



## 14<sup>th</sup> International Forum on the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP)

12-13 May 2026

Venue: Jaal Riad Resort, Marrakech, Morocco

### Agenda

Organised by the HCCH's Regional Office for Africa in Rabat (Morocco),  
with the support of the Ministry of Justice of Morocco.

Interpretation will be provided in English and French.

All session times are indicated in GMT+1 (Morocco local time).

#### Tuesday, 12 May 2026

09:30 – 10:00 Participants attending in person are kindly invited to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the first session for registration.

#### Opening Session

Master of Ceremonies: Mr Rachid Ouadifi, Regional Office Representative

#### 1. 10:00 – 10:30 | Welcome & Opening Address

- **Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco**  
H.E. Mr Abdellatif Ouahbi, Minister of Justice
- **Head of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Morocco**  
H.E. Mr Hicham Balaoui, Prosecutor General of the King at the Court of Cassation and President of the Public Prosecution
- **HCCH**  
Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General

**Group Picture followed by Press Briefing and Coffee Break  
(30 min)**

#### Session 1 – e-APP a global outlook and its importance to the business climate

Moderator: Ms Melissa Ford, First Secretary

2. **11:00 – 11:30 | The e-APP: an overview and global update**

- **Permanent Bureau of the HCCH**  
Ms Melissa Ford, First Secretary

This introductory session will provide participants with a common understanding of the fundamental components of the e-APP, the broader context of the 1961 Apostille Convention, and key updates on e-APP implementation worldwide.

3. **11:30 – 11:50 | The Business Ready (B-READY) Methodology: measuring the global business and investment climate in the digital age**

- **The World Bank Group (WBG)**  
Mr Raman Maroz, Topic Lead (Dispute Resolution team), and Mr Enrique Orellana Tamez, Regulatory Analyst (World Bank Business Ready Unit)

4. **11:50 – 12:00 | Representative of Business Climate Office, Morocco**

**Session 2 – e-APP Implementation**

Moderator: Mr Rachid Ouadifi, Regional Office Representative

5. **12:00 – 12:20 | e-APP implementation: the experience of Morocco**

- **Ministry of Justice of Morocco**  
Mr Ayoub Kaddouri, Officer  
(Directorate of Civil Affairs and Legal and Judicial Professions)

6. **12:20 – 12:40 | e-APP implementation: the experience of France**

- **Ministry of Justice of France**  
Ms Fatiha Bousarghin, Legal Officer (*Rédactrice*)  
(International Law and Civil Cooperation Unit)

7. **12:40 – 13:00 | e-APP implementation: the experience of Ukraine**

- **Ministry of Justice of Ukraine & e-Governance Academy**  
Ms Olha Riabukha, Deputy Minister of Justice (Digital Transformation), Chief Digital Transformation Officer, and Mr Dmytro Matrosov, Senior Expert (Artificial Intelligence and Data Management Competence Centre)

**Lunch  
(1,5 hours)**

*Lunch will be hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Morocco for in-person participants.*

### Session 3 – Focus on e-Apostille

Moderators: Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General. Ms Melissa Ford,  
First Secretary

#### 8. 14:30 – 14:50 | The implementation and practical operation of the e-APP: responses to the e-APP Questionnaire

- **Permanent Bureau of the HCCH**  
Mr Caio Gomes de Freitas, Legal Officer

This presentation will provide participants with an overview of the responses submitted by Contracting Parties to the 2026 Questionnaire on the implementation and operation of the e-APP.

#### 9. 14:50 – 15:45 | Expert Panel I: the e-Apostille

Expert Panel I will include presentations from Contracting Parties on the implementation and operation of the e-Apostille component in their jurisdictions and provide an opportunity to discuss and reflect on its impacts and benefits under the 1961 Apostille Convention.

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda**  
Mr Eric Ngabo, Chief Digital Officer
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China**  
Mr DU Jitao, Director of the Legalization Division  
(Department of Consular Affairs)
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic**  
Mr Esteban Pichardo Castillo, Representative of the Legal Department, and  
Ms Claribel Mercedes Herrera Montero, User Support and Document Analysis Officer

#### 10. 15:45 – 16:30 | Roundtable discussion: e-Apostilles and the cross-border use of underlying public documents

Moderator: Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General

This roundtable discussion will provide an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on the use of e-Apostilles and their relationship with the underlying electronic public documents, including practical and operational considerations and good practices. Speakers include the following:

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda**  
Mr Eric Ngabo, Chief Digital Officer

- **Ministry of Justice of Israel**  
Dr Itai Apter, Director (International Civil Affairs), Office of the Deputy Attorney General (International Law), and Adv. Gilad Erlich, Head of the Public Inquiries Unit (Ministry of Justice)
- **Ministry of Justice of Ukraine & e-Governance Academy**  
Ms Olha Riabukha, Deputy Minister of Justice (Digital Transformation), Chief Digital Transformation Officer, and Mr Dmytro Matrosov, Senior Expert (Artificial Intelligence and Data Management Competence Centre)
- **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (United Kingdom)**  
Mr Danial Smith, Deputy Head and Digital Manager
- **United States Department of State**  
Mr William P. Fritzlen, Senior Counsel (Office of the Legal Adviser)

**Tea Break  
(30 min)**

**Session 4 – e-APP innovation**

Moderator: Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General

**11. 17:00 – 17:30 | e-APP innovation: a view from the USA**

- **Mr Chris Jackson, CEO**  
@Gov

- End of day one -

**Wednesday, 13 May 2026**

**Session 5 – e-Register implementation**

Moderator: Mr Ayoub Kaddouri, Officer (Ministry of Justice, Morocco)

**12. 09:30 – 10:30 | Expert Panel II: the e-Register**

Expert Panel II will include presentations from Contracting Parties on the implementation and operation of the e-Register component in their jurisdictions, followed by a discussion on its benefits and effectiveness for the verification of Apostilles by receiving agencies under the 1961 Apostille Convention.

- **The High Court of the Hong Kong SAR of China**  
Master Jack Wong (Master of the High Court)

- **Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia**  
Ms Agvirta Armilia Sativa, Director of Central Authority and International Law  
(Directorate General of Legal Administrative Affairs)
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia**  
Mr Amarsanaa Ganzorig, Attaché  
(Consular Department)
- **Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines**  
Ms Janice C. Sanchez-Rivera, Acting Director  
(Authentication Division, Office of Consular Affairs)

**Session 6 – Effective e-APP implementation**

Moderator: Mr William P. Fritzlen, Senior Counsel (US Department of State)

**13. 10:30 – 11:30 | Roundtable discussion: e-APP implementation, technical best practice, promotion, and education**

This roundtable discussion will provide an opportunity to consider the implementation of the e-APP, including technical best practice, and to highlight the essential role of promotion and education for ensuring the effective operation of the e-APP. Speakers include the following:

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda**  
Mr Eric Ngabo, Chief Digital Officer
- **Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Belgium)**  
Ms Charlotte Van Belleghem, Legal Attaché  
(Directorate-General for Consular Affairs)
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China**  
Mr Gong Qing, Second Secretary  
(Legalization Division, Department of Consular Affairs)
- **The High Court of the Hong Kong SAR of China**  
Master Jack Wong  
(Master of the High Court)
- **Ministry of Justice of Ukraine & e-Governance Academy**  
Ms Olha Riabukha, Deputy Minister of Justice (Digital Transformation), Chief Digital Transformation Officer, and Mr Dmytro Matrosov, Senior Expert (Artificial Intelligence and Data Management Competence Centre)
- **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (United Kingdom)**  
Mr Danial Smith, Deputy Head and Digital Manager

**Coffee Break  
(40 min)**

**14. 12:10 – 12:35 | Conclusions & Recommendations**

**15. 12:35 – 12:50 | Closing Address**

- **Permanent Bureau of the HCCH**  
Mr Rachid Ouadifi, Regional Office Representative