

## Conclusions & Decisions (C&D)

- 1 The Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) met from 5 to 8 March 2024. The meeting was attended by over 429 participants, representing 74 HCCH Members, 5 non-Member States, 7 intergovernmental organisations, 8 international non-governmental organisations, and members of the Permanent Bureau (PB).<sup>1</sup> Of the attendees, 266 delegates participated in person and 163 delegates participated online.

### I. Work Relating to Possible New Legislative Instruments

#### A. Parentage / Surrogacy

- 2 CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the Chair and welcomed the progress made by the Working Group (WG) on private international law (PIL) matters related to legal parentage generally, including legal parentage resulting from an international surrogacy arrangement (WG on Parentage / Surrogacy). With a view to further developing provisions for a draft instrument, CGAP invited the PB to convene two further meetings within Financial Year (FY) 2024-2025, possibly in the second half of 2024 and in early 2025, in addition to the April 2024 meeting, with intersessional work as required. The meetings of the WG should preferably be held in person and intersessional work should take place online. The WG will report to CGAP 2025.
- 3 CGAP reiterated that any work by the HCCH in relation to PIL matters related to legal parentage resulting from surrogacy arrangements should not be understood as supporting or opposing surrogacy.

#### B. Jurisdiction

- 4 CGAP noted the Report of the Chair of the WG on matters related to jurisdiction in transnational civil or commercial litigation, and the progress made by the WG to further develop provisions for a draft Convention. CGAP invited the PB to convene two further WG meetings before CGAP 2025, the first in the second half of 2024 and the second preferably in January / February 2025, with intersessional work as required. These meetings should preferably be held in person (with the possibility for online participation).
- 5 CGAP thanked the Government of Japan for the proposal to host the seventh WG meeting in Tokyo, Japan, and supported this proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> The following Members of the HCCH were represented: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam; in addition to the following non-Member States: Bolivia, Colombia, Indonesia, Lebanon and Rwanda; the following intergovernmental organisations: CIEC (*Commission internationale de l'état civil*), Council of Europe, IDLO (International Development Law Organization), UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and UNIDROIT (*Institut international pour l'Unification du Droit privé*); and the following international non-governmental organisations: CCBE (Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe), ELI (European Law Institute), IAJ (International Association of Judges), IBA (International Bar Association), ISDA (International Swaps and Derivatives Association), P.R.I.M.E. Finance Foundation, UIHJ (*Union internationale des huissiers de justice*) and UINL (International Union of Notaries).

6 CGAP invited the PB to explore the possibility of holding, at an appropriate time, an exchange of views with practitioners, representatives of the judiciary, and other experts of diverse legal traditions with practical experience in parallel proceedings and related actions, possibly including through one or more online workshops. CGAP invited the PB to make further arrangements to progress this initiative as appropriate and to keep Members updated on this work.

7 The WG will report to CGAP 2025.

### **C. Digital Assets and Tokens**

8 CGAP noted the report of the HCCH-UNIDROIT Digital Assets and Tokens Project, including the summary conclusions of possible future work on issues on PIL relating to digital assets, and decided that the work of the Project was concluded. CGAP thanked the subject-matter experts who contributed to the Project, and the UNIDROIT Secretariat for its continued cooperation and coordination with the PB.

### **D. Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)**

9 CGAP noted the outcomes of the study on the PIL aspects of CBDCs and the issues described in relation to digital cross-border payments systems.

10 CGAP mandated the establishment of an Experts' Group (EG) to study the applicable law and jurisdiction issues raised by the cross-border use and transfers of CBDCs.

### **E. Digital Economy**

11 CGAP mandated the PB to continue, subject to available resources:

- a. monitoring developments with respect to digital platforms, artificial intelligence and automated contracting, and immersive technologies, including in partnership with subject-matter experts and with UNCITRAL;
- b. working with UNCITRAL and other organisations with relevant expertise on matters relating to the PIL aspects of the digital economy;
- c. monitoring developments with respect to the digital economy, with a view to identifying PIL issues for potential future work; and
- d. developing activities concerning topics falling under the purview of the HCCH International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law Division.

### **F. Digital Tokens**

12 Recognising the importance of avoiding fragmentation among legal instruments developed by different intergovernmental organisations on related subject matters, including the *UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law*, CGAP mandated the PB, in partnership with relevant subject-matters experts and Observers, to study the PIL issues relating to digital tokens. The PB will report to CGAP 2025 on the outcomes of this study, including proposals for next steps.

### **G. Restructuring and Insolvency**

13 CGAP welcomed the cooperation between the PB and the UNCITRAL Secretariat on matters relating to applicable law in insolvency proceedings, and to civil asset tracing and recovery in insolvency proceedings, and mandated the PB to continue contributing to UNCITRAL's work on this topic. CGAP thanked Professor Francisco Garcimartín for his involvement, complementing the participation of the PB in these projects.

- 14 Subject to available resources, CGAP encouraged the PB to continue cooperation with the UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT Secretariats on insolvency-related projects.
- 15 Subject to available resources, CGAP also mandated the PB to continue to monitor developments with respect to PIL issues in insolvency and restructuring, including issues relating to the treatment of digital transactions and digital assets in insolvency and restructuring proceedings. The PB will report to CGAP 2025.

#### **H. Intellectual Property (IP)**

- 16 CGAP noted the work carried out on the intersection of IP and PIL, including the cooperation between the PB and the International Bureau of WIPO.
- 17 CGAP invited the PB to continue monitoring developments on the intersection of IP and PIL, subject to available resources, and in light of the work programme related to the digital economy.

#### **I. Voluntary Carbon Markets**

- 18 CGAP mandated the PB, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, and subject to available resources, to monitor developments of the PIL aspects of voluntary carbon markets. The PB will report to CGAP 2025, including proposals for next steps.
- 19 CGAP mandated the PB to cooperate and coordinate with the Secretariats of UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other relevant international organisations on their projects in relation to voluntary carbon credits, subject to available resources. CGAP welcomed the cooperation and coordination between the PB, and the Secretariats of UNCITRAL, UNFCCC, and UNIDROIT on this topic, and thanked Professor Fabrício Bertini Pasquot Polido for his involvement, complementing the participation of the PB in these projects.

## **II. Post-Convention Work**

### **A. International Family and Child Protection Law**

#### **1. 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions**

- 20 CGAP endorsed the C&R of the Eighth Meeting of the Special Commission (SC) on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions and thanked JusticeVictoria Bennett (Australia) and Professor Daniel Trecca (Uruguay) for their leadership and guidance as co-Chairs of the SC.
- 21 CGAP invited the PB to host an informal brainstorming session to discuss possible means by which the PB could be assisted with the organisation of the next SC on the 1980 and 1996 Conventions. This session will be organised online, will be open to Members only, and is envisaged to take place before the end of 2024. The PB will report on the outcomes of the brainstorming session at CGAP 2025.
- 22 CGAP noted that the PB and interested States recently finalised the *Request for Return Recommended Model Form* and the *Request for Access Recommended Model Form* under the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, and endorsed the proposal for the final versions of the forms to be approved through a written procedure.
- 23 CGAP mandated the establishment of a WG to complete the 1996 Country Profile, for the approval of CGAP, as a matter of high priority. If finalised well in advance of CGAP 2025, the 1996 Country Profile could be approved through a written procedure. In the absence of any objection within one month after the circulation of the document to Members, the Country Profile will be taken to be

approved. In the case of one or more objections, the PB will immediately notify Members of any objection and the document will be submitted to CGAP 2025.

- 24 CGAP requested that, subsequent to its work on the 1996 Country Profile, the WG progress work on the draft *Cooperation Request Recommended Model Form* under the 1996 Child Protection Convention for the approval of CGAP in due course.
- 25 CGAP requested that the PB continue collecting information from Contracting Parties regarding the application of Article 33 of the 1996 Child Protection Convention in addition to that set out in *Placement or provision of care of the child in another Contracting State under the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Art. 33)* (Prel. Doc. No 20 of September 2023).
- 26 CGAP mandated the establishment of a WG on the operation of Article 33 of the 1996 Child Protection Convention, first, to develop a Model Form and, subsequently, a Guide on the application of Article 33. The WG will report on its progress to CGAP 2025.
- 27 CGAP mandated the PB to circulate a questionnaire addressed to Contracting Parties to the 1996 Child Protection Convention on their use of Articles 8 and 9 (transfer of jurisdiction), and following this, that an updated version of *Transfer of jurisdiction under the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Arts 8 and 9)* (Prel. Doc. No 17 of August 2023) be provided to CGAP to inform its determination of any future work in this area.
- 28 CGAP mandated the PB to develop a document for Contracting Parties to the 1980 Child Abduction Convention containing information on the use of Articles 8, 14 and 15 (determination of wrongful removal). Once a first draft is completed, it will be circulated to Members and Contracting Parties for their comments, before submission to CGAP for approval.
- 29 CGAP mandated the PB to develop a questionnaire addressed to Contracting Parties to the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions on the procedures available for the lawful international relocation of families. The PB will report to CGAP once responses have been received, compiled and analysed.

## **2. The Malta Process, including the Working Party on Mediation**

- 30 CGAP endorsed the continuation of the Malta Process, including the resumption of activities of the Working Party on Mediation, and welcomed the holding of the fifth Malta Conference on Cross-Frontier Child Protection and Family Law (Malta V), in Valetta from 24 to 27 September 2024. CGAP thanked the Government of Malta for its generous offer, and the Canadian and Jordanian co-Chairs of the Working Party, for resuming their roles.

## **3. Forum on Domestic Violence and the Operation of Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention**

- 31 CGAP welcomed the holding of a Forum on Domestic Violence and the Operation of Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, to take place in Sandton, South Africa, from 18 to 21 June 2024. CGAP highlighted the importance of ensuring balanced and diverse participation in the Forum from all relevant actors. CGAP noted that, while in-person participation is encouraged, at least passive online participation will be ensured. CGAP expressed its gratitude to the Government of South Africa for its generous offer to host the Forum, and thanked Australia, Brazil, the Philippines (both the Department of Justice and the Supreme Court), and the United Kingdom, for their respective financial contributions towards the Forum. CGAP encouraged other States and interested parties to consider making a voluntary contribution to cover the costs of the Forum.

#### **4. 1993 Adoption Convention**

- 32 CGAP welcomed the publication of the *Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption* in English, French and Spanish, and the *Recommended Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention* in English and French.
- 33 CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the Chair of the first and second meetings of the WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption and welcomed the progress made by the WG. With a view to continuing its work, CGAP invited the PB to convene at least two further meetings before CGAP 2025, with intersessional work as required. If possible, one of the meetings of the WG should be held in person, and intersessional work should take place online.
- 34 CGAP welcomed the holding of a State-led online workshop on post-adoption, co-organised by a State of origin (Colombia) and a receiving State (Canada). CGAP also welcomed Canada's oral update on progress made towards organising other workshops. The Steering Committee organising these workshops will report to CGAP 2025.
- 35 CGAP noted the importance of technical assistance, in particular through the Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme (ICATAP), and encouraged States to request technical assistance if needed.

#### **5. Application of the 1996 Child Protection Convention to Unaccompanied and Separated Children**

- 36 CGAP noted the suggested additions to the document *The Application of the 1996 Child Protection Convention to Unaccompanied and Separated Children – Updates* (Prel. Doc. No 10 of January 2024). CGAP invited the PB to convene informal meetings, as soon as possible, for interested HCCH Members and Contracting Parties to the 1996 Convention to discuss the additions and finalise the document. Once the document is finalised, it will be submitted to Members for approval through a written procedure. CGAP thanked the UNHCR for offering their expertise in this area.

#### **6. 2007 Child Support Convention (incl. iSupport) and its Protocol**

- 37 CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the January 2024 meeting of the EG on international transfer of maintenance funds (ITMFEG), and that the Group would meet in early 2025 and report to CGAP 2025. CGAP mandated the PB, in preparation for the next meeting of the Group, to circulate a questionnaire inviting Members to identify topics to be addressed at the upcoming meetings of the ITMFEG. CGAP invited the ITMFEG to review the list of good practices for international transfer of maintenance funds and to identify priority topics for the continuation of its work.
- 38 CGAP noted the first official exchange of data using iSupport between Germany and Sweden, and their continued use of iSupport. CGAP also noted the continued efforts towards improving the ease of installation and user-friendliness of iSupport. CGAP encouraged Members to draw from the experience of Germany and Sweden with a view to assessing the possibility of implementing iSupport in their own operations.

#### **7. 2000 Protection of Adults Convention**

- 39 CGAP welcomed the approval of the *Implementation Checklist* and Country Profile under the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention, and noted the ongoing approval procedure relating to the *Practical Handbook on the Implementation of the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention*, ending on 1 April 2024.

#### **8. International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ)**

- 40 CGAP welcomed the holding of a regional in-person meeting of the IHNJ to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 15 to 17 May 2024. CGAP invited Members from Latin America and the

Caribbean to facilitate, to the extent possible, the participation of their respective member(s) of the IHNJ. CGAP welcomed the holding of a global meeting of the IHNJ to take place in Singapore in 2025, tentatively in May .

## **9. International Child Abduction Database (INCADAT)**

41 CGAP reiterated its invitation to Members to consider making voluntary contributions for the maintenance and operation of INCADAT, and recommended that Contracting Parties to the 1980 Child Abduction Convention consider the possibility of designating a national INCADAT correspondent.

## **B. Transnational Litigation & Apostille**

### **1. Transnational Litigation Conventions**

42 CGAP welcomed the entry into force of the 2019 Judgments Convention on 1 September 2023.

43 CGAP supported the proposal, subject to available resources, to dedicate the 2024 Edition of HCCH a|Bridged to the 2019 Judgments Convention and encouraged Members to make voluntary contributions to support that event.

44 CGAP welcomed the development of *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs) on the 2005 Choice of Court and the 2019 Judgments Conventions, in consultation with Members, to further assist with the promotion and implementation of these Conventions.

45 CGAP encouraged Members to suggest activities to promote the Transnational Litigation Conventions, and to consider hosting regional events to promote these Conventions.

### **2. 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions**

46 CGAP welcomed the PB's 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 take place from 2 to 5 July 2024.

47 CGAP approved the establishment of two WGs consisting of representatives from a variety of geographical regions to review and refine updates to the Handbooks and Country Profiles relevant to the Service and Evidence Conventions, respectively. The WGs would be engaged online, in the lead-up to, and following, the meeting of the SC.

48 CGAP encouraged Members to designate delegates for one or both WGs. Designations shall be provided to the PB before 15 March 2024.

49 CGAP decided that, following the meeting of the SC, and upon finalisation by the WGs, the draft Handbooks and the Country Profiles will be submitted to CGAP 2025 for approval. If the Handbooks and the Country Profiles were finalised well in advance of CGAP 2025, CGAP decided that they could be approved through a written procedure. In the absence of any objection within one month after the circulation of these documents to Members, the Handbooks and Country Profiles will be taken to be approved. In the case of one or more objections, the PB will immediately notify Members of any objection and any document not approved will be submitted to CGAP 2025.

### **3. 1961 Apostille Convention (incl. the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP))**

50 CGAP encouraged Members and Contracting Parties to translate the Apostille Handbook, and invited them to inform the PB of their intention to do so.

51 CGAP welcomed the announcement of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Forum on the e-APP, to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in person, with the possibility of online participation. CGAP thanked

Kazakhstan for its generous offer to host the Forum, and encouraged Members and Contracting Parties to participate in the Forum. The PB will provide dates for the Forum as soon as possible.

#### **4. Tourists and Visitors Project (ODR)**

52 CGAP took note of the updates made to the *Practical Guide to Access to Justice for International Tourists and Visitors*, and invited the PB to proceed with its publication.

### **C. International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law**

#### **1. 2006 Securities Convention and digital developments in respect of securities markets**

53 CGAP noted the PB's work in relation to the 2006 Securities Convention and digital developments in respect of securities markets.

54 CGAP mandated the PB, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, and subject to available resources, to continue to:

- a. study the determination of jurisdiction and applicable law in the context of securities markets in light of developments in technology such as distributed ledger technology;
- b. assess the ramifications of the growing attention that financial services and securities industries have accorded to developments in technology; and
- c. identify opportunities, in the context of the digital economy, for the desirability and feasibility of future normative guidance concerning securities.

#### **2. 1985 Trusts Convention**

55 CGAP noted the PB's work in relation to the 1985 Trusts Convention, and mandated the PB, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, and subject to available resources, to continue to study the interpretation of analogous institutions for the purpose of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention, with a focus on:

- a. clarifying the divergences in interpretation between the English and French versions of the Article; and
- b. 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 (DAOs) and other similar structures.

56 Subject to available resources, CGAP also mandated the PB to continue monitoring developments relating to the 1985 Trusts Convention in order to identify areas for review and future work, and to develop promotional materials on the Convention. The PB will report to CGAP 2025.

#### **3. 2015 Choice of Law Principles**

57 CGAP mandated the PB to continue work, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, and subject to available resources, to study the feasibility, desirability and necessity of developing guidance on applicable law in international contracts providing protection to weaker parties. Subject to available resources, CGAP also mandated the PB to continue monitoring developments relating to the 2015 Choice of Law Principles in order to identify areas for review and future work, and to develop promotional materials on the 2015 Principles. The PB will report to CGAP 2025.

## **D. e-Country Profiles and the Collection of Statistical Data**

### **1. e-Country Profiles for selected HCCH Conventions**

58 CGAP welcomed the update on the development of e-Country Profiles under the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, 1980 Child Abduction, 1993 Adoption, 1996 Child Protection, 2000 Protection of Adults, and 2007 Child Support Conventions, and took note of the proposed work programme and schedule for their release.

### **2. Collection of statistical data**

59 CGAP mandated the PB to collect, on an annual basis, basic statistical data for selected HCCH Conventions (*i.e.*, the 1961 Apostille, 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, 1980 Access to Justice, 1980 Child Abduction, 1996 Child Protection, and the 2000 Protection of Adults Conventions). CGAP noted that the reporting period should be specified, and that, apart from the 1961 Apostille Convention, the requested data concerns only requests received by Contracting Parties from other Contracting Parties. Regarding the data to be requested for the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, CGAP noted that return and access cases should be distinguished. In relation to the 1961 Apostille Convention, only data on the number of Apostilles issued by Competent Authorities will be requested. The PB will report on the collected data at the CGAP meeting subsequent to the relevant reporting period.

60 Prior to the first collection of data, the PB will circulate the draft questions to be used for each of the Conventions to Members for consultation.

## **E. Post-Convention Assistance**

61 CGAP noted the report on post-Convention assistance activities and recognised the value of these activities in contributing to the effective operation of HCCH Conventions.

## **F. Accessibility of HCCH documents by Persons with Impairments**

62 CGAP welcomed the research conducted by the PB regarding the accessibility of HCCH documents and the HCCH website more generally and, subject to available resources, encouraged the PB to implement accessibility improvements to the HCCH website and future documents.

## **III. Regional Offices (RO)**

63 CGAP welcomed the reports of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), and recognised the services they continue to provide to HCCH Members. CGAP further:

- a. encouraged Members to offer concrete support towards the implementation of the activities and objectives of the RO, including in the form of voluntary contributions, secondments, information, translations, and networking;
- b. invited States from the relevant regions that are currently considering the possibility of joining one or more HCCH Conventions, or of becoming HCCH Members, to contact their respective RO;
- c. invited National Organs, Central Authorities and Competent Authorities to contact their relevant RO, where experience sharing with authorities of other Contracting Parties, or the academic sector, would be helpful to the effective implementation and operation of HCCH Conventions;
- d. invited Members interested in supporting the strengthening of international child protection in Caribbean jurisdictions to consider supporting the organisation of the Second Caribbean



Meeting on International Child Protection, to be organised jointly by the HCCH and Trinidad and Tobago, and expected to take place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during the first week of October 2024. Interested Members are invited to contact ROLAC to discuss possible means to contribute to this endeavour; and

- e. invited Members from the Asia Pacific region to actively consider hosting HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2024, or contributing to the organisation and promotion of this event in other forms. Interested Members are invited to contact ROAP.

64 CGAP welcomed the announcement by the Kingdom of Morocco of its intention to submit, to CGAP 2025, a proposal for the establishment of an RO for Africa in Morocco, in accordance with the Rules for the Establishment of Regional Offices.

#### **IV. Cooperation between HCCH, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT**

65 CGAP welcomed the cooperation between the HCCH, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT, and their respective Secretariats. CGAP acknowledged the importance of coordination between the Members of HCCH, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT. CGAP noted the efforts to finalise standard Terms of Reference of the HCCH-UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT tripartite cooperation and mandated the PB to continue to discuss standard procedures to ensure cooperation and coordination with the Secretariats of UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT.

#### **V. Governance**

##### **A. List of Observers**

66 CGAP amended the List of Observers pursuant to Part II.J of the HCCH Rules of Procedure.

##### **B. Introduction of Spanish at the HCCH**

67 CGAP noted the PB's plans regarding the implementation of Spanish and encouraged Members to consider making voluntary contributions to facilitate the effective implementation of Spanish as an additional official language, including the translation of documents completed prior to the adoption of Spanish as an official language.

##### **C. Recommendations for Future Secretary General Recruitment Processes**

68 CGAP noted the summary of the Assessment Committee's experience operating under the Arrangements for Appointing Secretaries General of the HCCH, and noted the suggested revisions to these Arrangements. CGAP expressed its gratitude to the former Chair of the Assessment Committee, Professor Paul Vlas, and its former members, for their work. CGAP invited them, in iterative consultation with the Members of the HCCH, to further review and refine these Arrangements, with a view to presenting a revised version to CGAP 2025 for approval.

##### **D. Format of HCCH Meetings**

69 In the light of budgetary constraints, CGAP invited the Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR) to exceptionally consider holding its 2025 meeting in person at the premises of the PB, with the possibility of online participation and online simultaneous interpretation. CGAP will assess this format of CDR meetings at CGAP 2026.

70 CGAP noted that a limited number of delegates can be accommodated at the premises of the PB and invited CDR to limit the number of in-person participants to one per Member. Registrations for in-person participation will close upon reaching the maximum number of delegates who can be accommodated.

71 As regards the format of the upcoming SC meeting on the practical operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, CGAP expressed its support for the meeting to be held in person with the possibility of online participation.

## **E. Financial Matters**

### **1. Draft Budget FY 2024-2025**

72 CGAP noted the update provided by the Secretary General on the draft Budget and Explanatory Notes for FY 2024-2025.

### **2. Voluntary Contributions**

73 CGAP noted the importance of voluntary contributions and thanked contributors.

### **3. Determining Member States' Assessed Contributions**

74 CGAP noted the Secretary General's comments on alternative models to determine Member States' assessed contributions. Recalling the importance of having a discussion in the future on the funding of the Organisation, CGAP mandated the PB to proceed with further exploration of this topic.

### **4. Rental contract for PB office space**

75 CGAP noted the PB's update on the rental contract for PB office space. CGAP also noted that the PB will update Members in advance of and at the upcoming Standing Committee and CDR meetings.

### **5. Envisaged changes to pension schemes' contributions**

76 CGAP noted the envisaged changes to the pension schemes and encouraged the PB to continue to follow developments at the Coordinated Organisations, with a view to implementing any necessary changes as of July 2025.

## **F. Representation**

77 CGAP noted the update on representation at the HCCH.

78 Reaffirming the principles of universality and inclusiveness as expressed in the HCCH's Strategic Plan 2023-2028, CGAP mandated the PB to continue to actively seek appropriate representation:

- a. across and within geographic regions, and from underrepresented Member States, when proposing Chairs of meetings of the HCCH;
- b. across genders when proposing Chairs of meetings of the HCCH, and ensuring balanced gender representation of Chairs across the different substantive categories of HCCH work.

79 CGAP also invited the PB to continue its efforts to implement measures relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the recruitment of staff, including to actively seek appropriate representation across and within geographic regions, and from underrepresented Member States, in particular in Africa, as well as across genders.

80 The PB will report on representation at CGAP 2025.

## **G. Resource Allocation**

81 CGAP noted the report of the PB on its allocation of resources in 2023.