

Conclusions & Decisions (C&D)

- 1 The Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) met from 4 to 7 March 2025. The meeting was attended by over 491 participants, representing 75 HCCH Members, four non-Member States, five intergovernmental organisations, nine international non-governmental organisations, and members of the Permanent Bureau (PB).¹ Of the attendees, 248 delegates participated in person and 204 delegates participated online.

I. Ceremonies

- 2 CGAP witnessed:
- the deposit of the instrument of acceptance of the Statute of the HCCH by the Republic of Rwanda and welcomed it as the 92nd Member of the HCCH;
 - the proposal by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to admit Guatemala as a Member of the HCCH;
 - the signature of the 2005 Choice of Court Convention by Costa Rica; and
 - the signature and deposit of the instrument of ratification of the 2007 Child Support Convention by the Republic of Colombia.

II. Work Relating to Possible New Legislative Instruments

A. Parentage / Surrogacy

- 3 CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the Chair of the Working Group (WG) and welcomed the progress made by the WG. To further develop provisions for a draft instrument and draft a final report of the work of the WG, CGAP invited the PB, in addition to the April 2025 meeting, to convene one further in-person meeting, with the possibility for online participation, within Financial Year (FY) 2025-2026, possibly in the second half of 2025, with intersessional work as required, as well as, if necessary, one online meeting before CGAP 2026. Intersessional work should take place online.

¹ The following Members of the HCCH were represented: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, 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, Guatemala and Pakistan; the following intergovernmental organisations: Asian Development Bank, Council of Europe, UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law), UNIDROIT (*Institut international pour l'Unification du Droit privé*) and UNWTO (World Tourism Organization); and the following international non-governmental organisations: ASADIP (American Association of Private International Law), CCBE (Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe), CNUE (*Conseil des Notariats de l'Union Européenne*), 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 and UINL (International Union of Notaries).

4 CGAP reiterated that any work by the HCCH in relation to private international law (PIL) matters related to legal parentage resulting from surrogacy arrangements should not be understood as supporting or opposing surrogacy.

B. Jurisdiction

5 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 future Convention.

6 CGAP thanked the Government of Japan for hosting the seventh WG meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

7 CGAP invited the PB to convene one additional WG meeting in the second half of 2025, with a targeted agenda specifically focused on Article 8(2) of the Draft Text. In this meeting the WG will also review and fine-tune the entire Draft Text, without reopening or introducing discussion on policy issues. This meeting will be held in person, with the possibility for online participation.

8 CGAP invited the PB to convene an open and inclusive written consultation process on the Draft Text following this additional WG meeting, with a view to gathering feedback from future operators of the envisaged Convention, particularly practitioners and judges. CGAP invited the PB to prepare explanatory notes and questions, with the assistance of WG members, to support the consultation process.

9 CGAP invited the PB to compile the responses received from the written consultation into a document to be submitted to all HCCH Members in advance of CGAP 2026.

10 CGAP noted that it will be for its 2026 meeting to decide on the continuation of the project and whether the Secretary General should convene a Special Commission (SC) meeting before the end of June 2026 or at a later time.

11 CGAP mandated the Secretary General to allocate funds for an SC meeting in the Draft Budget for FY 2025–2026, to be submitted to the Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR) 2025 for approval.

12 CGAP noted that in relation to the development of direct jurisdiction rules, following the completion of the current work on the Jurisdiction Project, the consideration of direct jurisdiction rules could be further developed in a separate and subsequent project, subject to CGAP's decision.

C. Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)

13 CGAP took note of the reports of the Experts' Group (EG) on CBDCs and mandated the EG to continue its study of the applicable law and jurisdiction issues raised by the cross-border use and transfers of CBDCs. CGAP invited the PB to convene two further EG meetings before CGAP 2026, the first in March 2025 and the second before the end of 2025, with intersessional work as required. These meetings should preferably be held in person and intersessional work should take place online. The EG will report to CGAP 2026.

D. Digital Tokens

14 CGAP noted the outcomes of the study on the PIL issues relating to digital tokens, including the proposals for next steps. CGAP thanked the subject-matter experts and Observers who contributed to the study for their support of the PB's work.

15 CGAP mandated the establishment of an EG to study the PIL issues raised by digital tokens, subject to available resources. The EG would report to CGAP 2026.

16 CGAP mandated the PB to coordinate with UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, and other relevant institutions to avoid fragmentation among legal instruments developed by different intergovernmental organisations on related subject matters.

E. Digital Economy

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

- a. monitoring developments with respect to the digital economy, including digital platforms, artificial intelligence and automated contracting, immersive technologies, and decentralised autonomous organisations, with a view to identifying PIL issues for potential future work; and
- b. working with relevant organisations on matters relating to the PIL aspects of the digital economy.

The PB will report to CGAP 2026.

F. Carbon Markets

18 CGAP mandated the establishment of an EG to study the PIL issues arising from carbon markets, as described in Prel. Doc. No 6 of November 2024, with an initial focus on the possible inclusion of an applicable law provision in the draft UNIDROIT Principles on Verified Carbon Credits. The EG will report to CGAP 2026.

19 CGAP mandated the PB to continue cooperating and coordinating 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 carbon credits, subject to available resources. CGAP welcomed the cooperation and coordination between the PB, and the Secretariats of UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT and the UNFCCC on this topic. CGAP thanked Professor Pietro Franzina (Italy), Ms Amy Held (United Kingdom), Professor Mary Keyes (Australia), Professor Alex Mills (Australia and Ireland), and Professor Fabrício Bertini Pasquot Polido (Brazil), for their contributions as volunteer subject-matter experts sitting for the PB.

G. Restructuring and Insolvency

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

21 Subject to available resources, CGAP encouraged the PB to continue cooperation with the UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT Secretariats on insolvency-related projects.

22 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 2026.

H. Intellectual Property (IP)

23 CGAP noted the work carried out on the intersection of IP and PIL, including the cooperation between the PB and the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

24 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.

III. Post-Convention Work

A. International Family and Child Protection Law

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

25 CGAP took note of the reporting on the Forum on Domestic Violence and the Operation of Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, held in June 2024, in Sandton, South Africa and thanked the Government of South Africa and the Centre for Child Law of the University of Pretoria for having hosted the Forum.

26 CGAP welcomed the holding of the second Forum in late October 2025, organised by the Government of Brazil and with the support of the PB, within available resources. In accordance with previous arrangements between the Government of Brazil and the PB, a Steering Committee will develop the substantive programme, with the understanding of the importance of ensuring balanced and diverse participation from all relevant actors. CGAP noted that, while in-person participation is encouraged, passive online participation will be ensured. CGAP also noted that the second Forum, like the first, will not result in any HCCH Conclusions and Recommendations (C&R). The PB will prepare a report on the second Forum for consideration by CGAP 2026. Any proposal for an additional Forum involving the HCCH, including the PB, shall be presented to CGAP for consideration. CGAP expressed its gratitude to the Government of Brazil for its initiative in hosting the second Forum. CGAP encouraged other States and interested parties to consider making a voluntary contribution to cover the costs of the second Forum.

2. 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions

27 CGAP noted the updates pertaining to the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions.

28 CGAP noted the summaries provided by the Chair of the informal brainstorming sessions on future meetings of the SC on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions, and invited the PB to take into consideration the views expressed therein when planning the next meeting of the SC. CGAP noted that the next meeting of the SC should take place after the next SC meetings on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption and of the 2007 Child Support Conventions, respectively. CGAP thanked the Chair of the informal brainstorming sessions, Ms Angèle Sears-Debono (European Commission).

3. 2007 Child Support Convention (incl. iSupport) and its Protocol

29 CGAP commended the Administrative Cooperation Working Group (ACWG) for its work in updating the Country Profile under the 2007 Convention and noted its approval through a written procedure.

30 CGAP took note of the growing number of new Contracting Parties to the 2007 Convention and its Protocol and mandated the PB to start preparations for a Second Meeting of the SC on the practical operation of these instruments by circulating two separate questionnaires, each covering the 2007 Convention and its Protocol, among Members and Contracting Parties during the second and third quarters of 2025 to (1) identify topics for discussion at the next SC meeting and (2) prioritise such topics. The PB will report on the outcomes of these questionnaires to Members and Contracting Parties and commence the other preparations for the SC meeting in accordance with the responses that are received. The exact timing of this SC meeting will be determined in accordance with the full Work Programme of the HCCH.

31 CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the February 2025 meeting of the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group (ITMFEG), including the suggested next steps of its work. The ITMFEG will report to CGAP 2026.

32 CGAP noted the increase in States using iSupport (an electronic case management and secure communication system for the cross-border recovery of maintenance obligations). CGAP also noted the advances of the software in relation to the transfer of maintenance funds. CGAP encouraged Members to use the support offered by the PB and contribute to the improvement of iSupport by sharing their requirements for the software.

4. The “Malta Process”, including the Working Party on Mediation

33 CGAP noted the C&R contained in the Malta V Declaration. CGAP thanked the Government of Malta for its hospitality and generous support of Malta V, as well as the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for their voluntary contributions towards the Conference.

34 CGAP invited States to take note of and implement the next steps proposed in the Malta V Declaration. CGAP welcomed the announcement by the Government of Malta of plans to hold a sixth Malta Conference (Malta VI) in April 2027. CGAP expressed its appreciation to the Government of Malta for its initiative and continued support. With a view to ensuring broad participation from Shari'a States (in particular, non-Contracting Parties), CGAP encouraged Members to consider making voluntary contributions, preferably at least one year in advance of Malta VI, to support the participation of more Official Development Assistance (ODA) Shari'a States.

35 CGAP recalled the objectives of the Working Party on Mediation within the Malta Process, namely to serve as a venue for dialogue and to strengthen collaboration between Contracting and non-Contracting Parties Shari'a States to the 1980 Child Abduction, the 1996 Child Protection and the 2007 Child Support Conventions, as well as to maintain the momentum of activities in between Malta conferences. CGAP noted the decision of the Members of the Working Party on Mediation to, at least for the moment, maintain membership as it currently is and to keep the focus on promoting mediation and the exchange of good practices in this regard. CGAP encouraged members of the Working Party on Mediation to designate contact points in their respective States.

36 Following the recommendation made at Malta V that chairmanship of the Working Party should be rotational, CGAP welcomed Sweden as the new co-Chair representing Contracting Parties, succeeding Canada. CGAP expressed its gratitude to the Government of Canada for its longstanding efforts and support in this endeavour.

5. 2000 Protection of Adults Convention

37 CGAP noted the updates pertaining to the 2000 Protection of Adults Convention.

6. International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ)

38 CGAP noted the updates pertaining to the IHNJ and welcomed the report on the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting of the IHNJ held in Brazil in May 2024 and the progress on the upcoming 4th Global Meeting of the IHNJ and HCCH Judicial Roundtable to be held in Singapore in May 2025.

7. 1993 Adoption Convention

39 CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoires* of the Chair of the third meeting and of the co-Chairs of the Fourth Meeting of the WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption and welcomed the progress made by the WG. CGAP mandated the PB (1) to make the necessary revisions to the Note on the Financial Aspects, Roadmap, Repository, Table on costs and Fact Sheet No 3 of the Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption, if needed with the assistance

of the WG's drafting committee and (2) if needed, convene at least one more online meeting before CGAP 2026.

- 40 CGAP noted the report of the Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services under the 1993 Adoption Convention. CGAP supported the holding of one or two additional virtual workshops on post-adoption services, organised by both States of origin and receiving States. The Steering Committee will report to CGAP 2026.
- 41 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.
- 42 The PB will start preparations for a Sixth Meeting of the SC on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention by circulating a questionnaire on the possible topics and format of the SC meeting. The PB will report on the outcomes of this questionnaire to Members and Contracting Parties and commence the other preparations for the SC meeting in accordance with the responses that are received. The exact timing of this SC meeting will be determined in accordance with the full Work Programme of the HCCH.
- 43 CGAP noted the importance of in-person participation and to that end, encouraged Members to consider making voluntary contributions to support the in-person participation of delegates representing States of origin.

B. Transnational Litigation & Apostille

1. 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

- 44 CGAP endorsed the C&R of the meeting of the SC on the practical operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, which met from 2 to 5 July 2024, and thanked Ms Maija Leppä (Finland) for her leadership and guidance as Chair of the SC meeting.
- 45 CGAP noted with satisfaction that this SC meeting was the first official meeting of the HCCH with Spanish as an official language.
- 46 CGAP welcomed the PB's preparation of separate mailing lists of e-mail addresses of and for Central Authorities relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions. CGAP noted the importance of keeping the contact information for each mailing list up to date. CGAP further encouraged Contracting Parties that are not yet on the mailing lists to consider providing the PB with the relevant contact information for their Central Authorities.
- 47 CGAP approved the establishment of a WG consisting of delegates from a variety of geographical regions to finalise the Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions. The WG will meet online only.
- 48 The PB will convene online meetings for Central Authorities to exchange experiences in relation to the operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, respectively. The first online meeting could take place in the second half of 2025, subject to available resources. The PB will report on the progress of this work at CGAP 2026.
- 49 The PB will convene online meetings for Central Authorities to discuss and exchange experiences, with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of the use of information technology and developing additional guidance on the e-transmission of requests and associated matters. The first online meeting could take place in the first half of 2026 and possibly prior to CGAP 2026, subject to available resources. The PB will report on the progress of this work at CGAP 2026.
- 50 CGAP approved the establishment of a WG comprised of delegates and other experts from a variety of geographical regions to finalise the Model Forms pertaining to Chapter II of the Evidence

Convention. The WG will meet online only. Given that the Model Forms may be finalised well in advance of CGAP 2026, CGAP agreed that the Model Forms could be submitted to Members for final approval through a written procedure. This would involve the circulation of the Model Forms to Members and, in the absence of any objection within one month, the Model Forms would be taken to be approved.

- 51 The timing of the next meeting of the SC on the practical operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions will be considered at CGAP 2027.

a. *Practical Handbook 1965 Service Convention*

- 52 CGAP welcomed the adoption of the Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Service Convention. CGAP highlighted the importance and usefulness of the Handbook, and encouraged Contracting Parties to the 1965 Service Convention to promote the use of the Handbook.

- 53 CGAP thanked the Chair of the WG on the Service Convention Handbook, Senior Master David Cook (United Kingdom) for his leadership.

- 54 In response to a proposal to make the e-version of the Service Handbook available for free in order to promote access to justice and the uniform application and interpretation of the Convention, CGAP decided that both the e-version and paper version would continue to be made available to the National Organs of Members for free. The Handbook will continue to be sold to all other users, including those who play a function in the Convention's operation such as private sector lawyers acting as forwarding authorities. At its 2026 meeting, CGAP will revisit the issue of whether the e-version of the Service Handbook should continue to be sold, be made available for free to a broader set of users, or be made available for free to all users.

- 55 With a view to informing the discussions at CGAP 2026, the PB will collect data on the profile of buyers of the Handbook (e.g., country of origin, law firm / in-house counsel, sole practitioner, State official, individual, library / bookstore) and make this information available to CGAP 2026 in the form of a Preliminary Document. The PB will also include data on the income derived from the sale of the electronic version and the paper version of the Handbook over the past 10 years in the preliminary document. The PB will propose possible solutions, keeping in mind the need to balance making the Handbook more easily accessible to all relevant users against the budgetary implications for the HCCH.

b. *Practical Handbook 1970 Evidence Convention*

- 56 CGAP welcomed the changes and updates made to the Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention and approved the fifth edition of the Handbook. CGAP thanked the Chair of the WG on the Evidence Convention Handbook, Ms Aldana Rohr (Argentina) for her leadership. The PB will expedite the publication of the Handbook following editorial changes.

- 57 CGAP highlighted the importance and usefulness of the Handbook, and encouraged Contracting Parties to the 1970 Evidence Convention to promote the use of the Handbook.

- 58 The considerations made above in paragraphs 54 and 55 in relation to the Service Handbook will also apply to the Evidence Handbook as the only other Handbook currently made available against payment.

c. *Country Profiles 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions*

- 59 CGAP approved the Country Profiles for the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions. CGAP encouraged Contracting Parties to these Conventions to complete the Country Profiles and update them in a timely fashion.

60 CGAP encouraged Contracting Parties to promote the Country Profiles and recommended that the Country Profiles be consulted prior to the making of a request under the relevant Convention.

2. 2005 Choice of Court Convention

61 CGAP welcomed the PB's proposal to carry out activities to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the 2005 Choice of Court Convention and further promote the Convention.

3. 2019 Judgments Convention

62 CGAP supported the PB's proposal, subject to available resources, to dedicate the 2025 Edition of HCCH a|Bridged to the 2019 Judgments Convention, and encouraged Members to make voluntary contributions to support that event.

4. 1961 Apostille Convention (incl. the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP))

63 CGAP encouraged Members and Contracting Parties interested in translating the Apostille Handbook to contact the PB.

64 CGAP welcomed the C&R of the 13th International Forum on the e-APP and thanked the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Maqsut Narikbayev University for their generous support in hosting the event.

65 CGAP noted that the methodology underlying the World Bank Group's Business Ready Report identifies the Apostille Convention and the e-APP as factors that improve an economy's business environment. CGAP encouraged States to join the Apostille Convention and to implement the e-APP.

66 CGAP mandated the PB to convene an online brainstorming session to discuss the acceptance of electronic Apostilles in circumstances where Contracting Parties, under their domestic law, cannot accept electronic public documents.

67 CGAP will consider the specific timing for the next meeting of the SC on the practical operation of the Apostille Convention at CGAP 2027, noting that it is expected to take place before the end of 2029.

C. International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law

1. 2006 Securities Convention and Digital Developments in respect of Securities Markets

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

69 The PB will, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, and subject to available resources, 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 and in the context of other normative work, for the desirability and feasibility of future normative guidance concerning securities.

The PB will report to CGAP 2026.

2. 1985 Trusts Convention

70 CGAP welcomed the report of the study on the application and interpretation of Article 2 of the Trusts Convention and on the institutions analogous to trusts. CGAP thanked the Society of Trusts and Estates Professionals (STEP) and the experts who have contributed to this work in close cooperation with the PB.

71 CGAP mandated the establishment of a WG to review and complete the study on the application and interpretation of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention and on the institutions analogous to trusts, having due regard to any possible implications on non-Contracting Parties, and subject to available resources. The WG would meet online with a view to producing a draft for the comments of the Members in mid-2025. Members would be provided with a two-month period for comments, after which the draft would be iterated and finalised by the WG. The finalised draft would be re-circulated to Members for approval. In the absence of any objection within one month, the finalised draft would be taken to be approved and be published. In the case of one or more objections, the PB would immediately notify Members of any objection and the document would be submitted to CGAP 2026.

72 The PB will report to CGAP 2026, including on the desirability and feasibility of producing an online database to accompany the publication.

3. 2015 Choice of Law Principles

73 CGAP noted the updates pertaining to the work relating to the 2015 Choice of Law Principles.

74 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.

75 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. The PB will report to CGAP 2026.

D. Electronic Country Profiles for Key HCCH Conventions

76 CGAP welcomed the progress 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 schedule for their release.

E. Planning for Future SC Meetings

77 CGAP mandated the PB to start preparatory work for the meetings of the SCs on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption and 2007 Child Support Conventions, respectively. The timing of these SC meetings is subject to the decisions to be taken by CGAP 2026 in relation to the possible next steps of the normative projects on Parentage / Surrogacy and Jurisdiction, the overall Work Programme, and budget implications.

F. Statistics on HCCH Core Conventions

78 CGAP noted the importance and usefulness of the collection of statistics on selected HCCH Conventions. CGAP encouraged further efforts to improve both the response rate and the comprehensiveness of responses in future surveys.

79 The PB will report on statistics on selected HCCH Conventions at CGAP 2026.

G. Post-Convention Assistance

80 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.

H. ROLAC and ROAP Reports

81 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 regional offices (ROs), 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.

I. Cooperation between UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, and the HCCH

82 CGAP noted the importance of effective cooperation and coordination among the HCCH, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT, mindful of their respective institutional mandates. CGAP supported the efforts of the PB to finalise the Coordination Guidelines of the HCCH-UNCITRAL-UNIDROIT tripartite cooperation, with a view to ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among the three Secretariats.

IV. Governance

A. Proposal for the Establishment of a Regional Office for Africa

83 CGAP warmly welcomed the proposal of the Kingdom of Morocco to host a Regional Office for Africa (ROAF) and decided that the office may be opened in accordance with the 2020 Rules for the Establishment of Regional Offices (2020 Rules). The Regional Office, which will be located in Rabat, shall operate continuously for a period of five years. CGAP will conduct a Performance Review, in accordance with Rules 6 to 8 of the 2020 Rules.

84 CGAP noted with satisfaction, and thanks, the Kingdom of Morocco's commitment to fund the entire operation of the Regional Office. CGAP also reaffirmed that the Representative shall report exclusively to the Secretary General of the HCCH. The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Secretary General will finalise the Host Seat Agreement in light of the comments made by Members at CGAP 2025. The final version of the Agreement shall be shared with Members for information.

B. List of Observers

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

C. Recommendations for Future Secretary General Recruitment Processes

86 CGAP approved the proposed amendments to the Arrangements for appointing Secretaries General of the HCCH as presented in Annex I to Prel. Doc. No 26 of December 2024, with one adjustment to paragraph 21 to specify its temporal application.

87 CGAP noted the recommendation of CGAP 2024 to formally review the Arrangements following each Secretary General recruitment process.

88 CGAP recommended that CDR of the year preceding an appointment of a future Secretary General establish a temporary reserve fund to cover the costs related to the recruitment process (incl. travel costs for shortlisted candidates, costs for external assessment evaluations, and room rental for interviews).

89 CGAP thanked the members of the assessment committee for their continued work in refining the Arrangements, and expressed its gratitude to the chair of the committee, Professor Paul Vlas (President of the Netherlands Standing Government Committee on Private International Law).

D. Financial Matters

1. Draft Budget FY 2025-2026

90 CGAP noted the update provided by the Secretary General on the draft Budget and Explanatory Notes for FY 2025-2026.

2. Voluntary Contributions

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

3. Funding Models

92 CGAP noted the Secretary General's presentation of other possible models to determine the price of a budget unit under the HCCH-adapted application of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) system, aimed at addressing the disproportionate financial burden on Member States contributing 33 units. CGAP recommended that this matter be forwarded to CDR and its Standing Committee for further discussion to inform possible decisions at CGAP and CDR 2026.

4. Audit Costs

93 CGAP noted the Secretary General's comments that the options considered to date to reduce audit costs by replacing an audit with a review process or moving to a two-year budget cycle, were not feasible. CGAP welcomed the Secretary General's continuing efforts to explore further options to reduce audit costs.

E. Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan 2023-2028

94 CGAP welcomed the initiatives taken by various Members and the PB towards the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, with a view to increasing the visibility of the work of the HCCH and ensuring the proper implementation and operation of HCCH instruments, including in Africa and other underrepresented regions.

95 CGAP encouraged further efforts by both Members and the PB to attract new Member States and increase the number of Contracting Parties to HCCH instruments.

F. Representation

96 CGAP noted the update on representation at the HCCH.

97 Reaffirming the principles of universality and inclusiveness, 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.

98 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 geographic regions, and from underrepresented Member States, in particular in Africa, as well as across genders.

99 The PB will report on representation at CGAP 2026.

G. Resource Allocation

100 CGAP noted the report of the PB on its allocation of resources in 2024.

H. CGAP Chairmanship

101 CGAP welcomed the proposal by the Chair and Vice-Chair to remain in their respective positions for one additional year and approved the extension of their respective mandates until the end of CGAP 2026. CGAP warmly thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership.

102 CGAP emphasised the importance of ensuring stability and continuity in CGAP leadership as well as appropriate geographic and gender representation.