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| Title | **2007 Child Support Convention and Maintenance Protocol: Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts’ Group meeting of 13 to 15 February 2023 on international transfers of maintenance funds** |
| Document | **Prel. Doc. No** **7B of** **December 2022** |
| Author | PB |
| Agenda Item | Item III.1.d. |
| Mandate(s) | C&D No 27 of CGAP 2022 |
| Objective | To prepare for the Experts’ Group meeting of February 2023 by collecting information on current arrangements regarding international transfers of maintenance funds. Replies to the questionnaire should be sent to the PB by e-mail to [secretariat@hcch.net](mailto:secretariat@hcch.net) **no later than 27 January 2023** |
| Action to be Taken | For Decision ☐  For Approval ☐  For Discussion ☐  For Action / Completion ☒  For Information ☐ |
| Annexes | N/A |
| Related Documents | [Prel. Doc. No 13C of February 2022](https://assets.hcch.net/docs/10ec221a-4a8a-4792-88e4-42e226228da8.pdf) - Report of the Experts’ Group on International Transfer of Maintenance Funds, meeting of 7 to 9 February 2022 |

**2007 Child Support Convention and Maintenance Protocol: Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts’ Group meeting of 13 to 15 February 2023 on international transfers of maintenance funds**

1. At its 2022 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:

“27. CGAP noted the report prepared by the Experts' Group on international transfer of maintenance funds and invited Members and Contracting Parties to evaluate the possible use of the 2016 Postal Payment Services Agreement of the Universal Postal Union in the context of international transfer of maintenance funds.”

1. In preparation of the 13 to 15 February 2023 videoconference meeting of the EG, Members are invited to review Prel. Doc. No 13C of February 2022,0F[[1]](#footnote-2) which includes the Report and Conclusions & Recommendations 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.
3. A new iSupport project, iSupport ITMF (International Transfer of Maintenance Funds) was undertaken in September 2022 and will end in August 2024. It is funded by the European Union, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and the European Union Bailiffs’ Foundation (EUBF). Its main aim is to implement a connection between bank accounts and iSupport to facilitate monitoring of payments.

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

1. The questionnaire is not intended to be a follow-up to the 2021 questionnaire. Therefore, Members are kindly requested to provide fresh responses which will provide an updated picture as to the state of play at the end of January 2023.
2. The questionnaire is being sent to Central Authorities under the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention as well as to National and Contact Organs. Central Authorities are asked to coordinate as appropriate between themselves and other competent authorities. For Contracting Parties to the Convention, Central Authorities are ultimately responsible for submitting the completed questionnaire to the Permanent Bureau (PB).
3. The questionnaire should be completed **no later than 27 January 2023**. Any questions concerning the questionnaire may be directed to [secretariat@hcch.net](mailto:secretariat@hcch.net).
4. The PB intends, except 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 you do not want to be placed on the website.

Questionnaire

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| **Name of State or territorial unit:**2F**[[2]](#footnote-3)[1]** | 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 13 to 15 February 2023 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:

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* 1. Elimination of the use of cheques (see Report and C&R 2022 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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* 1. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 10)

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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* 1. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see Report and 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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* 1. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see Report and 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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* 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 Report and 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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* 1. Establishment of a centralised point (*e.g.*, bank account, central bank) for international transfers dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds (see Report and 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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* 1. Use of the possibilities afforded by the *Universal Postal Union Postal Payment Services Agreement* of 6 October 2016 (see Report and 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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* 1. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see Report and 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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* 1. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see Report and 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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* 1. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested States, attached to each transfer of funds (see Report and 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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* 1. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see Report and 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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* 1. Provision of information about international banking to creditors and debtors (see Report and 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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* 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 Report and 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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* 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 Report and 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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* 1. Would your State consider contributing to iSupport ITMF in terms of expertise and experience?

Yes

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| Please insert text here |

No

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* 1. Any other developments in your State including bilateral solutions put in place between States and ongoing trials between States:

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Thank you!

1. Prel. Doc. No 13C of February 2022 for the attention of CGAP 2022, “Report of the Experts’ Group on international transfers of maintenance funds” is available at: <https://assets.hcch.net/docs/10ec221a-4a8a-4792-88e4-42e226228da8.pdf>. Prel. Doc. No 13C was presented to the May 2022 Special Commission meeting as Prel. Doc. No 20 of April 2022, and is available via the following link: <https://assets.hcch.net/docs/5cf2130c-a10e-4552-afd4-c53c0197f42a.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [1] In this questionnaire, references to the term "State", where relevant, are to be considered as also applicable to a territorial unit. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)