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RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION DE LA COMMISSION SPÉCIALE SUR LE FONCTIONNEMENT PRATIQUE DE LA CONVENTION APOSTILLE

(6 AU 9 NOVEMBRE 2012)

établi par le Bureau Permanent

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING ON THE PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE APOSTILLE CONVENTION

(6-9 NOVEMBER 2012)

drawn up by the Permanent Bureau

Document préliminaire No 5 de décembre 2012 à l'attention du Conseil d'avril 2013 sur les affaires générales et la politique de la Conférence

Preliminary Document No 5 of December 2012 for the attention of the Council of April 2013 on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference

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RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION DE LA COMMISSION SPÉCIALE
SUR LE FONCTIONNEMENT PRATIQUE DE LA CONVENTION APOSTILLE

(6 AU 9 NOVEMBRE 2012)

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(6 au 9 novembre 2012)

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE APOSTILLE CONVENTION

(6-9 November 2012)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE APOSTILLE CONVENTION

(6-9 November 2012)

A Special Commission met in The Hague from 6 to 9 November 2012 to review the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* (Apostille Convention or the Convention). The practical operation of the Convention was previously reviewed by the Special Commission in 2003 and 2009 in conjunction with other Hague Conventions, and this was the first time that it had met to dedicate itself entirely to the Apostille Convention. The Special Commission (SC) was attended by 162 participants from 75 States and international organisations.[1] Participants comprised experts from 45 Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, experts from States Parties to the Convention, observers from non-Contracting States actively exploring the possibility of joining the Convention and interested international organisations, as well as members and consultants of the Permanent Bureau. The SC unanimously approved the following Conclusions and Recommendations.

Evaluating and taking stock of the Apostille Convention

Status of the Apostille Convention

1. The SC notes with great satisfaction that the Convention currently has 104 Contracting States, comprising a majority of the world's States, making it the most widely ratified / acceded to of all of the Conventions adopted under the auspices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. With many millions of Apostilles issued and accepted annually, the Convention is the most widely used Hague Convention. The SC reiterates the Convention's effectiveness and the absence of any major obstacles to its practical operation.

2. The SC welcomes the nine States that have joined the Convention since its last meeting in 2009. The SC continues to recommend that States Parties to the Convention promote it to other States. Member States of the Hague Conference which are not already Party to the Convention are also invited to actively consider becoming Party. Because the Apostille Convention facilitates the circulation of public documents necessary for the completion of intercountry adoptions, States Parties to the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention that have not already done so are invited to join the Apostille Convention as well.

3. The SC also acknowledges remarkable progress in the implementation of the electronic Apostille Program (e-APP) since 2009, thereby enhancing the effective and secure operation of the Convention. Over 150 Competent Authorities from 15 Contracting States around the world have presently implemented at least one component of the e-APP.

Apostille as a tool to facilitate international trade and investment

4. The SC notes with great satisfaction that other international organisations, including the World Bank and the International Chamber of Commerce, recognise the importance and

[1] These included the following Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, the European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela; the following non-Member Contracting States to the Convention: Azerbaijan, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Moldova, Republic of, Mongolia, Namibia and Oman; the following interested States: Algeria, Bahrain, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cuba, Guatemala, Iran, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Viet Nam, Zambia; and the following interested international organisations: Australian and New Zealand College of Notaries (ANZCN), European Patent Office (EPO), International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL), International Commission on Civil Status, International Union of Judicial Officers, United Kingdom and Ireland Notarial Forum (UKINF), World Bank.

efficacy of the Convention in the promotion and development of international trade and investment, and urge States that have not done so to join the Convention.

Implementation of the Conclusions & Recommendations (C&R) of the 2009 meeting

5. The SC welcomes the completed draft of the *Handbook on the Practical Operation of the Apostille Convention* prepared by the Permanent Bureau with the valuable assistance of an Experts Group to assist Competent Authorities in performing their functions under the Convention. The SC also notes that the Handbook project led to the development and publication of two additional works directed at specific audiences – *The ABCs of Apostilles* aimed at the general public and a *Brief Implementation Guide* for relevant authorities of States considering accession to the Convention.

6. In further reviewing the C&R of the 2009 meeting, the SC notes:

   a. that the C&R of the 2009 meeting provided clear guidance on topics for consideration and action to be taken by Contracting States and the Permanent Bureau in support of continuing improvements to the implementation and operation of the Convention;
   b. that the Permanent Bureau has completed all of the tasks assigned to it by the 2009 meeting, including the implementation of an automated e-mail system to alert States when new instruments of accession are deposited and when dates of entry into force are added to the status table on the Hague Conference website;
   c. the practical utility of the information requested by the C&R of the 2009 meeting and provided by Contracting States.

7. The SC notes that some States that had objected to the accessions of others have withdrawn those objections since the 2009 meeting and continues to encourage objecting States to assess whether the conditions for withdrawing the objections are met.

The "Apostille Section" of the Hague Conference website

8. The SC welcomes the redesign of, and inclusion of additional information on, the "Apostille Section", which continues to be a most useful resource, and notes that this specialised section is the most visited page of the Hague Conference website. The SC notes the importance of the States Parties providing the Permanent Bureau with regular updates of information concerning their Competent Authorities.

Regional developments

9. The SC is informed that the European Union is considering the possibility of abolishing authentication requirements for public documents between its Member States. The SC is also informed that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is currently exploring ways to simplify the authentication requirements for public documents (legalisation), whether by accession to the Convention or by the development of a regional agreement modelled on the Convention. Through one of its Member States, ASEAN has asked the Permanent Bureau for technical assistance with regard to this matter.

10. The SC notes the significant impact of the Convention in Latin America, where several regional integration processes, such as MERCOSUR and Associate States, and the Central American Integration System (SICA), are working towards the use of the Convention as the sole tool to facilitate the circulation of public documents at both regional and global levels. In that regard, the SC notes with satisfaction the entry into force of the Convention in four Latin American States since 2009, the upcoming entry into force for another, and the ongoing efforts of the remaining non-Contracting States in the region towards possible accession. Several of these States highlight the value of the support provided by the Permanent Bureau and its Regional Office in Latin America, which facilitates their analysis and the implementation of the Convention.

11. The SC looks forward to the official opening of the Asia Pacific Regional Office of The Hague Conference on Private International Law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and encourages that Office and the Regional Office in Latin America to offer support in their respective regions to assist Contracting States in implementing the Convention and non-Contracting States in becoming Parties to the Convention.

Applicability of the Convention

The notion of "public documents"

12. The SC reiterates and confirms C&R Nos 72 to 75 of the 2009 meeting:

"The SC notes that it is for the law of the State of origin to determine the public nature of a document. Keeping in mind the purpose of the Convention, the SC suggests that States Parties give a broad interpretation to the category of public documents. The SC recalls the statement in the Explanatory Report that "[a]ll the Delegates were in agreement that legalisation should be abolished for all documents other than documents signed by persons in their private capacity (*sous seing privé*)." Finally, the SC also recalls that the list of public documents identified in Article 1 is not exhaustive."

"The SC notes that the domestic law of one State provides that simple photocopies of administrative documents are public documents for the purposes of the Convention if certain legal conditions are met."

"As regards certified copies, the SC notes that States Parties have different approaches in addressing the following situations:

(i) Where the certified copy is issued by the same authority that issued the original document, some States regard the certified copy as a duplicate original and others treat it as a certified copy. In the first instance, the Apostille relates to the authenticity of the original document, in the second instance, the Apostille relates to the authenticity of the certificate.

(ii) Where the certified copy is issued by a third party (such as a notary), most States regard the certificate as the public document to be apostillised; some States, however, do allow for an Apostille to be issued for the copied document itself.

These differences do not seem to cause problems in practice."

"The SC notes that it is also for the law of the State of origin to determine who has the authority to issue public documents. The SC notes that translations and medical documents fall within the scope of the Convention if their execution by persons authorised by law makes them public documents."

13. The SC recalls the limited effect of an Apostille, which is to authenticate the origin of the underlying public document and not its content.

14. The State of destination may not refuse to give effect to an Apostille on the sole ground that it does not regard the underlying document as public in nature. However, while it is for the law of the State of origin to determine the public nature of a document, it is for the law of State of destination to determine the admissibility and probative value of the document in that State.

Excluded documents

15. The SC reconfirms that the exceptions in Article 1(3) *a)* and *b)* are to be interpreted narrowly. In this connection, the SC notes that some States issue Apostilles for documents such as import / export licenses, health certificates and certificates of origin. While recognising that this raises the question about the scope of the Convention and not the public nature of the document, the SC encourages States to accept, to the extent possible, Apostilles issued for these documents even if that State would not itself issue Apostilles for such documents.

Extradition requests

16. Recognising that the Convention may apply to extradition requests, the SC recommends that the Permanent Bureau continue its dialogue with INTERPOL and other law enforcement agencies to explore possible synergies between the application of the Apostille Convention, including the e-APP, and the secure and swift transmission and execution of extradition requests.

Documents executed by international organisations

17. The SC notes that the authentication of documents issued by international organisations continues to raise practical difficulties and is informed of particular issues of concern regarding documents issued by the European Patent Organisation and the European Union. The SC recommends that the Permanent Bureau continue to study the questions raised as they relate to the possible application of the Apostille Convention to these documents, and to suggest solutions. These could include the possibility of developing a Protocol to the Convention, designed to enable international organisations to issue Apostilles for their documents.

Operation of the Convention

Decentralisation of the services offered by Competent Authorities

18. The SC recognises the efforts of Contracting States to facilitate access to Apostille services to the public. In that regard the SC welcomes and encourages efforts designed to decentralise the provision of Apostille services. Such efforts have been shown to increase efficiency in the provision of services while reducing the burden on the public.

"One-step" process

19. The SC reaffirms C&R No 79 of the 2009 meeting:

    "The SC invites States Parties to inform the Permanent Bureau about their procedures for issuing Apostilles, in particular whether or not intermediate certifications are needed before Apostilles would be issued (one-step vs multiple-step process). Recalling the purpose of the Convention to simplify the process of authentication, the SC invites States Parties to consider removing any unnecessary obstacles to the issuance of Apostilles while maintaining the integrity of authentications."

Multilingual Model Apostilles

20. The SC welcomes the development of multilingual Model Apostilles by the Permanent Bureau and encourages their use by Competent Authorities. The SC also encourages Contracting States to incorporate their own language(s) into multilingual Model Apostilles and to share them with the Permanent Bureau.

Filling in the 10 numbered standard informational items

21. The SC emphasises the importance of completing the 10 numbered standard informational items in every Apostille. No item should be left blank. Where an item is not applicable this should be indicated by writing "not applicable" or "n/a".

Law governing the signing of Apostilles

22. Recognising the variety of means used in signing Apostilles, both paper and electronic, the SC affirms the principle that the validity of the signature is determined by the law applicable to the Competent Authority issuing the Apostille.

Additional text

23. The SC notes the usefulness of additional text outside the area of the 10 numbered standard informational items of the Apostille. However, additional text should not interfere with the integrity of those 10 standard items (*e.g.*, in an Apostille with a closed

frame, additional text should not be located within that frame). The SC recognises that many States have successfully employed such text in order to emphasise the limited effect of an Apostille, or to direct bearers of the Apostille to the Competent Authority's e-Register. While the Permanent Bureau, at the request of the SC, has drafted and published sample text to this effect, the SC recognises that States are free to employ text as necessary to provide clarifications regarding the Apostilles they issue (*e.g.*, where an Apostille is affixed to a certified copy, text to indicate whether the Apostille relates to the signature on the certificate or the underlying copy). States are encouraged to share with the Permanent Bureau any additional text they intend to use.

Tamper-evident methods of attaching Apostilles

24. The SC recalls and reaffirms C&R No 91 of the 2009 meeting noting the variety of means for affixing Apostilles and encourages the use of tamper-evident methods.

Obligation to establish and maintain a Register

25. The SC recalls that Article 7 of the Convention requires each Competent Authority to establish and maintain a Register of Apostilles containing the information required by that Article. The SC recognises the utility of maintaining an e-Register that is accessible online in order to facilitate recipients' ability to verify the issuance of Apostilles.

Obligation to prevent legalisation where the Convention applies

26. The SC reaffirms that requiring legalisation instead of an Apostille and requiring legalisation of an Apostille are contrary to Articles 3 and 5 of the Convention, and reminds States Parties of their obligation under Article 9 to take all necessary steps to prevent the performance of legalisations by their diplomatic or consular agents in cases where the Convention provides for exemption.

Requests for confirmation of issuance procedures

27. The SC notes with concern reports from Competent Authorities that have received requests emanating from other Contracting States, or from their diplomatic or consular posts, to confirm issuance procedures or provide specimen signatures. The SC strongly recommends that Competent Authorities refuse to comply with such requests and notify the Permanent Bureau if they receive them. The Permanent Bureau has developed and published standard replies that Competent Authorities may use when formulating their responses.

The electronic Apostille Program (e-APP)

28. The SC recognises the value of the e-APP as a tool to further enhance the secure and effective operation of the Apostille Convention and notes with satisfaction the continued implementation of the e-APP and the expanding use of e-Apostilles and e-Registers. The SC applauds the efforts of a number of States actively engaged in implementing one or both components of the e-APP and strongly encourages other Contracting States that have not yet done so to actively consider implementation. The SC encourages further exchanges of information among States about the implementation of the e-APP, in particular at the 8th International Forum on the e-APP scheduled for 2013 in Montevideo. The SC thanks the Government of Uruguay for its generous offer to host the next in this series of important events.

Endorsement of the Apostille Handbook

29. The SC endorses the *Handbook on the Practical Operation of the Apostille Convention* (Apostille Handbook) and invites the Permanent Bureau to finalise the text, taking into account the issues addressed during the meeting.

Next meeting of the Special Commission

30. The SC recommends to the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference that the next meeting of this SC be held within the next three to five years, depending on the overall work programme of Conference and the Permanent Bureau. In light of the very positive experience of the present meeting, the SC also recommends that the next meeting again be dedicated exclusively to the practical operation of the Apostille Convention and not be paired with the analysis of the practical operation of another Hague Convention.

ORDRE DU JOUR TEL QU'ADOPTÉ PAR LA COMMISSON SPÉCIALE

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AGENDA AS ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSION

AGENDA AS ADOPTED BY SPECIAL COMMISSION

Sessions start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 6.00 p.m. The first session (6 November) begins at 2.30 p.m. Lunch breaks will be from 1.00-2.30 p.m. Refreshment breaks will normally be from 11.00-11.15 a.m., and 4.00-4.15 p.m.

The draft agenda will be treated with some flexibility and may need to be modified in the light of how discussions progress during the meeting.

A drafting committee will be established early on in the meeting to assist in preparing draft Conclusions & Recommendations, which will be submitted for adoption and discussed on the last day.

Tuesday 6 November 2012

Afternoon

2.30 p.m.	Opening of the meeting by Mr Paul Vlas, President of the Netherlands Standing Government Committee on Private International Law
	Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Special Commission
	Welcome by Mr Hans van Loon, Secretary General
	Adoption of the agenda
	Presentation of documentation, in particular the draft Apostille Handbook (Prel. Doc. No 2), which will serve as reference document throughout the meeting

1. EVALUATING AND TAKING STOCK OF THE APOSTILLE CONVENTION

Status of the Apostille Convention, including e-APP
Round table: States are invited to report on progress made towards accession and / or towards implementation of the e-APP

Encouraging further accessions: general presentation of the Convention's benefits, short presentations by selected States on reasons for accession, and introduction of the World Bank's *Investing Across Borders* report [tbc]

Report on the status of implementation of the Conclusions & Recommendations of the 2009 Special Commission

The "Apostille Section" of the Hague Conference website

Regional developments

Opening reception hosted by the Permanent Bureau

Wednesday 7 November 2012

Morning

2. APPLICABILITY OF THE CONVENTION

9.30 a.m.

The notion of "public documents" (general principle and specific cases, incl. treatment of copies, unsigned documents, multiple documents, scanned / electronic documents, etc.)

Excluded documents

Documents executed by intergovernmental organisations

Other issues of applicability (incl. transitional measures, use of Apostilles in non-Contracting States, objections to accessions, successor States)

The obligation to prevent legalisation where the Convention applies

Afternoon

3. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND ACCESS TO APOSTILLE SERVICES

2.30 p.m.

Designation of Competent Authorities

The role of Competent Authorities (incl. verifying the origin of public documents)

Reviewing the delivery of Apostille services (incl. moving towards a one-step process)

Developing good practices for Competent Authorities (incl. keeping statistics, developing desk instructions, adopting effectives delivery methods)

4. ISSUING APOSTILLES

Form of the Apostille

Additional text (outside the area containing the 10 standard informational items)

Multilingual model Apostille certificates

Completing the Apostille

Various methods of signing the Apostille (incl. electronic signatures)

Modes of attachment (particularly multiple-page documents)

Grounds for refusing to issue Apostilles

Fees

Thursday 8 November 2012

Morning

5. REGISTERING APOSTILLES

9.30 a.m. The requirement to register Apostilles

Forms of registers: paper, electronic (for internal use only), e-Registers (*i.e.*, accessible online by recipient of Apostille)

Contents of Apostille registers

6. ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION OF APOSTILLES IN STATE OF DESTINATION

Valid and invalid grounds for rejecting Apostilles

Non-expiry of Apostilles

Requests for confirmation of issuance procedures

Advice to users and Competent Authorities in dealing with cases of rejection

7. TIMING OF THE NEXT SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

8. OTHER MATTERS

Afternoon

9. THE ELECTRONIC APOSTILLE PROGRAM (e-APP)

2.30 p.m. Benefits of the e-APP

Outcome of recent e-APP fora (Madrid and Izmir)

Implementation of the e-APP

Issuing e-Apostilles

Accepting e-Apostilles

Friday 9 November 2012

Morning

10. APOSTILLE HANDBOOK

9.30 a.m. Discussion of remaining topics covered by the draft Apostille Handbook and adoption of the Handbook

11. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion and adoption of Conclusions & Recommendations

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End of the Special Commission – the meeting is expected to end at 1.00 p.m.

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Excusé / Unable to attend

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Ms Tricia SMELTZER, U.S. Department of State Office of the Legal Adviser, Washington

Ms Maureen E. EWING, Director of Division of Business Services, Office of the Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis, Providence

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Mr Toni RUOTSALAINEN, Notary Public, Magistrate, Helsinki

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Mme Jocelyne PALENNE, Magistrat, Adjointe au chef du bureau de l'entraide civile et commerciale internationale, Ministère de la Justice et des Libertés, Bureau de l'Entraide civile et commerciale internationale, Paris

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MEXIQUE / MEXICO

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PÉROU / PERU

Mr José Antonio MENDEZ TORRES-LLOSA, Director of Consular Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lima

PHILIPPINES

Ms Marie-Charlotte G. TANG, First Secretary and Consul, Embassy of the Philippines, The Hague

PORTUGAL

Excusé / Unable to attend

ROUMANIE / ROMANIA

Mrs Elena CHERA, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Administration and Interior, General Directorate for Relations with Prefect's Offices, Bucharest

ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD / UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Excusé / Unable to attend

RUSSIE, FÉDÉRATION DE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Roman RYABYY, Head of Section of Legalization and Apostille, Ministry of Justice, Department of International Law and Co-operation, Moscow

Ms Polina IVLIEVA, Expert, Section of International Treaties, Ministry of Justice, Department of International Law and Co-operation, Moscow

Ms Elena KULIKOVA, Head of Private International Law Section, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moscow

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SERBIE / SERBIA

Ms Vesna FILIPOVIC, Judge, First Basic Court, Belgrade

SLOVAQUIE / SLOVAKIA

Mrs Tatiana HACKOVÁ, Senior Counsel, Private International and European Law Division, Ministry of Justice, Bratislava

SLOVÉNIE / SLOVENIA

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Mr Methsiri COORAY, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Sri Lanka, The Hague

SUÈDE / SWEDEN

Ms Sara LINDEGREN, First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden, The Hague

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SUISSE / SWITZERLAND

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Mr Abdullah CEBECI, Legal Counsellor, Embassy of Turkey, The Hague

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Ms Viktoriya SERGIYENKO, Director, Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports, Information and Image Centre, Kyiv

Ms Anna SERGIIENKO, Interpreter, Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports, Information and Image Centre, Kyiv

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UNION EUROPÉENNE / EUROPEAN UNION

Ms Jaana POHJANMAKI, Administrator, DGD Justice and Home Affairs, Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters, Council of the European Union, Brussels

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VENEZUELA

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Mr Jose Angel BUCARELLO GUZMAN, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, The Hague

Mr Franklin CUBEROS, Counsellor, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, The Hague

Mr José LOBO, Counsellor, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, The Hague

Ms Angèlica YANCEN ROJAS, Counsellor, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, The Hague

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AZERBAÏDJAN / AZERBAIJAN

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Mr Adil SULEYMANOV, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, The Hague

COLOMBIE / COLOMBIA

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Mrs Solángel ORTIZ MEJIA, Counselor, Embassy of Colombia, The Hague

EL SALVADOR

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HONDURAS

Mr Sergio ACOSTA, Minister Counselor, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Honduras, The Hague

MOLDOVA, RÉPUBLIQUE DE / MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF

Mr Pavel BURGHELEA, Advisor to the Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Chisinau

Ms Diana POCITAR, Specialist of the Apostille Department, Ministry of Justice, Chisinau

MONGOLIE / MONGOLIA

Mr Chadraabal GANTULGA, Deputy Director, Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ulaanbaatar

NAMIBIE / NAMIBIA

Mr Issaskar Virongo Kavizembua NDJOZE, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Windhoek

Ms Elsie E. SCHICKERLING, Director / Chief Registrar, Directorate High and Supreme Court, Windhoek

OMAN

Mr Taeeb Salim ALALAWI, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Muscat

RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE / DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ms Pilar AWAD BAEZ, Counselor, Embassy of the Dominican Republic, The Hague

SWAZILAND

Excusé / Unable to attend

OBSERVATEURS / OBSERVERS

États non membres invités / Non-Member States invited

ALGÉRIE / ALGERIA

Mlle Dalal SOLTANI, Conseiller diplomatique, Ambassade de la République Algérienne, La Haye

Mlle Ikram ZOUAD, Attaché diplomatique, Ambassade de la République Algérienne, La Haye

BAHREÏN / BAHRAIN

Mr Ali Saleh ALI ABDULLA, Minister Plenipotentiary, Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Manama

Ms Muneera Nofel AL DOSARI, Diplomatic Attaché, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Manama

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Mr Rimac ZUBIETA, First Secretary, Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, The Hague

Mr Luis ROJAS MARTINEZ, First Secretary, Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, The Hague

BURKINA FASO

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BURUNDI

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M. Benjamin MANIRAKIZA, Directeur des Affaires Juridiques et Consulaires, Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération Internationale, Bujumbura

M. Elisha MWANSASU, Conseiller au Cabinet, Ministère de la Justice, Bujumbura

Mr Thaddee NTAHONDI, Advisor, Responsible for EAC Affairs, Ministry to the Office of the President, Department of Communications, Bujumbura

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GUATEMALA

H.E. Mr Jorge Alfredo LEMCKE ARÉVALO, Ambassador of Guatemala, Embassy of Guatemala, The Hague

Mr Carlos Alberto GARCIA REYES, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Guatemala, The Hague

Ms Guisella VARGAS, Jefe de Autenticas

IRAN

Mr Ali Fahim DANESH, Legal Adviser, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Hague

Mr Fattah AHMADI, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Hague

NICARAGUA

Ms Idelvia Maria CAMPOS URBINA, Asesora Juridica, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua

NIGÉRIA / NIGERIA

Ms Nimota Nihinlola AKANBI, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, The Hague

PAKISTAN

Mr Tariq KARIM, First Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, The Hague

RWANDA

Mr Guillaume KAVARUGANDA, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda, The Hague

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ZAMBIE / ZAMBIA

Mrs Lydia K. MATAPO, Acting Senior Counsel, International Law and Agreements Department, Ministry of Justice, Lusaka

Mrs Sambwa Simbyakula CHILEMBO, State Advocate, International Law and Agreements Department, Ministry of Justice, Lusaka

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BANQUE MONDIALE / WORLD BANK

Ms Tania GHOSSEIN, Investment Policy Officer, World Bank, Investing Across Borders Team, Washington, DC

COMMISSION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DROIT COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL (CNUDCI) / UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

Excusé / Unable to attend

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ETAT CIVIL (CIEC) / INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON CIVIL STATUS

M. Walter PINTENS, Secrétaire général, Commission internationale de l'état civil, Secrétariat général, Strasbourg

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (ICPO-INTERPOL)

Mr Gerhard KREUTZER, Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs, International Criminal Police Organization, Lyon

ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES (OCDE) / ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Excusé / Unable to attend

OFFICE EUROPÉEN DES BREVETS (OEB) / EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)

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ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (OMPI) / WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Excusé / Unable to attend

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE (OMC) / WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Excusé / Unable to attend

SECRÉTARIAT DES PAYS DU COMMONWEALTH / COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Excusé / Unable to attend

TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA

Excusé / Unable to attend

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (UNDESA), DIVISION FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Excusé / Unable to attend

Représentants d'organisations non gouvernementales / Representatives for non-governmental organisations

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Mr Peter ZABLUD, Solicitor and Notary, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Melbourne

Mr Joseph LUKAITIS, Deputy-Chairman of the ANZCN Board of Governors, Melbourne; Lukaitis Lawyers, Hawthorne

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Mrs Gerda BOERMAN, Website Manager
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Mrs Lydie DE LOOF, Revisor / Co-ordinator
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