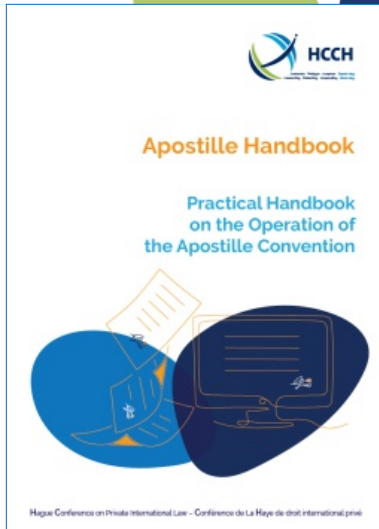
China accedes to the 1961 Apostille Convention



Rwanda accedes to the 1961 Apostille Convention



Canada accedes to the 1961 Apostille Convention



Second Edition of the Apostille Handbook

The second edition of the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Apostille Convention* was published in January 2023. The Apostille Handbook, first published in 2013, is a primary source of guidance for Contracting Parties and their Competent Authorities in the practical operation of the Convention. The second edition of the Apostille Handbook, available in English, French, Georgian, and Spanish, provides updated information and resources in response to the latest relevant developments.

Electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP)

The e-APP, which comprises two components: the issuance of electronic Apostilles (e-Apostilles) and the operation of electronic Registers (e-Registers) to verify both paper Apostilles and e-Apostilles, has continued to attract interest. In 2023, two Contracting Parties to the 1961 Apostille Convention implemented one or both e-APP components in parts of their territories: China (Mainland) established an e-Register and four states in the United States of America (USA) (Connecticut, Montana, Rhode Island, and Utah) commenced pilot programmes for the issuance of e-Apostilles. With these developments, 52 out of the 126 Contracting Parties to the Convention have now implemented one or both e-APP components.

1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

The 1965 Service Convention and the 1970 Evidence Convention establish effective cross-border cooperation mechanisms to facilitate and streamline, respectively, the service of documents and the taking of evidence abroad.

New Contracting Parties

In 2023, Azerbaijan, Paraguay, and Singapore acceded to the 1965 Service Convention, which currently has 82 Contracting Parties, and El Salvador and Paraguay acceded to the 1970 Evidence Convention, which currently has 66 Contracting Parties. Following these accessions, the Conventions have entered into force in the relevant States.

The 1980 Access to Justice Convention ensures that nationals or habitual residents of a Contracting Party to the Convention have non-discriminatory access to justice within all other Contracting Parties.



El Salvador accedes to 1970 Evidence Convention



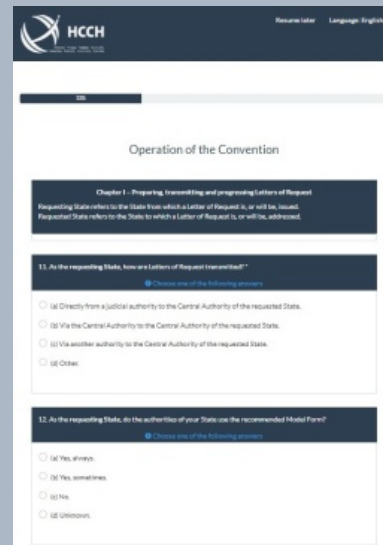
Paraguay accedes to 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions



Singapore accedes to 1965 Service Convention

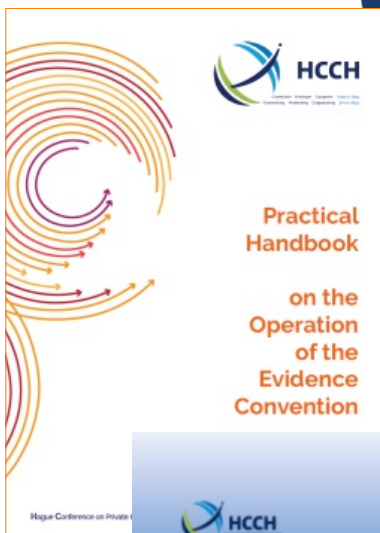
SC on the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

The PB continued its preparations for the upcoming meeting of the SC on the Practical Operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, to be held in 2024. Preparations for this meeting have included the circulation of questionnaires on each of the three Conventions inviting Members and Central Authorities designated by Contracting Parties to the Conventions to consider specific questions on the practical operation of the Conventions. Separate questionnaires were also sent to non-Contracting Parties, with a view to discovering whether these States had considered joining the Convention(s). The responses to the questionnaires will be used to inform the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the SC.



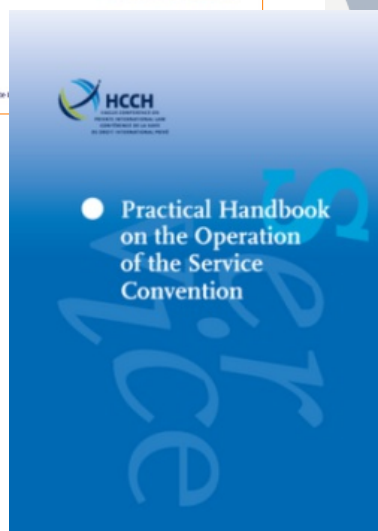
The screenshot shows a web-based questionnaire interface. At the top, there is a header with the HCCH logo and the text 'Home' and 'Language: English'. Below the header, the title 'Operation of the Convention' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Chapter I - Preparing, transmitting and progressing Letters of Request'. It includes a sub-section 'Requesting State refers to the State from which a Letter of Request is, or will be, issued. Requested State refers to the State to which a Letter of Request is, or will be, addressed.' Two questions are visible: '11. As the requesting State, how are Letters of Request transmitted?' and '12. As the requesting State, do the authorities of your State use the recommended Model Form?'. Each question has radio button options for 'Yes, always', 'Yes, sometimes', 'No', and 'Unknown'. There are also links for 'Choose one of the following options'.

Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1970 Evidence Convention



Fifth Editions of the Service and Evidence Handbooks

The PB is working on updating the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Service Convention* and the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention* with a view to publishing fifth editions after the SC meeting. These updates include information received in response to the questionnaires, additional contributions received from Contracting Parties, and information collected through the PB's monitoring of the operation of the Conventions. The updates refer to new case law, legislation, and literature, including information on the use of technology for the transmission and execution of requests. The updated Evidence Handbook will incorporate the text of the *Guide to Good Practice on the Use of Video-Link*, which was published in 2020, so that practical information for the 1970 Evidence Convention is contained in a single Handbook.



2005 Choice of Court Convention

New Contracting Party

In May 2023, Ukraine ratified the 2005 Choice of Court Convention, which then entered into force for Ukraine in August 2023. As a result, 32 States plus the EU are currently bound by the Convention.

The 2005 Choice of Court Convention aims at ensuring the effectiveness of choice of court agreements, or "forum selection clauses", between parties to international commercial transactions.

2019 Judgments Convention

Entry Into Force on 1 September 2023 and New Contracting Parties

The 2019 Judgments Convention entered into force on 1 September 2023, just over four years after its adoption on 2 July 2019. The Convention currently has effect between the EU, including its Member States (except Denmark), and Ukraine. On 1 September 2023, the Convention was ratified by Uruguay, for which it will enter into force in October 2024. There are currently six signatories to the Convention: Costa Rica, Israel, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Russian Federation, and the USA.



North Macedonia signs the 2019 Judgments Convention

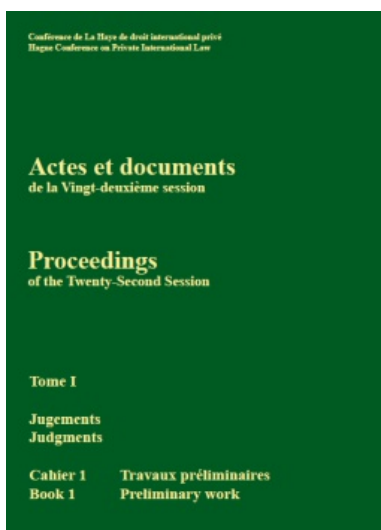
The 2019 Judgments Convention facilitates the effective global circulation of judgments in civil or commercial matters.



Montenegro signs the 2019 Judgments Convention



Uruguay ratifies the 2019 Judgments Convention



Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Session of the HCCH

In October 2023, the PB published the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Session* of the HCCH, which resulted in the adoption of the 2019 Judgments Convention. The Proceedings contain the documents and transcripts of the negotiations and preparatory work behind the 2019 Judgments Convention, including the work of the relevant WG, SC, and Diplomatic Session, as well as the Explanatory Report on the Convention and other miscellaneous items.

Jurisdiction Project



Prof Keisuke Takeshita (Japan), Chair of the WG on Matters Related to Jurisdiction in Transnational Civil or Commercial Litigation

The Jurisdiction Project forms part of the original Judgments Project, which has been an important focus of the HCCH's normative work aimed at addressing two key aspects of PIL in transnational civil or commercial litigation: the international jurisdiction of courts and the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments. Under the auspices of the Judgments Project, the HCCH successfully negotiated and concluded the 2005 Choice of Court Convention and the 2019 Judgments Convention. The HCCH now continues to explore matters related to the jurisdiction of courts in transnational civil or commercial litigation, including how harmonised rules in transnational litigation can reduce the risk of parallel litigation in multiple States.

The WG on Matters Related to Jurisdiction in Transnational Civil or Commercial Litigation, established in 2021 and chaired by Professor Keisuke Takeshita (Japan), met twice in 2023, in February and September. The second of these meetings was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) through the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina and the *Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura*. Pursuant to its mandate, the WG has made progress on the development of draft provisions on parallel

proceedings and related actions or claims, which may occur when separate proceedings are instituted before the courts of different States. The draft provisions and other material produced and discussed by the WG will inform future considerations and decisions in relation to the type and scope of a possible new instrument regulating these matters. The WG will meet again in January 2024 and will report to CGAP at its March 2024 meeting.



Fourth meeting of the WG on Jurisdiction

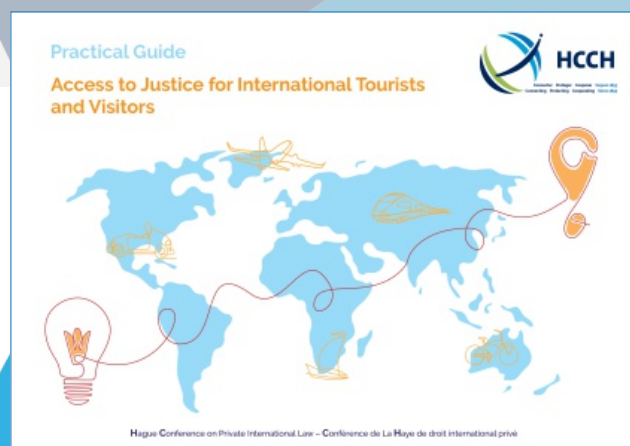


Fifth meeting of the WG on Jurisdiction

Publication of the Practical Guide to Access to Justice for International Tourists and Visitors

The *Practical Guide to Access to Justice for International Tourists and Visitors* is intended to assist international tourists and visitors to foreign countries seeking access to justice for disputes arising from their tourism experience by providing information on online dispute resolution (ODR) mechanisms that may be available and HCCH legal instruments that may be relevant in a given case. The Practical Guide was developed by the EG on the Tourists and Visitors (ODR) Project and published by the PB in March 2023.

Since its publication, the Practical Guide has been further updated to reflect key developments, including those of the 2019 Judgments Convention. The updated Practical Guide has been submitted for review by CGAP at its 2024 meeting and will be published by the PB in 2024.



Other Post-Convention Work: Seminars, Conferences, and Trainings

The PB endeavours to conduct post-Convention work for the transnational litigation and 1961 Apostille Conventions as a package and, depending on the needs of the stakeholders involved, these Conventions are also promoted jointly or individually. For example, in 2023, the PB and the Asian Business Law Institute (ABLI) co-organised an online seminar on the topic "Cross-border Commercial Dispute Resolution – HCCH 1965 Service Convention", building upon the success of the joint HCCH-ABLI webinars organised in 2022 (on the 2019 Judgments and 2005 Choice of Court Conventions) and in 2021 (on the 1970 Evidence Convention). The PB also organised a webinar on the application and future prospects of the 1961 Apostille Convention in the Asia Pacific region, open to the general public, as well as workshops for the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo (on multiple transnational litigation Conventions), Viet Nam (on the 2005 Choice of Court and 2019 Judgments Conventions), Indonesia (on multiple transnational litigation Conventions), the Philippines (on the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 2019 Judgments Conventions), and Kazakhstan (on the 1970 Evidence Convention).

In light of the entry into force of the 2019 Judgments Convention, in 2023 the PB continued to dedicate significant efforts towards promoting the Convention and supporting its effective implementation and operation through a variety of different activities. In June 2023, the PB and the University of Bonn, with the support of the Federal Ministry of Justice of Germany, organised the conference "The HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention: Cornerstones – Prospects – Outlook", in Bonn (Germany). A collection of essays on the Convention, written by the experts involved in the conference, was published ahead of the conference. The PB also continued its engagement with the Balkan Enforcement Strengthening Project, an initiative led by the Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, through the co-organisation of the seminar "Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in the Western Balkan Region: HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention". The seminar was attended by representatives of the governments of six Western Balkan jurisdictions, the European Commission, and the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands. During HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2023, held in Hong Kong SAR (China), the entry into force of the Convention was celebrated through a special conference session.



Seminar on the 2019 Judgments Convention in The Hague



Conference on the 2019 Judgments Convention in Bonn



International Commercial, Digital, & Financial Law

1985 Trusts Convention

In November 2023, the application of the 1985 Trusts Convention was extended to Curaçao, for which it will enter into force on 1 February 2024. The Convention has been in force in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (in Europe) since 1996.

The 1985 Trusts Convention specifies the law applicable to trusts and governs the recognition of trusts among Contracting Parties.

The PB is currently studying, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, the interpretation of analogous institutions for the purpose of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention, with a focus on clarifying the divergences in interpretation between the English and French versions of the Article and exploring whether analogous institutions would include foundations and endowments, institutions and developments relating to the *waqf* in the Islamic legal tradition, and decentralised autonomous organisations and other similar structures.

2006 Securities Convention and digital developments in respect of securities markets

The PB is currently studying, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, the determination of jurisdiction and applicable law in the context of securities markets in light of developments in technology such as distributed ledger technology; assessing the ramifications of the growing attention that financial services and securities industries have accorded to developments in technology; and identifying opportunities, in the context of the digital economy, for the desirability and feasibility of future normative guidance concerning securities to complement the 2006 Securities Convention.

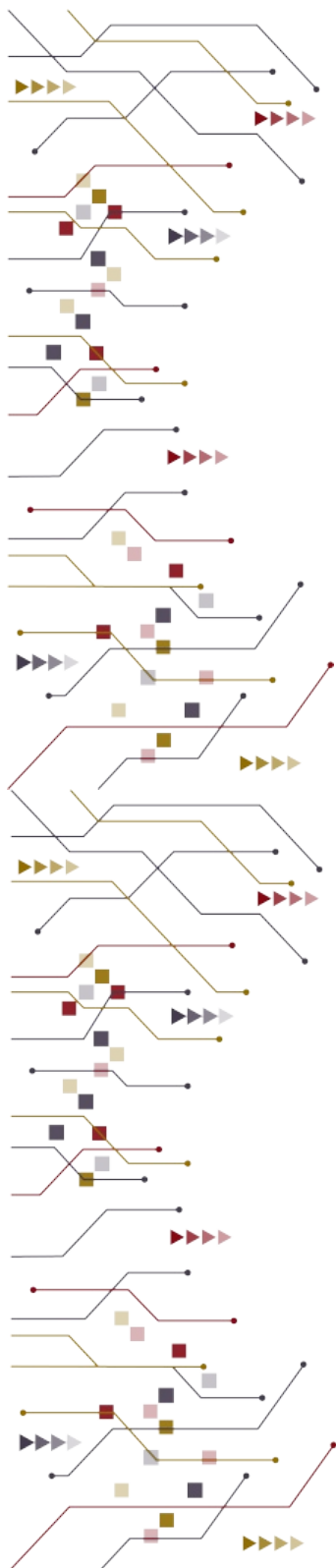
The 2006 Securities Convention determines the law applicable to the perfection, priority, and other effects of securities held with an intermediary.

2015 Choice of Law Principles

The 2015 Principles, the first "soft-law" instrument of the HCCH, are designed to promote party autonomy in international commercial contracts.

The PB is currently studying, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, the feasibility, desirability, and necessity of developing guidance on applicable law in international contracts providing protection to weaker parties. The PB is also undertaking further work to update a Survey on the 2015 Principles with a view to increasing the number of participating arbitration centres.

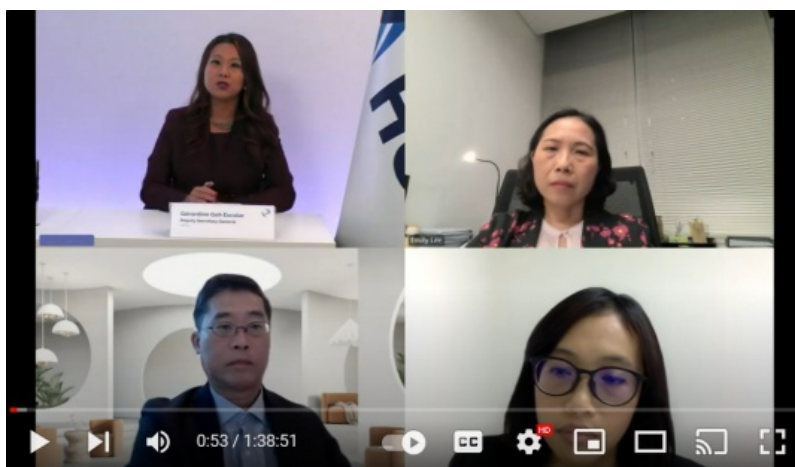
Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) Project



In March 2023, CGAP mandated the PB, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts and Observers, to study the PIL implications of CBDCs.

A number of central banks are currently piloting CBDCs in light of their potential to be a "new form of money" that promotes various benefits and policy goals including financial inclusion, reduced transaction costs, resilience of payments in emergency situations, and increased competition in the cross-border payments sector. At the same time, questions have arisen regarding the requisite legal frameworks of CBDCs and the potential challenges to the application of traditional PIL rules.

In July 2023, the kick-off meeting of the CBDCs Project was held online, providing the opportunity for participating experts to lay the foundation for the preparatory and exploratory work relating to the project. At this meeting, experts discussed the project's draft Scope Paper, developed by the PB. Following the meeting, experts submitted written responses to the iterated Scope Paper, identifying various PIL considerations raised by CBDCs and digital cross-border payments systems. Later in the year, in October 2023, the PB organised an online colloquium ("CODIFI Edition 2023 - CBDCs"), where experts participated in discussion sessions and interviews on topics from the iterated Scope Paper. The colloquium sessions were streamed to the general public and made available for on-demand viewing following the broadcast.



CODIFI Edition 2023 - CBDCs



Kick-off meeting of the CBDCs Project

HCCH-UNIDROIT Digital Assets and Tokens (DAT) Joint Project

Following its approval by the governing bodies of the HCCH and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) in early 2023, the DAT Joint Project examined the desirability of developing coordinated guidance and the feasibility of a normative framework on the law applicable to cross-border holdings and transfers of digital assets and tokens, covering relevant PIL aspects. Two meetings were held in 2023: the first in June, at the HCCH's headquarters in The Hague, and the second in October, at UNIDROIT's headquarters in Rome. During the meetings, participating experts discussed questions raised in the project's Scope Paper and explored topics for possible future work.

The conclusions of the work undertaken in this Joint Project will be presented to CGAP in 2024.



Kick-off meeting of the HCCH-UNIDROIT DAT Joint Project

Digital Economy Project and Other Monitoring Work

Throughout 2023, the HCCH continued to monitor developments with respect to the digital economy, with a view to identifying PIL issues for potential future work. It also continued monitoring developments with respect to the PIL issues related to online platforms, artificial intelligence and automated contracting, and immersive technologies, in partnership with the Secretariat of the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), other relevant international organisations, and subject-matter experts. In the context of this work, in 2023 the PB participated as an observer in UNIDROIT's WG on Digital Assets and Private Law and UNCITRAL'S WG IV (Electronic Commerce), contributing to the PIL aspects of their work. The PB also participated in multiple conferences and events organised by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the *Asociación Americana de Derecho Internacional Privado* (ASADIP), the International Institute for Justice Excellence (IIJE), the University of Ferrara (Italy), the University of Hong Kong (China), Wuhan University (China), and other relevant stakeholders.

The HCCH has also continued to monitor developments with respect to the intersection of intellectual property and PIL, including through cooperation with the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and with respect to the PIL aspects of restructuring and insolvency, including through participation as an observer in UNCITRAL'S WG V (Insolvency Law).



Second Forum on Rule of Law in Global Digital Trade



Governance & Cooperation

As an intergovernmental organisation, good governance is essential to the operation of the HCCH. Its unique global mandate also requires international cooperation with the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as ongoing dialogue with the general public.

Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP)

CGAP met from 7 to 10 March 2023 to review progress and set the Work Programme for the year ahead. Chaired by Dr Marcelo De Nardi (Brazil), the meeting had over 450 participants, representing the Members of the Organisation, as well as Observer States, intergovernmental organisations, and international non-governmental organisations.

As in previous years, CGAP reviewed ongoing legislative and post-Convention work, providing guidance and direction as outlined in the preceding sections. Highlights included the endorsement of the C&Rs of the recent meetings of SCs on the practical operation of the 2007 Child Support Convention and its Protocol, the 1993 Adoption Convention, and the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions, as well as the mandate of further normative work in relation to jurisdiction in transnational civil or commercial litigation, parentage / surrogacy (through the establishment of a WG), the digital economy, and CBDCs.

In the area of family and child protection law, CGAP approved the *Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption* and the Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention, mandated the establishment of a WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption, and agreed upon the extension of the scope of the IHNJ to matters relating to the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention. In the area of transnational litigation and Apostille, CGAP welcomed the preparations for the next meeting of the SC on the Practical Operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions. Finally, in the area of commercial, digital, and financial law, CGAP mandated the PB to conduct further study of the 2006 Securities Convention and digital developments in respect of securities markets; the interpretation of analogous institutions for the purpose of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention; and, in relation to the 2015 Choice of Law Principles, the feasibility, desirability, and necessity of developing guidance on applicable law in international contracts providing protection to weaker parties.



Dr Marcelo De Nardi (Brazil), Chair of CGAP



H.E. Ms Adia Sakiqi (Albania), Chair of the WG on the HCCH Strategic Plan



Ms Yael Weiner (Israel), Vice-Chair of CGAP

In terms of governance matters, CGAP took the historic decision to adopt Spanish as an official language as of 1 July 2024. From this date onwards, English, French, and Spanish will be the three official languages of the Organisation. CGAP also approved the HCCH Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 and recommended the appointment of Dr Christophe Bernasconi to the position of Secretary General for another five-year mandate.



2023 CGAP meeting

Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR)



Mr Roeland Böcker (the Netherlands),
Chair of CDR

The annual meeting of CDR, the Organisation's primary financial and budgetary authority, was held in May 2023, chaired by Mr Roeland Böcker (the Netherlands).

Highlights of the meeting included the approval of the HCCH's budget for Financial Year 2023-2024, at a total of € 4,998,744, and the appointment of Ms Marisar Ivy Cabatingan (Philippines) and Ms Paulina Dudzik (Poland) as the new Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Standing Committee of CDR.



Ms Marisar Ivy Cabatingan
(Philippines), Chair of the Standing
Committee of CDR



Ms Paulina Dudzik (Poland),
Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee
of CDR

Outreach & Institutional Cooperation



Cooperation with the **EU** on iSupport, on the development or modernisation of e-Country Profiles for several HCCH Conventions, as well as on the translation of key HCCH publications into EU languages.

Long-term cooperation with **UNIDROIT** and **UNCITRAL**, sister organisations of the HCCH, on a wide range of cross-cutting issues.



Cooperation with **WIPO** on the intersection between PIL and intellectual property law.

Cooperation with the **Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)**, including through high-level bilateral meetings, participation in the AALCO Capacity Building Training Seminar and the AALCO Annual Sessions, and preliminary preparations for the organisation of joint seminars.



Cooperation with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, including through participation in the ASEAN Law Forum 2023 and the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting.

Cooperation with the **Hong Kong Department of Justice and the University of Hong Kong** in the organisation of HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2023.



Cooperation with **ABLI**, including on the organisation of a joint webinar on the topic "Cross-border Commercial Dispute Resolution – HCCH 1965 Service Convention".

Cooperation with the **International Development Law Organization (IDLO)**, resulting, among others, in the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between the two organisations and preparations for joint promotional activities in 2024.



Cooperation with **The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA)**, including participation in various PIL promotional activities in the Asia Pacific region.

Cooperation with the **Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL)**, including participation in academic exchange activities such as the AAIL Colloquium on International Law and various regional legal seminars.



**JUST
PEACE
MONTH.**

Participation in the **Just Peace Month** organised by the Municipality of The Hague and the Hague Humanity Hub.

Cooperation with **CILC's** Balkan Enforcement Strengthening Project through the organisation of the seminar "Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in the Western Balkan Region: HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention".



Cooperation with the **International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ)** in the promotion of the 1965 Service and 2019 Judgments Conventions.

Cooperation with the **Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)** towards strengthening the use of the French language at the HCCH.



Cooperation with **ASADIP**, including through participation in ASADIP's Annual Conference and Meeting of International Forums on Private International Law.

Cooperation with the **Organization of American States (OAS)**, in particular its International Law Department, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



Cooperation with the **Governments of Finland, Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania, and the University of Pretoria**, in the organisation of the conference "The HCCH and the Relevance of its Work for Southern Africa" and other regional outreach initiatives.

Cooperation with **APEC** through the organisation of the APEC-HCCH Workshop on facilitating cross-border dispute resolution for businesses (including micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises) and participation in various APEC meetings.



Cooperation with the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**, including on the organisation of the seminar "HCCH Transnational Litigation and Apostille Conventions in the GCC" for States in the Gulf region.

Cooperation with **UNICEF** on family law and child protection matters falling within the scope of the HCCH Children's Conventions and the Parentage / Surrogacy Project.



Cooperation with the **International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) Preparatory Office**, including participation in workshops on ODR.

Regional Outreach

As an intergovernmental organisation of universal nature, the HCCH seeks to include all regions of the world in its normative and non-normative work. Its Regional Offices – the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) – have proven essential in this regard, strengthening dialogue within their respective regions and providing post-Convention services tailored to regional needs.

ROAP

From 11 to 14 September 2023, ROAP organised the sixth edition of HCCH Asia Pacific Week, dedicated to the theme "Access to Justice and Sustainable Development: The Impact of the HCCH in an Interconnected World". The conference brought together experts from across Asia and the Pacific for wide-ranging discussions on the most recent developments relating to the HCCH's key Conventions and instruments, ongoing normative projects, and possible future work. The conference also featured a special event in celebration of the 130th anniversary of the HCCH.

Other events, the organisation of which ROAP contributed to, were the webinar "Cross-border Commercial Dispute Resolution - HCCH 1965 Service Convention", co-hosted by the HCCH and ABLI, and the webinar "HCCH 1961 Apostille Convention - Application and Future Prospects in the Asia Pacific Region".

ROAP also participated in a number of meetings and conferences throughout the year, with the aim of raising awareness of the work of the HCCH and of strengthening the Organisation's network of partners among governments and other key stakeholders in the region. These included, for example, the Annual Conference of the China Society for Private International Law, the sixth Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) International Forum, the BRI Cooperation and Partnership Model Agreement Conference, and Hong Kong Legal Week 2023. ROAP also organised meetings and events with other international organisations active in the region, for example APEC, AALCO, and IOMed.



Left to right: Mr Levi Gao, ROAP Legal Officer (on secondment), Prof Yun Zhao, ROAP Representative, Dr Christophe Bernasconi, HCCH Secretary General, and Ms Alix Ng, ROAP Office Manager

As part of its ongoing engagement with students and academics, ROAP organised seminars for Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, Xiamen University Law School, East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (SHUPL), and the Ocean University of China. It also organised internships for students from Doshisha University, SHUPL, Singapore Management University, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and New York University.



Seminar at Tianjin University of Finance and Economics



Meeting with members of the Family Justice Courts of Singapore



HCH Asia Pacific Week 2023

ROLAC

Throughout 2023, ROLAC provided assistance to Central Authorities and other government representatives from States across Latin America and the Caribbean in the adoption, implementation, and operation of HCCH Conventions and instruments. ROLAC also organised and participated in various trainings, seminars, and academic events. Among other activities, its staff members co-hosted a training on the HCCH Children's Conventions for UNICEF officers; delivered a lecture on the HCCH Children's Conventions at an international conference on intercountry adoption for judges and adoption officers organised by the Government of Brazil; and raised awareness of the HCCH Conventions' contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and transnational access to justice at international conferences organised by the Supreme Court of Costa Rica ("Human Rights for Access to Justice: Views from the Perspective of Sustainable Development") and Colombia's *Instituto Antioqueño de Derecho Internacional Privado* ("Global Law and Sustainable Development").

Working closely with the HCCH's Transnational Litigation and Apostille Division, ROLAC supported the organisation of the fifth meeting of the WG on Jurisdiction, held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in September 2023. As the first meeting of an HCCH WG to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean, its success was a powerful demonstration of ROLAC's contribution to the HCCH's core principles of universality and inclusiveness. Similarly, ROLAC contributed to preparatory work for the Eighth Meeting of the SC on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions and supported the participation in the meeting of States from the region, where the meeting generated considerable interest.

Following the HCCH's decision to adopt Spanish as an official language as of July 2024, ROLAC played an active role in the process of implementation of the new official language and ramped up its long-standing efforts to support the translation into Spanish of key publications and documents produced by the HCCH. It also continued to support the expansion of INCADAT's Spanish language content through its collaboration with a team of PIL professors, young lawyers, and law students coordinated by Professor Nieve Rubaja (University of Buenos Aires).¹



Mr Ignacio Goicoechea, ROLAC Representative,
and Ms Florencia Castro, ROLAC Legal and Office
Coordinator

¹ The team includes Professor Nieve Rubaja, Professor Emilia Gortari Wirz, Sofia Aldana Ansalone, Catalina Comte, Brian Dmitruk, Valentina Romina Esperanza, Mariano Miranda da Cruz, Romina Martín, Martina Traveso, and Daniela Agustina Vuchich.



Meeting of the WG on Jurisdiction in Argentina



Meeting with key stakeholders in Paraguay



The Staff

(per 31 December 2023)

Ms Maryze BERKHOUT
Head of Finance / Senior Human Resources Officer

Dr Christophe BERNASCONI
Secretary General

Ms Sandrine BRARD
Administrative Assistant

Ms Florencia CASTRO
Legal and Office Coordinator (ROLAC)

Mr Harry CHENG
Legal Officer

Ms Marie-Charlotte DARBAS
Information Manager

Ms Lydie DE LOOF
Senior Reviser (FR) / Publications Officer

Ms Melissa FORD
Secretary

Ms Eugenia GENTILE
Finance / Human Resources Coordinator

Dr Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR
Deputy Secretary General

Mr Ignacio GOICOECHEA
Representative (ROLAC)

Mr Caio GOMES DE FREITAS
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Mr Stuart HAWKINS
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Ms Nietta KEANE
Assistant Legal Officer

Dr Louwrens KIESTRA
Legal Attaché to the Secretary General

Ms Anna KOELEWIJN
Head of Administration

Mr Philippe LORTIE
First Secretary

Mr Thomas MACHUELLE
Legal Translator / Reviser (FR)

Ms Laura MARTÍNEZ-MORA
Secretary

Ms Laura MOLENAAR
Administrative Officer

Ms Alix NG
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Ms Capucine PAGE
Legal Officer

Ms Sophie PINEAU
Personal Assistant to the Secretary General

Ms Mathilde PRÉNAS
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Ms Raquel SALINAS PEIXOTO
Legal Officer

Ms Sabrina STUCKEN
Administrative Assistant

Ms Giulia VALENTINI
Project / Communications Assistant

Mr Willem VAN DER ENDT
General Services Officer (until June 2023)

Ms Ana ZANETTIN
Legal Translator / Reviser (ES)

Dr Ning ZHAO
Principal Legal Officer

Prof Yun ZHAO
Representative (ROAP)

Consultants / Contractors to the HCCH

Consultants / Contractors supporting Normative and Post-Convention Work

Ms Eda AGUILAR SAMANAMUD
ICATAP

Ms Christina BAGLIETTO
ICATAP

Prof Nigel LOWE
Statistical Survey on 1980 Child Abduction Convention

Ms Nolwandle MLALAZI
Work in the International Commercial, Digital, and Financial Law Division

Ms Hilary NEVILLE
Project on implications of PIL in carbon markets and climate change resilience

Ms Victoria STEPHENS
INCADAT Project / Statistical Survey on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention

Consultants / Contractors supporting Governance and Operations

Ms Madelief ALSERDA
Library Assistant

Ms Helene GUERIN
Publications

Mr Willem-Paul HERBER
Accountant

Secondments to the PB

Mr Song (Levi) GAO
Lawyer, seconded to the PB (ROAP) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Ms Myriam de HEMPTINNE
Judge, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the Ministry of Justice of Belgium

Ms Melissa KIANG
Assistant Principal Government Counsel, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR (China) (from November 2022 until November 2023)

Ms Jungah LEE
Judge, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea (from August 2023 until August 2024)

Ms Seyoung PARK
Judge, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea (from August 2022 until October 2023)

Ms Diana WAN
Seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR (China) (from November 2023 until November 2024)

iSupport

Mr Jean-Marc PELLET
iSupport Coordinator





Interns

In 2023, the PB had the pleasure of welcoming 44 interns from over 14 different States at its headquarters in The Hague, at its Regional Offices, or online.

Head Office

The Hague, the Netherlands

Ms Marine BARRAULT (France)
Ms Philippine CHAPOT (France)
Ms Pareen EL NASHAR (Egypt)
Ms Leoné GENIS (South Africa)
Ms Franziska KÄSTLE (Germany)
Ms Vanessa Yin Yuen LO (China)
Ms Sayeh MOHAMMADI (Iran)

Ms Loren OVENS (Australia)
Mr Camilo SALDÍAS ROBLES (Chile)
Ms Federica SIMONELLI (Italy)
Ms Alexandra TIBBEY (Australia)
Ms Lucilla TORNAGHI (Italy)
Ms Ellie WEBB (USA)

ROAP

Hong Kong SAR, China

Ms BEPPU Sakura (Japan)
Ms CAO Yuke (China)
Ms FUJITA Mahiro (Japan)
Mr GOH Benjamin Jia Ju (Singapore)
Ms LIN Kira Xiaohan (China)
Ms LIU Cecilia Xuanxuan (China)
Mr LU Andy Yizhou (China)

Ms SONG Yuqi (China)
Mr SUN Steven Weining (China)
Mr WANG Jiyu (China)
Mr WANG Zhixin (China)
Ms YIN Ziyue (China)
Ms ZHANG Linan (China)
Mr ZHOU Zihan (China)

Volunteers for HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2023

Ms CHAN Kwan Yee Queenie (China)
Ms CHEN Tsz Yiu Ivana (China)
Ms FOK Sze Yau Bonnie (China)
Mr HO Kwong Him Cyrus (China)
Mr HUI Chun Tak Chezkel (China)
Mr KWOK Yiu Kwan Sam (China)
Mr LAU Hoi Lim William (China)
Mr LAW Cheuk Heng Ivan (China)

Mr LEE Kai Hei Leon (China)
Ms LEE Kai Yan Alicia (China)
Ms LEE Tsz Yau Catherine (China)
Ms LEE Yat Kwan Hillary (China)
Mr LUK Man Cheuk Vincent (China)
Mr PUN Ka Yu Sam (China)
Mr TONG Yan Hei Fergus (China)

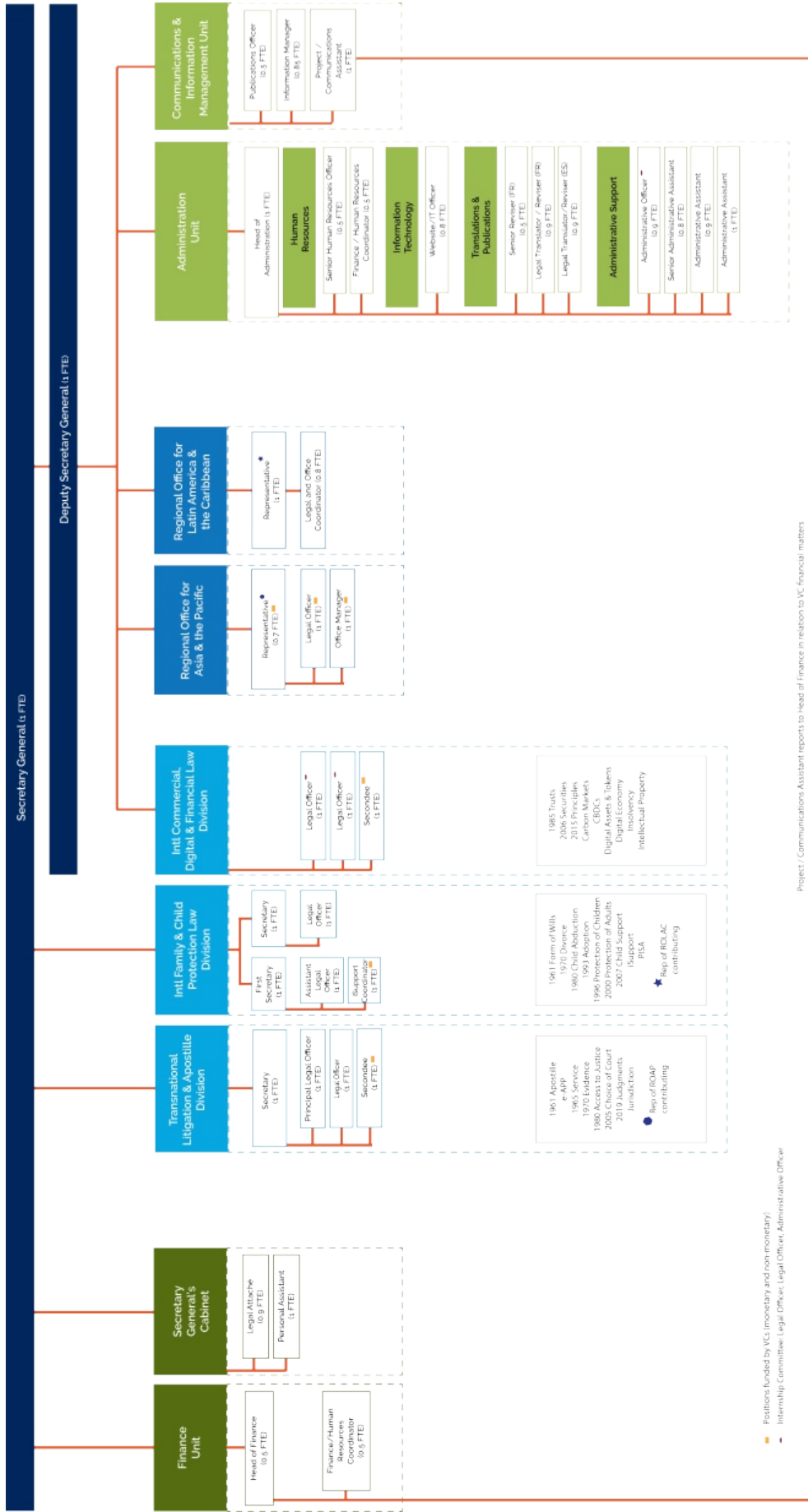
ROLAC

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ms Iara BOREAN (Argentina)
Ms Paula Jimena BORTNIK (Argentina)
Ms Valentina Lucila CALELLO (Argentina)
Ms Mijal CANNIZZARO AZUBEL (Argentina)
Ms María Victoria COLOMBO RODRÍGUEZ (Argentina)
Ms Micaela ERRICO (Argentina)
Ms Cloe ESCARANDANI LEVY (Argentina)
Ms Marianela FORCELLATI (Argentina)

Ms Lucila GARCIA MONTI (Argentina)
Ms Morena MAKU PRACANICO (Argentina)
Ms Laura MALOMO (Argentina)
Ms Valentina MARTÍNEZ CABRERO (Argentina)
Ms Valentina MOLINA SPERANZA (Argentina)
Ms Abril Lia SHIN (Argentina)
Ms Michelle TAPPER (Argentina)
Ms Bettina TOVALINO (Peru)
Ms Martina TRAVESO (Argentina)

Organisational Chart



Positions funded by VCS (monetary and non-monetary):
 - Inheritance Committee: Legal Officer, Legal Officer, Administrative Officer

Project / Communications Assistant reports to Head of Finance in relation to VC Financial matters



Hague Conference on Private International Law
Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé
Conferencia de La Haya de Derecho Internacional Privado

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ISBN 978-90-83375-84-7