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| Title | **2007 Child Support Convention and Maintenance Protocol: Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts’ Group meeting of 3 to 5 February 2025 on international transfer of maintenance funds** |
| Document | **Prel. Doc. No** **9B of** **November 2024** |
| Author | PB |
| Agenda Item | TBD |
| Mandate(s) | C&D No 37 of CGAP 2024 |
| Objective | To prepare for the Experts’ Group meeting of 3-5 February 2025 by collecting information on current arrangements regarding international transfer of maintenance funds. Responses to the questionnaire should be sent to the PB by e-mail to [secretariat@hcch.net](mailto:secretariat@hcch.net) ***no later than Friday 17 January 2025*** |
| Action to be Taken | For Decision  For Approval  For Discussion  For Action / Completion  For Information |
| Annexes | N/A |
| Related Documents | - [Prel. Doc No 11D of February 2024](https://assets.hcch.net/docs/a7b62242-4a03-450c-8d22-c31d3a131021.pdf) – Report of the Expert’s Group on International Transfer of Maintenance Funds, meeting of 29 to 31 January 2024 |

2007 Child Support Convention and Maintenance Protocol: Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts’ Group meeting of 3 to 5 February 2025 on international transfer of maintenance funds

1. At its 2024 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) of the HCCH concluded and decided as follows regarding the work of the Experts’ Group (EG) on international transfer of maintenance funds:

“37. CGAP noted the *Aide-mémoire* of the January 2024 meeting of the EG on international transfer of maintenance funds (ITMFEG), and that the Group would meet in early 2025 and report to CGAP 2025. CGAP mandated the PB, in preparation for the next meeting of the Group, to circulate a questionnaire inviting Members to identify topics to be addressed at the upcoming meetings of the ITMFEG. CGAP invited the ITMFEG to review the list of good practices for international transfer of maintenance funds and to identify priority topics for the continuation of its work.”

1. In preparation of the 3 to 5 February 2025 videoconference meeting of the EG, Members are invited to review Prel. Doc. No 11D of February 2024,0F[[1]](#footnote-2) which includes the *Aide-mémoire* adopted by the Group.
2. Membership of the EG is open to all Members of the HCCH regardless of whether they are Contracting Parties to the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention or not. To ensure the widest possible representation, any contributions or proposals from Members which have not yet participated in the work of the EG are also welcome.

***Instructions for completion of the questionnaire***

1. This questionnaire is intended to assist in the preparation of the EG’s meeting of 3 to 5 February 2025 on the international transfer of maintenance funds. The questionnaire is not intended to be a follow-up to the 2023 questionnaire. Therefore, Members are kindly requested to provide fresh responses which will provide an updated picture as to the state of play by January 2025.
2. The questionnaire is being sent to National and Contact Organs of all Members as well as Central Authorities under the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention. For Contracting Parties to the Convention, Central Authorities are ultimately responsible for submitting the completed questionnaire to the Permanent Bureau (PB) while for non-Contracting Parties, National Organs are responsible for submitting the completed questionnaire.
3. The questionnaire should be completed ***no later than Friday 17 January 2025***, in Word format, as this is important for compilation purposes. The subject line of the e-mail should read: “ITMFEG – Questionnaire - [name of State]”. Any questions concerning the questionnaire may be directed to [secretariat@hcch.net](mailto:secretariat@hcch.net).
4. The PB intends, except where indicated otherwise or where expressly asked not to do so, to place all responses to the questionnaire on the HCCH website ([www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)). Please therefore clearly identify any responses which should not be placed on the website.

Questionnaire

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| **Name of State or territorial unit:**[[2]](#footnote-3) | Please insert text here |
| *For follow-up purposes. This information will not be published as part of the questionnaire response.* | |
| Name of contact person: | Please insert text here |
| Name of Authority / Office: | Please insert text here |
| Telephone number: | Please insert text here |
| E-mail address: | Please insert text here |

For the purpose of the 3 to 5 February 2025 meeting of the EG, Members are invited to report on consideration given to and / or implementation of the following arrangements in their jurisdiction:

* 1. Developments in general regarding the international transfer of maintenance funds (see *Aide-mémoire* 2024[[3]](#footnote-4) paras 5-8):

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* 1. Elimination of the use of cheques (see C&R 2022[[4]](#footnote-5) No 1)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfer and currency conversion (see C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 10)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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| Please insert text here |

Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 11)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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| Please insert text here |

Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Requesting Central Authority providing confirmation to the requested Central Authority that the amounts received are the same as the amounts sent and, where applicable, information on the reasons for any difference (see C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Establishment of a centralised point (*e.g.*, bank account, central bank) for international transfer dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds (see C&R 2022 Nos 4 and 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Use of the possibilities afforded by the *Universal Postal Union Postal Payment Services Agreement* of 6 October 2016 (see C&R 2022 No 4)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see C&R 2022 No 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see C&R 2022 No 6)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested States, attached to each transfer of funds (see C&R 2022 No 7)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see C&R 2022 No 8)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Provision of information about international banking to creditors and debtors (see C&R 2022 No 12)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Implementation of a legal framework enabling the Central Authority, acting both as requesting and requested Central Authority, to handle the transfer of funds – or at least major parts of the process – in as automated a manner as possible (see C&R 2022 No 13)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Implementation of an arrangement with banks that are transparent in relation to their fees and / or are part of the SWIFT Global Payment Initiative (GPI) (see C&R 2022 No 14)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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Is being considered. Please explain:

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Has already been implemented. Please explain:

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Do you think this topic should:

Be discussed at the upcoming meeting

Be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work

Not be a priority topic

* 1. Is there any other topic that you think should be discussed at the upcoming meeting and / or should be a priority topic for the continuation of the Group’s work?

Please insert text here

* 1. Any other developments in your State including bilateral solutions put in place between States and ongoing trials between States – in particular in relation to the Central Authority Payment (CAP) service of the United States of America (see *Aide-mémoire* 2024 paras 9-16):

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Thank you!

1. “Report of the Experts’ Group on international transfer of maintenance funds”, Prel. Doc. No 11D of February 2024 for the attention of CGAP 2024, available on the HCCH website at [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) under “Governance” then “Council on General Affairs and Policy” then “Archive (2000-2024)”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. In this questionnaire, references to the term “State”, where relevant, are to be considered as also applicable to a territorial unit. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. See Annex I of Prel. Doc. No 11D, *supra* note 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Conclusions & Recommendations (C&R) adopted by the ITMFEG at its meeting of 7 to 9 February 2022 (see Annex II, *ibid*.). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)