

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE HAGUE  
CONVENTION OF 29 MAY 1993 ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND  
CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**

**A. EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

**1. Description**

- (a) Is your country (primarily) a receiving State or a State of origin?  
If both, please ensure your answers to the questions clearly  
distinguish, when necessary, between your role as a receiving  
State and your role as a State of origin.**

Cyprus always acts as a receiving State in Intercountry  
Adoptions.

- (b) If your country is not yet a Party, please specify if your  
Country is considering becoming a party to the Convention.**

Cyprus is a Party since 1994.

- (c) Was your country represented at the 2000 Special  
Commission? Were the Conclusions and Recommendations of  
that Meeting discussed or implemented by relevant authorities  
in your country?**

Cyprus was represented at the 2000 Special Commission by  
the Director of the Social Welfare Services, Mrs Evanthia Papasavva.  
The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting were  
presented by Mrs Papasavva in a report that she prepared after her  
return to Cyprus.

**2. Good Practice**

**The Permanent Bureau has commenced work on a Guide to Good  
Practice on Implementation of the Convention. A consultative  
group met in September 2004 to provide advice to the Permanent  
Bureau on this project. It is anticipated that the draft Guide will be  
circulated, in English, French and Spanish, to all Contracting  
States in June 2005 seeking comments and for discussion at the  
Special Commission.**

- (a) In relation to any aspect of intercountry adoption, what examples  
of good practice can you report, (i) from your own country or (ii)  
from another country?**

The establishment of procedures and standards of work concerning  
intercountry adoption.

- (b) **Please indicate what topics you would suggest for future chapters in the Guide to Good Practice (in addition to «Implementation», «Central Authority Practice» and possibly «Accreditation»).**

Good practices from different countries.

- (c) **Have you experienced any major concerns or problems (i) in your State and (ii) in another State, associated with implementation of the Convention, such as a lack of implementing legislation, inadequate staffing or funding issues?**
- Inadequate staffing for intercountry adoption.
  - Enforcement of the Convention by all states.
- (d) **If your State has signed but not yet ratified the Convention, please indicate whether your State would like implementation assistance from the Permanent Bureau or other States. What type of assistance would be most beneficial?**

Not applicable.

### **3. Questions concerning scope**

**Please specify any difficulties you have experienced in determining whether certain situations do or do not come within the scope of the Convention.**

**In particular, have there been any problems in determining whether:**

- (a) **a child was or was not habitually resident in the State of origin;**

No.

- (b) **a prospective adopter was or was not habitually resident in the receiving State (as e.g. in the case of a short-term or temporary resident);**

We had couples who had temporarily been living in Cyprus applying to be approved as eligible for adoption.

- (c) **the removal of the child was or was not «for the purpose of adoption» in the receiving State (as e.g. where the child is initially moved to the receiving country on a temporary basis or for foster care, and later on adoption is considered)?**

A case of child was brought by the biological parents to Cyprus and was then abandoned in a family. The child was placed in foster care and the foster family now wants to adopt the child.

#### **4. General Principles for protection of children**

- (a) **What are the different types of care available to a child in need of care and protection in your State?**

A child in need of care can be placed in

- Foster Family,
- Relative family,
- Children's Homes (not secure accommodation)

0 -12 years

12 - 8 (girls)

12 -18 (boys).

- (b) **Please specify the procedures or other measures in place to ensure that due consideration is given to the possibilities for placement of the child within the State of origin before intercountry adoption is considered (the principle of subsidiarity – see Article 4 b) and Preamble, paragraphs 1 – 3).**

In case it is established that a child is not adoptable in his/her country of origin, then the child is taken under the Director's care and the Social Welfare Services undertake the responsibility for the child to be repatriated to the Country of origin.

- (c) **What are your procedures to establish if a child is adoptable?**

A child is adoptable if either biological parents or the living parent have given their consent. The consent may not be given unless at least three months have elapsed since the birth of the child.

In cases of intercountry adoption we receive information about the child proposed for adoption together with the confirmation by the Central Authority of the Country of origin that the child is adoptable.

- (d) What procedures are in place to ensure that consent to an adoption is given in accordance with Article 4 c) and d) of the Convention?**

The person whose consent is necessary for adoption is counseled by the Social Worker, of the termination of the legal relationship with the child and of the irreversibility of the procedure. The consent is given in legal form three months after the birth of the child so that the biological parent can freely decide.

If the child involved is mature enough for his/her age is informed of the effects of the adoption and their wish is considered.

- (e) Do you make use of the Model Form for the «Statement of consent to the Adoption? See <[w.w.w.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)> , “Intercountry Adoption”, “Practical Operation Documents”, “Annex B to the Special Commission Report of October 1994”.**

No such Model Form for the “Statement of consent to the Adoption” is used. The lawyer prepares a written statement, that the biological parent signs in the Family Court.

- (f) Have you applied the “Recommendation concerning the application to refugee children and other internationally displaced children of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co/operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption”? See Annex A to the Special Commission Report of October 1994.**

The Social Welfare Services can implement the Recommendations concerning the application to refugee children and other displaced children of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption although no such case has been handled, until now.

- (g) How is the eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents assessed in your country (see Article 5 a))?**

According to the Cyprus Adoption Law prospective adoptive parents are obliged to inform the Social Welfare Services of their intention.

- The Social Welfare Services investigate the eligibility of the prospective adopters and a report is prepared within 6 months after the receipt of the application.
- The Welfare Officer is obliged to visit the premises where the minor to be adopted is going to live in.
- The Welfare Officer has interviews with the prospective adopters separately and together. Matters concerning the age of the couple, civil status of the couple, personal history,

their income, their personalities, duration of marriage, state of health, presence of other biological or adopted children and their previous experience with children are evaluated.

- The Welfare Officer prepares a report on the applicants' suitability to adopt and presents the case to a special committee that meets at the District Welfare Office and it is decided whether the applicants are eligible to adopt.

**(h) What preparation (counseling, education or training) is given to prospective adoptive parents to prepare them for the intercountry adoption?**

Welfare Officers provide counseling and preparation of applicants to adopt. These services are secured within the framework of a Welfare Officer's obligation both according to the Adoption Law of Cyprus and the Convention.

**(i) Please also specify the measures/procedures in place to ensure that the requirements concerning the counseling of prospective adopters are complied with (see Article 5 b)).**

After the prospective adoptive couple informs our Social Welfare Services of its intention to adopt, the Welfare Officer interviews them and discusses with them matters relevant to the adoption (telling the child the truth, helping the child to obtain information regarding his biological parents, maintaining non-critical attitude towards the biological parents and answers to questions and enquiries that the couple has.

**(j) Please specify any post-adoption services established or contemplated in your country (see Article 9 c)).**

Post placement reports are sent at six months' interval for a period of two years after the adoption and are forwarded to the Central Authorities of the Country of origin.

For adoptions completed in Cyprus, the post adoption follow up varies according to the needs of the child and the adoptive parents. If there is no need for further counseling the case is closed. If there is a need for counseling the case will be managed in cooperation with the family and the child.

A non governmental organization provides group counseling on a voluntary basis for people who have adopted.

## **5. Central Authorities**

### **(a) Please specify any of the functions under Chapter IV of the Convention performed directly by your Central Authority or Central Authorities.**

Persons who wish to adopt a child resident of another country apply to the Social Welfare Services.

- a report is prepared including information about their identity, eligibility to adopt, background, family and medical history social environment, reasons for adoption, ability to under take an intercountry adoption.
- The Social Welfare Services approve that the adoption may proceed after the report on the child is obtained and after the prospective parents agree to adopt the child.
- Social Welfare Services inform the Immigration Officer that the child may enter and reside in the Republic of Cyprus.
- Post adoption reports are prepared.

### **(b) Please indicate the number of personnel employed by your Central Authority to deal with intercountry adoption, their experience and qualifications, and what type of training they have received. (Where personnel undertake other functions, count them only for the amount of time spent on intercountry adoption, for example, if a person spends 50% of their time on intercountry adoption, count them as 0.5 of a person.)**

Social Welfare Services operate six District Welfare Offices. At each District there are Welfare Workers handling only adoption cases. Their duties include the evaluation of the prospective adopters suitability, the preparation of reports presented in the Family Court and facilitation to the prospective adopters in the preparation and transmission of documents to the Countries of origin.

In Nicosia District Welfare Office there 2 workers.

In Larnaca D.W.O. 1 worker.

In Limassol D.W.O. 2 workers.

In Paphos D.W.O. 1 worker.

In Evrychou D.W.O 0.5 worker.

In Paralimni D.W.O 0.5 worker.

Overall there are 7 welfare workers dealing with adoption cases. These Welfare Officers are Social workers, Psychologists or Sociologists. They are all experienced and they undergo further training within the Department and abroad through seminars or training programs.

**(c) What procedures are in place to ensure continuity of experienced staff and training for new staff?**

The above Welfare Officers have been dealing with adoption cases for a long time and if at any stage they wish to change their duties. The Director makes sure that they share their experience and expertise with the new person taking over.

**(d) Have you experienced difficulties with regard to the establishment or operation of the Central Authority, for example, difficulties over funding or resources.**

No.

**(e) Please provide details of any difficulties you have experienced communicating with “central” Central Authorities in other countries or with provincial Central Authorities (in your own country or other countries)?**

As a general comment, we can say that some difficulties have been identified in communicating directly with some of the Central Authorities. In order to solve the problem, this communication is done through the Embassy of the State of origin in Cyprus.

## **6. Accreditation**

**At the Special Commission meeting in September 2005, the first day will be devoted to an examination of accreditation issues. Your responses to this part of the questionnaire will be very helpful to the Permanent Bureau in the planning and preparations for that day.**

### **Accredited bodies**

**(1) Please indicate whether your country uses or intends to use accredited bodies in intercountry adoption. If so, please provide details on the topics (a) to (m) below.**

In Cyprus there are no accredited bodies and as a receiving state there is no plan to use such bodies.

- (a) Please provide details (including powers and resources) of the authorities which grant accreditation.**

Not applicable.

- (b) How many bodies have been accredited by your country? Federal States may provide the number for each state or province. If possible, please indicate how many bodies have been refused accreditation.**

Not applicable.

- (c) Please give a brief outline of your accreditation criteria, guidelines or legislation.**

Not applicable.

- (d) What is the process by which accreditation is granted?**

Not applicable.

- (e) If possible, please provide an electronic copy of your accreditation criteria, guidelines or legislation, and any translations into English, French or Spanish.**

Not available.

- (f) How is the supervision of accredited bodies carried out in your State (Article 11 c))? Are there regular requirements (including financial reporting) by the accredited body to the supervising authority?**

Not applicable.

- (g) How is the performance of the accredited body assessed or evaluated?**

Not applicable.

- (h) Has the competent supervisory authority encountered any difficulties in relation to (f)?**

Not applicable



- (i) Are you aware of any acts or behaviour by accredited bodies or approved bodies or persons that contravened your accreditation criteria? Please also provide details of any Sanctions or penalties applied?**

Not applicable.

- (j) What are the conditions for renewal of accreditation?**

Not applicable.

- (k) Have you experienced any difficulties in obtaining assistance or cooperation from other Central Authorities in regard to accredited bodies?**

No.

- (l) Have you experienced any difficulties or concerns regarding the supervision of accredited bodies in other countries?**

No.

- (m) Do you consider that standard or model accreditation guidelines would assist countries in developing appropriate safeguards or procedures?**

Yes.

- (2) Has your country authorized foreign accredited bodies to undertake intercountry adoptions in your country (see Article 12)?**

- (a) What steps are involved in the process of authorization?**

Not applicable.

- (b) What supervision of foreign authorised bodies occurs?**

Not applicable.

- (c) Have you experienced any difficulties regarding a body accredited in one State and authorized to act in another State?**

No.

- (3) If your State has decided not to use accredited bodies, please explain the reasons and indicate what has influenced the decision.**

Cyprus has no accredited bodies since it is a very small country and it is only a receiving state. According to Article 6 of the Convention the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance has been designated as the Central Authority of the Republic of Cyprus. The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance performs all its functions directly through the Social Welfare Services. The Social Welfare Services has the responsibility to process the work and duties that derive from the Convention. The Central Authority of Cyprus has not accredited any Organization to perform any functions under the Convention.

- (4) What particular issues concerning accreditation would you like to be discussed on the Accreditation Day (17 September)?**

The issue of using accredited bodies in small countries with a population of about 800.000.

- (5) Would you like to see a chapter on Accreditation developed for the Guide to Good Practice for Inter-country Adoption? What issues do you think should be covered in this chapter?**

Yes.

- (6) Please indicate whether your country uses or intends to use Approved bodies or persons (see Article 22(2) in intercountry adoption.**

Cyprus does not use or intends to use approved bodies or persons in intercountry adoptions.

## **7. Procedural aspects**

**Please indicate any operational difficulties that have been experienced, including in particular:**

- (a) obtaining accurate and sufficient health and social information on the child;**

Countries that have entered the Convention into force send accurate and sufficient health and social information on the child. Problems in that matter have been experienced with some countries of origin.

**(b) obtaining accurate and sufficient information on prospective adoptive parents;**

No such difficulties have been experienced although it has to be mentioned that because of the heavy case load, the Welfare Officers are not in a position to finish their investigation in the given period of six months.

**(c) obtaining an accurate estimate of fees to be paid by adoptive parents prior to adoption and/or travel to collect the child;**

As a receiving State we do not offer itemized list of the costs and expenses likely to arise from the adoption process. The only expenses that we are in a position to inform the prospective adopters are the expenses of the documents to be apostilled. Unfortunately no such information is available from the States of origin.

**(d) documentation requirements, including requirements for legalisation or authentication of documents, or the acceptance of documents by the other country;**

We have experienced difficulties and variations in the requirements of authentication of documents by the states of origin. One country of origin requires the documents to be apostilled as well as stamped by the country's Embassy in Cyprus. Another country of origin requires the documents to be apostilled and stamped by a notary. Difficulties have been experienced in the acceptance of documents due to the very limited time set up by the legislation for the document to be completed. It is impossible for the prospective adopters to respond in such a short time and as a result their application and file is considered closed.

**(e) obtaining the agreements required in Article 17;**

No operational difficulties are met in this respect.

**(f) receiving post-placement reports from adoptive parents or Central Authorities;**

Not applicable.

**(g) translation requirements;**

The translation of the eligibility reports are undertaken by the Cyprus Central Authority in cooperation with the Cyprus Press Information Office and the prospective adopters do not pay for this.

**(h) time taken to process Convention cases.**

The processing of Convention cases by the Cyprus Central Authorities takes about 2 months.

**(2) Do you permit prospective adopters, once their eligibility and suitability have been established, to make their own arrangements for contacting directly the placement agencies in the country of origin?**

Prospective adopters, once their suitability is established they make their own arrangements for contacting placement agencies in the countries of origin.

**(3) Has the practice referred to in the preceding question given rise to particular problems of which you are aware?**

Different procedures in different countries of origin. There are no known contact persons so each prospective adopter makes its own arrangements.

**(4) Please provide details on the breakdown of placements in the Receiving State. What steps have been or are being taken in Your Country to address this problem (Article 21)?**

The Social Welfare Services in Cyprus according to the Article 21 act in the best interest of the child. If the placement does not serve the best interests of the child then protecting measures take place by taking the child under the Director's care and placed in temporarily in either foster family or a children's home.

We get in touch with the Central Authority of the state of origin and in cooperation with them we decide on the long-term care of the child.

**(5) Legalisation of foreign documents can be very time consuming for Contracting States. At the Special Commission on the Apostille, Evidence and Service Conventions in November 2003, a recommendation was made concerning the 1993 Convention. The Report states that:**

"The Special Commission stressed the usefulness of linking the application of the Hague Adoption Convention of 1993 to the Apostille Convention (the 1961 Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents). In light of the high number of public documents included in a typical adoption procedure, the Special Commission that States that are party to the Adoption Convention but not to the

Apostille Convention consider actively becoming party to the Latter.”

**Would you favour a similar recommendation from the forthcoming Special Commission meeting for the 1993 Convention?**

Yes.

**(6) DNA testing has been used to establish identity (if, for example, a consent is in doubt). Can you provide details of such cases, including the cost and procedures involved?**

No details can be provided as DNA testing for such purposes has not been used to establish identity.

## **8. Private international law issues**

**(1) The Convention does not determine which authorities have jurisdiction to grant or amend/revoke an adoption nor which Law applies to the conditions governing, or the effects of, an adoption.**

**(a) Are you aware of any difficulties that may have arisen in the Application of the Convention concerning the jurisdiction of the Authorities to grant or amend/revoke and adoption?**

No

**(b) Are you aware of any difficulties that may have arisen in the application of the Convention concerning the law or laws to be applied to the conditions governing, or the effects of, an adoption?**

No.

If the answer to either of both of these questions is “yes”, do you wish the Permanent Bureau to study these questions further?

**(2) Issues of applicable law may arise when bodies accredited in one Contracting State act in another Contracting State (Article 12), for example:**

- whether and to what extent agents of that body are authorised to act and bind their principal;
- whether they have exceeded or misused their authority.

**Have you experienced any difficulties in this respect (see also the Hague Convention of 14 March 1978 on the Law Applicable to Agency)?**

No.

## **9. Recognition and effects**

- (1) Have your courts used the Recommended Model Form “Certificate of Conformity of Intercountry Adoption”? See <[www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)>, “Intercountry Adoption”, “Practical Operation Documents”, “Annex C to the Special Commission Report of October 1994”.**

No, the Recommendation Model Form “Certificate of Conformity of Intercountry Adoption” is not used by the Courts.

- (2) Have you knowledge of any difficulties that have arisen in obtaining certificates under Article 23(1)?**

No. An adoption certified by the competent authority of the State of the adoption made in accordance with the Convention is recognized by the Cyprus Court.

- (3) Do you have information about any case in which recognition of a Convention adoption has been refused under Article 24?**

No.

- (4) Are there any circumstances in which you would recognise the validity of a foreign adoption coming within the scope of the Convention despite Convention procedures or requirements not having been followed?**

No. Each case will be studied, based on the circumstances of the child, the decision will be made for the best interest of the child.

Please specify any other difficulties that have arisen in relation to Chapter V of the Convention.

## **10. Payment of reasonable charges and fees**

- (1) Please quantify the costs and expenses charge or fees paid in your country in respect of intercountry adoptions (Article 32(2)). Is this information freely available and accessible to prospective adoptive parents and competent authorities?**

This information is not freely available or accessible to prospective adoptive parents or to our Services. In Cyprus the prospective adoptive parents are charged only for the apostilled of the documentation which costs 4 – 8 Euro per copy. Social Welfare Services do not charge for the preparation of the report.

- (2) Have you had any experiences with the use of fee caps, established and publicised appropriate fees, established expediting fees, or other similar controls?**

No.

- (3) Do you have any comments on the practice in some Countries of requiring a mandatory contribution by adoptive parents for the support or development of child protection services in such countries?**

It needs to be studied.

- (4) Do you have any comments on or experiences of uneven processing amongst countries due to large disparities in fees (for example, applications from countries that offer higher fees may be processed more quickly)?**

No.

- (5) Are you aware of any instances of disparity between Professional salaries or fees charged for adoptions compared to other forms of legal work? (For example, large legal fees may be charged for adoption, while standard or lower fees are paid for other family law matters such as divorces – see Article 32(3).)**

No. We do not have such information available.

- (6) Are you aware of any significant differences in fees charged for Intercountry adoption by regional or provincial authorities?**

No.

- (7) **To what extent, if any, are intercountry adoption fees used**  
**(a) to support or develop the national childcare and**  
**(b) protection system; or (b) to contribute to funding**  
**resources of Central Authorities or accredited bodies?**

In Cyprus there are no fees.

- (8) **Do you have any other comments about reasonable or unreasonable costs and expenses or fees?**

Some complaints were identified.

- (9) **Are you aware of any other problems arising from the payment of fees or charges in your country or in other countries with which you have adoption arrangements?**

No.

#### **11. Improper financial gain**

- (1) **Please indicate the laws (including criminal sanctions), Measures and procedures in place to give effect to the principle that no one shall derive improper financial or other gain from an activity related to an intercountry adoption (Article 32(1)).**

The Convention has been ratified by Law in Cyprus (No 26(III)/94). According to the Adoption Law of Cyprus No. 19(I)/95, the following actions are illegal:

- Acceptance or payment of any sum or other remuneration by the person who intends to adopt, the biological parent or guardian or any other person for adoption arrangements.

**Sentence: Imprisonment of one year or a fine up to £1.000 or both.**

- The publication or advertisement of any announcement which implies that:

a person or guardian wishes to give a minor for adoption,

a person wishes to adopt a minor,

a person is willing to make arrangements for an adoption of a minor.

**Sentence: A fine up to £500 (article 28)**



- (2) Are you aware of any instances of success in enforcing Penalties to discourage improper financial gain?**

No.

- (3) Are you aware of any difficulties in the enforcement of laws or regulations or in prosecution of criminal activity?**

It is objectively difficult for a Welfare Officer involved in adoption cases to prove, when it is indicated that improper financial activity may be related to an adoption.

- (4) Apart from the measures referred to in Question 11(1) above, have any other preventive measures been taken in your country to combat improper financial gain?**

We have cooperation with gynecology clinics and gynecology practitioners to notify our Services immediately after they are informed by a woman that she wants to give her baby for adoption. If the baby is already delivered doctors are obliged to inform our Services immediately. The newborn is taken under the Director's care and placed in foster care. In the meantime we approach prospective adoptive parents whose suitability has been investigated and try to find an appropriate family for the specific child.

Our Services have published in 2003 a booklet for the public. The booklet includes information regarding adoption procedures in Cyprus, the legislation and the Convention.

- (5) Please provide details of any measures taken to prevent Solicitation (e.g. through inducements to consent) of children for adoption (Articles 8 and 29).**

Not applicable.

- (6) Have you experienced any difficulties in obtaining co-operation or Assistance from other States in eliminating practices that lead to improper financial gain?**

No.

## **12. Relative adoptions**

**Do you have any comments on the application of the Convention Procedures to relative (inter-family) adoptions?**

No, as there is no experience on the matter.

**13. Children with special needs**

**What policies or programmes do you have to ensure that children with special needs are given the same opportunity to find a family through intercountry adoption as other children?**

Cyprus does not act as a state of origin. If a child is born with special needs and is established that it is adoptable our Services suggest its adoption to a suitable couple that has already been considered eligible.

**14. Other forms of cross-border child care**

**International foster care, transnational *Kafala* and other forms of child care with a cross-border element are not covered by the 1993 Convention, but by the Hague Convention of 1996October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children: See for example its Articles 3 e) and 33(1).**

- (1) Is your country involved in international placements of children other than for purposes of adoption?**

No.

- (2) Are you aware of any difficulties concerning such placements?**

No.

- (3) If your country is not yet a Party to the 1996 Convention, is your country actively studying ratifying or acceding to it?**

Cyprus has signed the 1996 Convention but has not yet ratified it.

**15. Avoiding Convention**

**Are you aware of any attempts to circumvent the Convention or to avoid protections afforded to children, including the moving of children or birth parents to other countries?**

No.

**16. Additional safeguards and bilateral arrangements**

**Please describe any additional safeguards, requirements or Procedures, which you apply to Convention adoptions (i.e. over and above those which are set out in the Convention itself). Are these applied generally, or only in relation to particular States?**

**Have you made agreements with one or more other Contracting State (see Article 32(2)) with a view to improving the application of the Convention? If so, please specify with which States and what matters are covered by the agreements.**

**Do you have any comments on the efficacy of bilateral arrangements?**

- (a) with non-Contracting States? Are Convention safeguards applied?**

Bilateral arrangements are set between non Contracting States always based on the provisions of the Convention.

- (b) with Contracting States? Do they improve the operation of the Convention? Have they caused any difficulties?**

As far as safeguarding of the Convention with contracting States there have been no problems. Procedures on documentation and certification have been experienced since different States require different certification in addition to the apostille. For example one country of origin recently informed us that they require all the documents to be stamped by their respective Embassy in Cyprus.

**17. Limits on number of States with whom co-operation is possible**

**In making arrangements for intercountry adoption (whether as A Receiving State or as a State of origin), have you found it Necessary to confine co-operation under the Convention to a limited number of other Contracting States? If so, please explain the reasons (e.g. no appropriate accredited body, lack of resources to process applications from large number of States, etc) and indicate what has influenced the choice of these States.**

No

**B. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER SPECIAL COMMISSION**

- 18. Do you regularly hold seminars, training sessions or workshops on the Adoption Convention in your State? Would you welcome participants from other countries? Would you find it helpful if there was a consistent way to announce such activities to other States? Do you have suggestions?**

We hold seminars and we try to establish on a frequent basis meetings of all the Welfare staff in Cyprus dealing with intercountry adoptions to exchange ideas, difficulties and suggestions for improving the current procedures. We would therefore welcome participants from other countries as this will be very helpful for both sides in exchanging and sharing experiences.

- 19. In the current negotiations for a new Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance, an Administrative Co-operation Working Group has been established to examine and report on practical problems and issues of administrative co-operation between authorities. Would you favour the establishment of a similar group for the 1993 Convention?**

Yes.

- 20. Please indicate which topics you consider priority issues for the Special Commission in September 2005, and their degree of Importance.**

- Co-operation between Central Authorities
- Time which Convention adoptions are processed
- Establishing co-operation with Countries that are Contracting States
- Establishing bilateral co-operation with Countries that have signed the Convention but have not ratified it.

## **Section C: Identification of responsible parties**

**Central Authority:** Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance which exercises all its powers and duties through the Social Welfare Services.

Main Offices: Prodromou Str. 63, Strovolos 1468, Nicosia-Cyprus

Tel. 22 406609

Fax: 22 667909

E-mail: central.sws@sws.mlsi.gov.cy

**Regional Central Authorities:** Nicosia District Welfare Office

Tel: 22 804608

Fax: 22 804666

Limassol District Welfare Office

Tel: 25 804450

Fax: 25 306576

Larnaca District welfare Office

Tel: 24 800101

Fax: 24 304876

Paphos District Welfare Office

Tel: 26 306240

Fax: 26 306162

Evrychou District Welfare Office

Tel: 22 870583

Fax: 22 933408

Paralimni District Welfare Offices

Tel: 23 811720

Fax: 23 827698

**Courts:** Nicosia Family Court

Larnaca Family Court

Limassol Family Court

Paphos Family Court

MR/AS

Questionnaire