



HCCH

celebrating  
**125**  
Years

Connecting. Protecting. Cooperating. Since 1893.

# *Annual* Report

2018



*Special*  
Edition



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# Foreword



It is my privilege to write the foreword to this special Annual Report: the *Special Edition 125*.

This special edition has been prepared to commit to history the commemorations marking the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HCCH. While this Annual Report also records other achievements of the HCCH during 2018, I am sure I will be forgiven when my foreword focuses on this remarkable milestone of an equally remarkable organisation.

On 12 September 1893, Tobias Asser, Dutch Jurist, Scholar and Statesman, opened the first Session of the HCCH. An ardent believer that strong legal frameworks governing private cross-border interactions among people and businesses would not only make life across borders easier, but could in fact build a rule-based private order apt to promote peace and justice globally, he envisioned the HCCH as a multilateral platform for dialogue, discussion, negotiation and collaboration.

The first Session canvassed issues relating to general civil procedure and jurisdiction. More specifically, delegates, who hailed from 13 States, dealt with subject matters comprising marriage; the form of documents; inheritance, wills and gifts; as well as civil procedure. It was a great success and produced the HCCH Convention on Civil Procedure. The global community recognised this success, and honoured the enormous value of Asser's efforts, when, in 1911, it bestowed upon him the Nobel Peace Prize for having initiated this first Session. As J.G. Løvland, Chairman of the Nobel Committee, said in his Presentation Speech on 10 December 1911 in Oslo, Asser prepared "the ground for conventions which would establish uniformity in international private law and thus lead to greater public security and justice in international relations."

On 12 September 2018, the HCCH rejoiced the 125<sup>th</sup> return of the opening of this first Session. It was also an opportunity to celebrate Asser's vision. The HCCH marked this important Anniversary with a solemn ceremony in the presence of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands. The ceremony was the apex of a triptych of celebratory events which sought to connect the HCCH's past with its present and future. The triptych was completed by two high-level conferences organised through the HCCH's Regional Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Asia Pacific Regions. Starting with Asser's vision, the events investigated opportunities and challenges for the HCCH now and in the future. Their outcomes, together with the outcomes of a brainstorming session of HCCH Members which followed the ceremony on 12 September, will contribute to the HCCH's future strategic directions.

I take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues at the Permanent Bureau in The Hague, Buenos Aires and Hong Kong for their immense dedication and hard work which made this Anniversary year so special. You executed formidably a very demanding schedule. I also wish to thank the HCCH's many friends who contributed so plentifully and willingly to our Anniversary events. Your support and efforts will shape the HCCH's future for years to come.

The HCCH is truly a remarkable organisation. It continues its work imbued with Asser's vision. It embraces challenges and opportunities to remain the pre-eminent international organisation for the development of innovative, global solutions in private international law. For many years to come, the HCCH will continue to connect, protect, and co-operate. And it has done so since 1893.

**Christophe Bernasconi**  
**Secretary General**  
March 2019

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# A year to celebrate: Connecting. Protecting.

## "HCCH 125 – Ways Forward: Challenges and Opportunities in an Increasingly Connected World"

### Hong Kong SAR (China)

The first event to celebrate the HCCH's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary took place from 18 to 20 April 2018 in Hong Kong SAR, People's Republic of China, the seat of the Permanent Bureau's Regional Office for the Asia and Pacific Region (ROAP).<sup>1</sup> Addressing 220 participants, leading global experts representing all continents and major legal traditions used a "Davos-style" format to discuss the opportunities for, and challenges to, private international law. They also considered what these could mean for the evolution of the HCCH, asking how the HCCH can retain its position as a pre-eminent leader in the development of global and innovative private international law solutions.

Professor Basedow's wide-ranging and inspiring keynote speech took the audience not only through 125 years of the HCCH,<sup>2</sup> and some of its achievements, but also suggested paths that will allow the HCCH to continue "servicing an international private community that requires legal certainty in a world where divergent territorial laws impair the steady flow of global movements".<sup>3</sup> He then joined the first panel which, moderated by Lord Collins of Mapesbury, considered the current and future role of private international law.<sup>4</sup>

The panels that followed picked up on this discussion, focusing on the work areas of the HCCH. The experts discussing "International Family Law & Child Protection" sought to challenge some more entrenched views of the traditional notions of "family", suggesting that the concept of the "nuclear family", which still underpins much of the thinking in this

area, is now outdated. The experts also considered the separation of family and commercial law as artificial and arcane. They suggested that, increasingly, families are commercial actors, while at the same time commercial activities provide the livelihood for families and advocated a more nuanced understanding of family to improve policy outcomes and to benefit the development of HCCH instruments.

The panel "International Commercial & Finance Law" considered the bountiful benefits modern technologies and the digitisation of information can offer. Experts reflected on distributed ledger technology, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and the use of digitised and automated assistance, for example in the form of smart contracts. Technology-integrated dispute resolution mechanisms, data protection, securitisation and transacting could benefit from these technologies but may challenge traditional private international law concepts, such as certain connecting factors. Potential adaptations may be required in this regard to future-proof the work of the HCCH.

As to "International Legal Cooperation & Civil Procedure", experts discussed the HCCH's importance to reduce the burden of doing business and to increase efficiency and cost effectiveness in cross-border litigation and cooperation. Broader themes the experts canvassed included boosting efficiency and transparency globally, not only to improve access to justice and the rule of law, but also to engender confidence in the respective three arms of government. They advocated that for governments, cooperation is not a self-serving exercise, but rather a service to their citizens that can further human rights through improving access to



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justice which may include a "duty" to cooperate among nations.

Zooming into the role of the HCCH and how the Organisation can continue discharging its mandate effectively and efficiently in the future, the experts suggested that it was incumbent upon the HCCH to become even more inclusive, requiring a further increased geographic reach and better regional intermeshing. They also floated that the HCCH may need to become more flexible in how it discharges its mandate. Suggestions ranged from a stronger focus on developing legal cooperation, not pure private international law, instruments as well as taking into consideration the development of "soft law" if

Organisation and its instruments, to make it a truly universal and inclusive organisation, using modern technology, such as webinars, videos, databases and online-based knowledge banks, to disseminate information and conduct trainings. The experts also encouraged greater promotional efforts through the HCCH's Membership as well as better coordination with other international organisations.

- 1 More information concerning this global conference can be found at < [www.hcch125.org](http://www.hcch125.org) >.
- 2 J. Basedow, "The Hague Conference and the Future of Private International Law – A Jubilee Speech", (82) 2018 (4) *RebelsZ* 922–943.
- 3 *Ibid.*, 922–943, at 943.
- 4 The Panel Sessions were recorded and are available on the HCCH's YouTube channel.



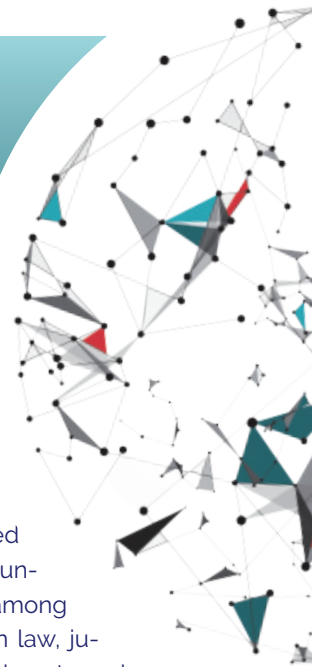
and when "hard law" solutions do not seem to be possible, while considering at an early stage the use of digital technologies to support them. Specific references were made to the "e-APP" and "iSupport" Projects as digital technologies supporting the HCCH Apostille and the HCCH Child Support Conventions, respectively.

The experts also noted a remaining lack of awareness of both the HCCH as an organisation and its Conventions. This lack, it was said, is far-spread among governments, practitioners and the judiciary, especially in countries that only recently joined the HCCH. Therefore, there was a unison call for the HCCH to continue its efforts to raise awareness of the



# A year to celebrate:

## Connecting. Protecting.



### The “Latin American Meeting on the Implementation and Operation of the Hague Conventions on Legal Co-operation and International Child Protection”

#### Buenos Aires (Argentina)

The second event took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the location of the Permanent Bureau's regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC). Held from 13 to 15 August 2018, the meeting attracted 180 participants from 24 jurisdictions. Among them were the Presidents of all leading Latin American private international law institutions, representatives of National Organs and Central Authorities, child protection agencies and international bodies, as well as members of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ), officers of the legislative and judicial branches, diplomats, academics, and lawyers and students.

The event focused on the challenges States face when implementing, and improving, the operation of the HCCH's Conventions on legal co-operation and international child protection, with over 40 regional experts who shared their expertise and identified two areas with particular challenges.

The first focused on decision makers in government. Experts noted a lack of understanding of private international law and a need to better explain this area of law, including its ability to facilitate globally the protection of human rights and securing access to justice. Such better understanding, so the experts opined, could provide the impetus needed to garner more political support to develop private international

law. Moreover, the experts also recognised the compounding effect of a similar lack of understanding, awareness and expertise among practitioners, arguing for better education in law, judicial and diplomatic schools, and continued post-graduate training, in this area of law.

The second area concerned the efficiency and effectiveness of States and their agencies in implementing and applying the HCCH Conventions. Acknowledging that the successful incorporation is key to ensuring the effective operation of HCCH Conventions, and to preventing them from becoming ineffective both domestically, but also internationally, representatives of State authorities noted that significant efforts were required to implement HCCH Conventions domestically. Additionally, they highlighted the challenges in operating HCCH Conventions once implemented, referring, for example, to delays in the timely execution of legal cooperation requests.



Experts acknowledged that the HCCH, through its post-Convention services and assistance, made important contributions to States in the region, for example, by advising on work practice optimisation to reduce delays, but also by sharing effective

implementation measures. However, they also suggested that States must make more inroads themselves to make their processes more efficient, including by improving coordination among their agencies and relevant stakeholders. The experts suggested the creation of dedicated national working groups that progress the development of private international law at the national level, specifically acknowledging the importance of the legislature in implementing instruments domestically. Moreover, they recommended the increased use of digital technologies, with the positive ex-



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periences of some Central Authorities featuring as encouraging examples in this regard. Finally, the State representatives raised the challenges faced with following the work of different international fora, including those that develop treaties such as the HCCH. In this regard, participants learned about the successful collaboration between the National Organ and the academic sector in Mexico.





# A year to celebrate:

## Connecting. Protecting.

### The Commemorative Ceremony to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### "125 Years of Making a Difference"

### The Hague (the Netherlands)

On 12 September 2018, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands joined the HCCH for a commemorative ceremony to celebrate the Organisation's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The ceremony took place in the historic Diligentia Theatre, located in the heart of The Hague, the City of Peace and Justice. The venue is located only a stone's throw away from the beautiful *Ridderzaal* where the First Session of the HCCH took place in 1893.

The programme was led by Her Excellency Ms Nora Stehouwer and featured addresses by His Excellency Mr Sander Dekker, Minister for Legal Protection of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Mrs Pauline Krikke, Mayor of The Hague, Professor Paul Vlas, Chair of the Netherlands Standing Government Committee on Private International Law, Mr Andrew Walter, Chair of the HCCH's Council on General Affairs and Policy and Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General of the HCCH.

Their speeches, which are reproduced in this Annual Report, highlight the history and importance of the HCCH's work, for the present, and in the future. Drawing on Asser's vision in 1893, the speakers emphasised that the work of the HCCH

has touched, and continues to touch, upon the lives of millions of people and commercial operations – everywhere around the world and every single day. The speakers also recognised that the work of the HCCH will only gain in importance, with lives across borders becoming even more prevalent than they already are. Moreover, they stressed that private international law is a conversation among nations of different legal traditions and highlighted the important role the HCCH plays in facilitating this



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conversation. The dialogues, discussions, negotiations and collaboration held and conducted under the auspices of the HCCH are, and result in, pragmatic responses to differences, while promoting access to justice and the rule of law globally. Finally, the speakers recognised the proud, longstanding and strong relationships between the HCCH, the Netherlands, as its host State, and the City of The Hague, the International City of Peace and Justice, as its host city.

Two musical performances rounded off the programme before His Majesty the King and the Secretary General unveiled a commemorative painting as a lasting memento of the ceremony, and which now proudly hangs in the conference room of the Permanent Bureau.



## Speech by Her Excellency Ms Nora Stehouwer van Iersel, Master of Ceremonies

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Distinguished guests, good afternoon, bienvenue to you all.

I am delighted to welcome you here in the theatre Diligentia for the commemorative ceremony of 125 years of existence of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, indeed 125 years of making a difference. My name is Nora Stehouwer-van Iersel. In the recent past I served as Ambassador for the International Organisations in NL and I am honoured to be your Master of Ceremonies today.

It is a tremendous honour to welcome His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who has graced us with his presence today. Among our most special guests I also welcome Minister of Legal Protection of The Netherlands, His Excellency Mr Sander Dekker and the Mayor of the city of The Hague Her Excellency Ms Pauline Krikke, as well as the distinguished representatives of the Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and members of the diplomatic corps.

*Alors que vous preniez place, vous avez pu regarder des photos retraçant l'histoire de la Conférence et écouter la Symphonie du Nouveau Monde, composée par Anthony Dvorak et jouée pour la première fois en 1893 au Carnegie Hall de New York. Elle a été jouée à une époque où la Conférence de La Haye créait également un nouveau monde grâce à la collaboration dans le domaine du droit international privé. Le Néerlandais Tobias Asser – qui a reçu plus tard le prix Nobel de la paix – et plusieurs de ses collègues ont créé les fondements de ce qui, 125 ans plus tard, a donné naissance à 38 Conventions, 2 Protocoles et un ensemble de Principes. Ce qui est unique – et rend la HCCH si spéciale – c'est que ce travail législatif a au quotidien une importance cruciale dans la vie des citoyens, des familles et des entreprises à travers le monde entier. Vous en apprendrez davantage au cours de cette cérémonie.*

### [Speeches and launch of the new HCCH video]

In this first interlude, the well-known soprano Violetta Lazin will make us go back in time with the melancholic song 'Long time ago' from Copland, and then with the second song she makes clear through the Tarantella that dancing is the best cure in life! Violetta will be accompanied by Luba Podgayskaya.

### [Musical interlude]

Thank you, Violetta and Luba, for this vivid music.

### [Speeches]

We will now have the second musical interlude which will illustrate that it is time to celebrate the 125 years of the Hague Conference: the "Brindisi" of Verdi's opera "La Traviata", with the soprano Violetta Lazin and the tenor Charles Hens, accompanied by Luba Podgayskaya.

### [Musical interlude]

Thank you for this festive music. We have reached the final stage of this ceremony. I now invite to the stage His Majesty the King together with the Secretary General of the HCCH, Dr Christophe Bernasconi, who jointly will unveil the artwork commissioned on the occasion of 125 years of existence of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

### [Unveiling of the painting]

Thank you Majesty and thank you Dr Bernasconi.

This officially concludes the ceremony. Thank you all for joining us on this historic occasion. I invite you to remain seated while His Majesty and certain other guests proceed to the reception rooms. In a few moments you will be invited to join the reception there. Thank you all very much for your presence today.





Speech by His Excellency Mr Sander Dekker,  
Minister for Legal Protection, Ministry of Justice and  
Security of the Netherlands

Your Majesty, Secretary-General, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure to address you on behalf of the Dutch government and to congratulate you all on the 125th anniversary of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

*Nous sommes fiers d'abriter une organisation internationale riche d'une si longue histoire et d'une telle importance à l'heure de la mondialisation. Si vous me le permettez, je vais poursuivre en anglais.*

When the Dutch lawyer Tobias Asser convened the first Hague Conference in 1893, the world was a different place. I'm sure other speakers will mention him today, and rightfully so.

Because Asser, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was a visionary.

At the end of the nineteenth century, he saw that international relations were expanding. What's more, cross-border business disputes had started to arise, demanding clarity and resolution. Of course, most people still lived their lives within the boundaries of their own neighbourhood. But Asser foresaw that this would change. He saw that, in the future, the world would need international legal agreements. And he was right.

In the late nineteenth century, our cities and neighbourhoods defined who we were. Nowadays, the wider world is part of our daily lives. Through our travels, through our personal contacts, and through the internet. Often the resulting possibilities make life easier or more interesting. But they can make life more complicated, too. Imagine you're unlucky enough to have a car accident while on holiday abroad. The damage is serious, and you need to know which country's laws will determine who's liable. Fortunately, the Hague Convention on the Law Applicable to Traffic Accidents lays down rules which help figure that out. Allowing all parties to put the incident behind them and move on.

Even more painful is when international marriages fall apart. Especially when there are children involved, and one parent decides to take them abroad without the other parent's approval. Regrettably, situations like this are not uncommon. But thanks to the Hague Conference, we have a legal procedure to bring the children home as soon as possible.

Cases like these show the clear need for the work of the Hague Conference. The harmonisation of rules, which has always been your goal, enables people to find their way in a globalising world that, to many, can seem like a maze.

I'd like to congratulate you on your many achievements, and to invite you all to continue seeking practical solutions to the complex legal situations that arise all over the world. I look forward to hearing the results of the Conference's ongoing work, and especially to the upcoming Diplomatic Conference on the 'Judgments Project'.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we had a time machine and could transport Tobias Asser to the present day, I'm sure he would be delighted with the progress of the Hague Conference. And with the legacy of what he started: global cooperation that aims to solve people's legal problems. Let us continue guiding people through the maze of private international law. Let's help them eliminate legal obstacles and find simple solutions for their legal problems. Above all, let's show them that the rule of law really works.





Speech by Dr Christophe Bernasconi,  
Secretary General of the HCCH

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Minister Dekker, thank you for your thoughtful speech and kind words.

Now, you ALL know why we're here! An anniversary! 1893 – 125 years ago. An unusually fine year. Something completely new is presented to the world. It amazes everyone! It changes lives, around the planet. What is that awesome new thing? Right, the dishwasher! The world's first dishwasher is presented at the 1893 World Expo in Chicago. Invented by a resourceful American woman, Josephine Cochrane. The idea catches on!



Meanwhile, over in Europe, in 1893 another remarkable "invention" is launched. Tobias Asser, with strong support from Italian colleague Pasquale Mancini and Russian jurist Fyodor Martens, masterminds the very first Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. And here we are, exactly 125 years later, remembering them too!

Mind you, that first dishwasher won a top prize: "Best mechanical construction, durability and adaptation to its line of work". Sounds a bit like the Hague Conference! Tobias Asser received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1911 – for having established the Hague Conference. The dishwasher is universal – there surely is at least one in every country in the world! The HCCH has not (yet!) spread quite that far!

Japan started to participate in the work of the Hague Conference as early as 1904, the first non-European State. Today we have 83 Members, the latest being Kazakhstan. 152 States or parties are connected in one way or another with our work. As of this morning, following deposits of instrument by Paraguay, Cuba and the Philippines, there are in total 921 ratifications, accessions etc. that have brought Hague Conventions into effect around the world (or are about to) [921] – giving effect to basic human rights, providing effective cooperation mechanism between States, providing commercial operators with legal certainty and predictability, thus favouring cross-border trade and commerce. Ensuring Access to Justice. The work of the HCCH matters. And so it's only right today to say thank you to all those who have brought us here. The many top experts and delegates involved in our work – those who negotiate our Conventions and other instruments. Especially the dedicated officials from our Members who always have a keen interest in what is going on in their Organisation. And of course, all former and current colleagues at the Permanent Bureau (the Secretariat).

Thank - You - All!

I also wish to thank the Government of the Netherlands as Host State for all its support throughout the years. The same goes for the City of The Hague. Your Majesty: the Royal Family's keen, continuing interest in our work is very much valued indeed.

*Vous avez tous vu la vidéo.*

*La HCCH n'est pas seulement la plus ancienne des institutions juridiques internationales à La Haye. Notre travail a aussi le plus grand impact direct et pratique sur la vie des gens en situation internationale : le bien-être des enfants, les opérations commerciales, les procédures judiciaires civiles et commerciales.*

*En fait, nous sommes comme ce lave-vaisselle : Nous ronronnons efficacement, à l'arrière-plan, accomplissant du travail essentiel, de sorte que les gens puissent se concentrer sur d'autres choses. Bon, ne vous méprenez pas ! Je ne me plains pas ! Pas aujourd'hui.*

*Mais quand on est en arrière-plan, on n'est forcément pas au premier plan !*

*Demandez à quelqu'un dans la rue « qu'est-ce que la HCCH ? » – et vous aurez assurément un regard perplexe en réponse. Essayez-ça sur le chemin du retour après la réception !*

*921 ratifications, adhésions etc. de Conventions de La Haye – c'est pas mal !*

*Mais, plus de 40 États de ce monde ne sont toujours pas liés à la HCCH. Si tous les États de ce monde étaient Parties à nos huit Conventions qui connaissent le plus grand succès [Apostille, Notification, Preuves, Élection de for, Adoption internationale, Enlèvement d'enfants, Protection des enfants, et Recouvrement des aliments] nous aurions près de 1500 ratifications, adhésions etc.*

*Il reste donc du chemin à parcourir – passer au niveau suivant.*

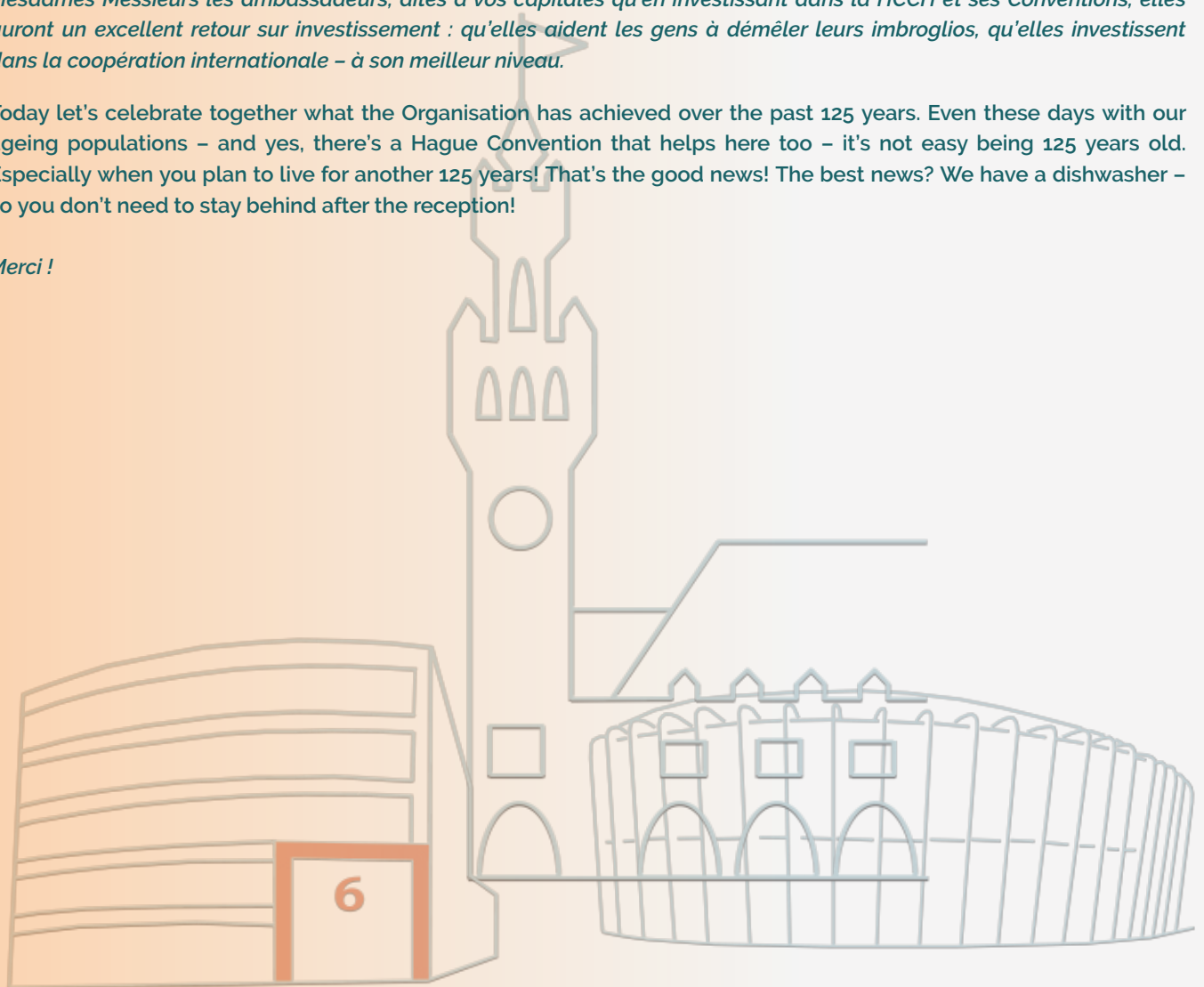
*Aussi, à la HCCH avons-nous des discussions « de lave-vaisselle » sur ces prochaines étapes et notre programme de travail : « quelle est la meilleure façon de le remplir ? », « qui devrait le remplir ? » et « quel est le meilleur programme ou cycle à choisir... ? »*

*Notre monde, un monde où le droit international privé est de plus en plus visible, chaque jour, et bien ce monde a besoin d'une Conférence de La Haye forte et efficace – plus que jamais et donc nous invitons ces autres États à devenir Membres de la HCCH, à se joindre à ses Conventions à tirer parti de ce que nous faisons – pour leur peuple, pour leurs entreprises.*

*Mesdames Messieurs les ambassadeurs, dites à vos capitales qu'en investissant dans la HCCH et ses Conventions, elles auront un excellent retour sur investissement : qu'elles aident les gens à démêler leurs imbroglios, qu'elles investissent dans la coopération internationale – à son meilleur niveau.*

*Today let's celebrate together what the Organisation has achieved over the past 125 years. Even these days with our ageing populations – and yes, there's a Hague Convention that helps here too – it's not easy being 125 years old. Especially when you plan to live for another 125 years! That's the good news! The best news? We have a dishwasher – so you don't need to stay behind after the reception!*

*Merci !*



## Speech by Her Excellency Mrs Pauline Krikke, Mayor of The Hague

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With hindsight you can see that actually it was announced in the newspaper: The Hague's date of birth as the international city of peace and justice. Under the headline 'An Important Conference', on the second of September eighteen ninety-three it was reported in the *Algemeen Handelsblad* that "two weeks from now representatives from various countries will meet in The Hague to make preparations for a uniform regime in certain areas of private international law".

Certain areas. A modest description of a conference which could easily be considered historic. Both for the judicial world and for our city. The Peace Conference of eighteen ninety-nine is often seen as when The Hague's international reputation first began. And that was certainly a very important milestone.

But it actually started to evolve six years before that. And it was because of that successful conference on private international law and what followed, that the Russian Tsar decided to hold the first Peace Conference here in our city. That this all took place in The Hague was largely due to the efforts of just one man: Tobias Asser.

As the Minister already mentioned. And rightly so, because his achievements were indeed exceptional. This man who has meant so much to international law and The Hague, initially found that he was out of step with the age. Because although telegraphy meant that international communication was becoming more important, and people could travel much more easily because of the railways and shipping, at the same time, nationalism was on the rise.

In that respect there were certain parallels with the age we live in now. Tobias Asser opposed this. As a citizen of the world, he not only moved with ease in international circles but was also convinced that the Netherlands could not do without strong foreign relations. It was also, not least, due to his dedication to private international law that Tobias Asser was the first and, until now, only Dutch citizen to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Hundred and twenty-five years later. The Hague has become a centre for peace and justice. Our city is renowned for that. But more importantly, law is ultimately always about people. Everyone should be able to count on the law for protection, wherever they may be. Whether that be in business or in personal relationships. And as the world has become smaller and international contact has grown, so the need for international regulation has only increased.

The law touches upon people's lives. Including children. I have seen for myself how refugee children are growing up in the Lebanon. But it is not just the violence of war which can drive children from their familiar surroundings. We all know the stories of children who suffer because their parents are caught up in a divorce. But when those parents also live in different countries, a divorce can become all the more complicated. And the consequences for the children even more serious. The many conventions of The Hague Conference on Private International Law on protecting the rights of children have made an important contribution to the position of children.

That these important international agreements are made here in The Hague is something to be proud of.

I warmly congratulate The Hague Conference on Private International Law on this anniversary. As one of the oldest and most respected international organisations, you occupy a unique position. The importance of your organisation is reflected mostly in the lives of countless people. All over the world.





Speech by Professor Paul Vlas,  
President of the Netherlands Standing Government  
Committee on Private International Law

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The history of the Hague Conference on Private International Law is closely connected with the work of a famous Dutch scholar, Tobias Asser, who was a lawyer, professor of law and member of the Dutch Council of State.

Asser was instrumental in preparing and shaping the Hague Conference at the end of the 19th Century. The opening of the first session of the Conference on 12 September 1893 was a glorious conclusion of an international venture which began some twenty years earlier in 1873 with the foundation of the Institut de droit international at the Town Hall of the City of Ghent in Belgium. Asser wrote, together with his friend and Italian colleague Pasquale Mancini, the Institute's programme for private international law with a view to harmonizing and codifying rules of private international law. Asser and Mancini had written earlier about their ideas in the first issue of the *Revue de droit international et de législation comparée*, founded in 1869.

Asser took special interest in the enforcement of foreign judgments by advocating regulation through international treaties. In 1873, an attempt of the Dutch Government to convene an international conference failed due to international political obstacles. In 1884, Mancini, who had become Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, invited a large number of States to a conference to be held in Rome in 1885 on the topic of the enforcement of foreign judgments. However, the conference had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of cholera in northern Italy. Shortly afterwards, Mancini had to resign as Minister of Foreign Affairs because of his colonial policy. The international conference never took place.

But the idea of having conferences on the subject of the international codification of private international law did not die with this last attempt: Asser had his contacts within the Dutch government – he personally knew the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs mr. Gijsbert van Tienhoven – and Asser persuaded him to convene an international conference on the regulation of a number of questions of private international law.

The date for the opening session was fixed for 12 September 1893, although in the summer of 1893 there were some thoughts of postponing the opening with a few days. Asser wrote to his friend the Dutch Minister that he was not in favor of postponing, although – and I quote from Asser's letter to Van Tienhoven – 'such a delay might just be greatly appreciated by the Dutch delegates, who may be taking vacations and who, upon their return in September, will find a pile of work waiting for them'. Words still true for our times!

Fortunately, there was no postponement and the Conference opened on 12 September in the Salle de Trèves, here in The Hague. Asser was unanimously elected President of the Session and in his acceptance speech he characterized the realization of the Conference as one of the dreams of his youth coming true. The Conference lasted until 27 September. It was successful and laid the ground work for three other sessions – held in 1894, 1900 and 1904 – the result of which was seven multilateral treaties on private international law.

After the first Conference Asser took the initiative to ask the Dutch Government to establish a Standing Government Committee in order to advise on 'measures for the promotion of the Codification of Private International Law'. The Standing Committee was established on 20 February 1897 by Royal Decree, signed by the Queen-Regent Emma. As expected, Asser became its first President and stayed President until his death in 1913.





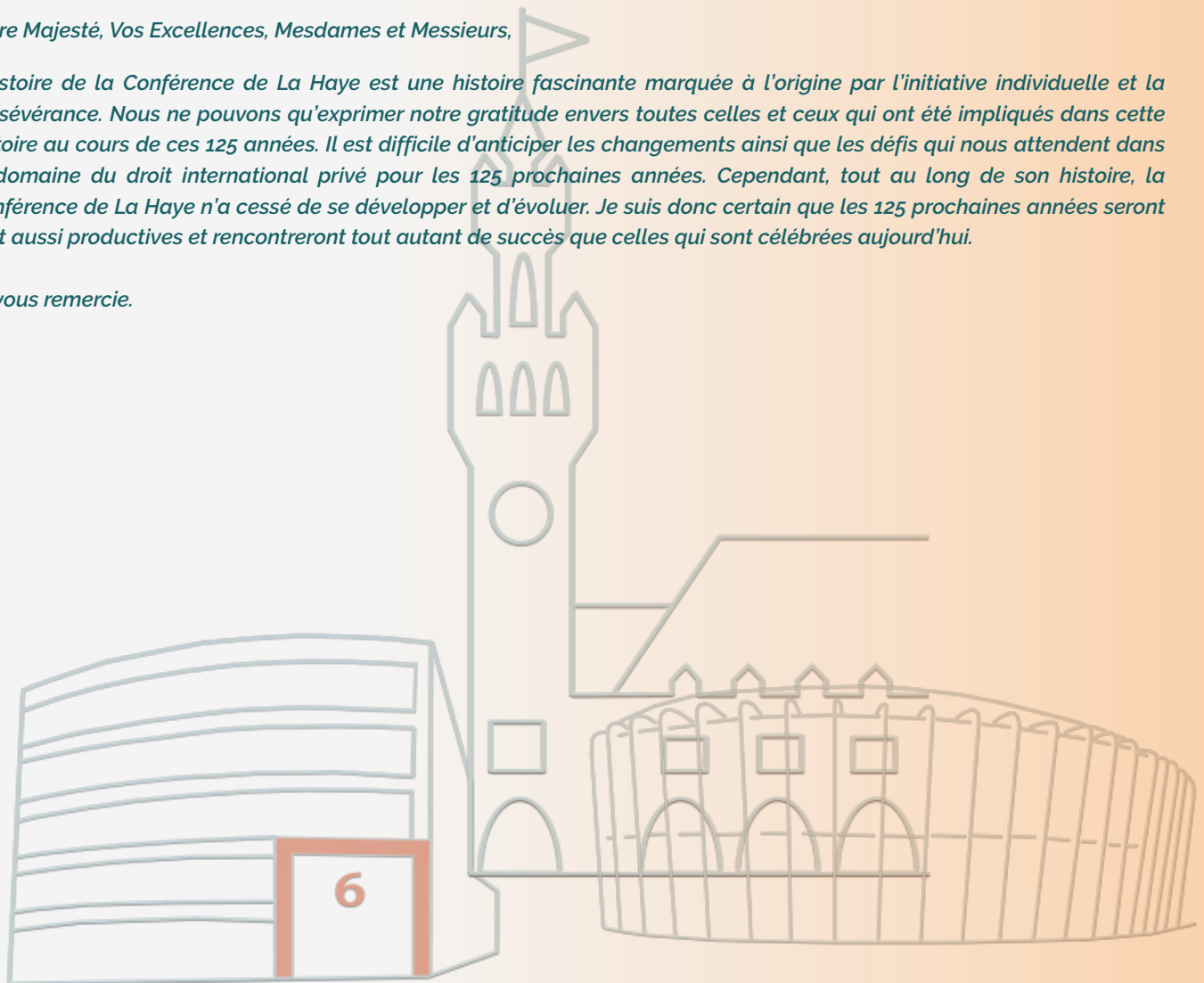
The Hague Conference remained an occasional diplomatic assembly into the first decade of the 20th Century and was then dormant from 1928 until after the second world war. In 1955 the Conference was established as an intergovernmental organization. This transformation from an assembly to an international organization was in particular the result of the efforts of mr Matthijs van Hoogstraten, then a young employee at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with professor Johannes Offerhaus, the seventh Chair of the Standing Committee, Van Hoogstraten convinced the Dutch Government to make resources available to relaunch the Conference and transform it to a permanent institution. During the Seventh Session in 1951 Van Hoogstraten put forward a motion for the Statute of the Hague Conference, laying out the role of the Standing Committee and the Netherlands as host state, and establishing the Secretariat of the organization, known as the Permanent Bureau. The Statute was accepted and entered into force in 1955. Matthijs van Hoogstraten became the first Secretary General of the Conference.

In the first years the Standing Committee directed the Permanent Bureau in its activities in conformity with the Statute. However, gradually the direction shifted to the Commission on General Affairs and Policy. Fifty years later, in 2005, the Statute was revised in order to allow Regional Economic Integration Organizations to be admitted as members. The revision also took note of the shift of responsibilities by identifying the Council on General Affairs and Policy as the body in charge of the operation of the Conference. Nevertheless, the revised Statute still pays some tribute to the historic role of the Netherlands and the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee remains an intermediary between the Conference and the Netherlands as regards for example the appointment of senior members of the Permanent Bureau and the determination of the dates of the Diplomatic Sessions.

*Votre Majesté, Vos Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,*

*L'histoire de la Conférence de La Haye est une histoire fascinante marquée à l'origine par l'initiative individuelle et la persévérance. Nous ne pouvons qu'exprimer notre gratitude envers toutes celles et ceux qui ont été impliqués dans cette histoire au cours de ces 125 années. Il est difficile d'anticiper les changements ainsi que les défis qui nous attendent dans le domaine du droit international privé pour les 125 prochaines années. Cependant, tout au long de son histoire, la Conférence de La Haye n'a cessé de se développer et d'évoluer. Je suis donc certain que les 125 prochaines années seront tout aussi productives et rencontreront tout autant de succès que celles qui sont célébrées aujourd'hui.*

*Je vous remercie.*



Speech by Mr Andrew Walter,  
Chair of the Council on General Affairs and Policy

Your Majesty, Minister, Mayor, Secretary General, Excellencies and very good friends,

Private international law is essentially a conversation. A dialogue between different legal systems, traditions and cultures. For some 125 years, legal experts, government officials and representatives from civil society have been coming here to The Hague, to have a conversation, about the conversation that is private international law.

As we all know, a good conversation is characterized by sympathy, mutual respect, curiosity and a willingness on the part of all participants to be moved, to see the world differently, to see the world through another's eyes. These characteristics are to be found in all aspects of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. In its experts' groups, and working groups, at special commissions, in the diplomatic sessions and in the Council that I am so very privileged to Chair.

The founding of the Hague Conference was an act of optimism. It was founded on the belief that with the right expertise, and with trust, the differences between us can be narrowed, if only a little bit. It was also a supremely pragmatic response to those differences.

Tobias Asser understood it is not possible or indeed necessary to agree on everything. It is enough to find even small areas of commonality, with time, good will and good conversation, Tobias Asser believed that these areas of commonality would surely grow. That mixture of optimism and pragmatism is reflected in our ongoing normative work. But just as important through the practical mechanisms that ensure the agreements we have reached are given effect in the real world and serve those they are intended to assist.

The core Conventions of the Hague Conference are amongst the most successful and widely used in international agreements ever concluded. This, I believe, is largely due to the collective efforts of everyone associated with the Hague Conference, to make them work, and to overcome difficulties when they arise. Our Conventions are living, working documents in the very best sense.

We have much to celebrate as we mark this significant anniversary. It is right that we reflect on our many, many achievements, yet there is still a great deal of work to be done.

I very much look forward to our future conversations.

Thank you.



# Other

## 13-15 March

Meeting of the Council on  
General Affairs and Policy  
*The Hague*

## 28-29 June

Fourth meeting of the Experts' Group on  
cross-border recognition and enforcement  
of agreements in family disputes involving  
children  
*The Hague*

## 6-9 February

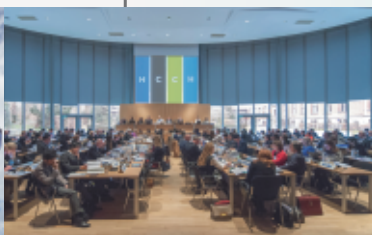
Third meeting of the Experts'  
Group on the Parentage /  
Surrogacy Project  
*The Hague*

## 18-20 April

HCCH Conference, "HCCH 125 –  
Ways Forward: Challenges and  
Opportunities in an Increasingly  
Connected World"  
*Hong Kong SAR (People's Republic  
of China)*

## 12 June

Meeting of the Council of  
Diplomatic Representatives  
*The Hague*



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

## 29-31 May

HCCH-UNICEF Regional workshop in  
Asia on the role of the HCCH  
Conventions in cross-border  
protection of children  
*Kathmandu (Nepal)*

## 29 May

Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
*HCCH Convention of 29 May 1993 on  
Protection of Children and Co-operation  
in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*

## 24-29 May

Fourth Meeting of the Special Commission on the  
Recognition and Enforcement of  
Foreign Judgments  
*The Hague*

# Highlights

## 4-7 September

HCCH-UNICEF Regional workshop in Asia on the role of the HCCH Conventions in cross-border protection of children  
*Bangkok (Thailand)*

## 18-19 October

Caribbean Meeting on International Child Protection – Implementing and Operating the HCCH Child Protection Conventions  
*Kingston (Jamaica)*

## 13-15 August

Latin American Meeting on the Implementation and Operation of the HCCH Conventions on Legal Co-operation and International Child Protection  
*Buenos Aires (Argentina)*

## 25-28 September

Fourth meeting of the Experts' Group on the Parentage / Surrogacy Project  
*The Hague*

## 24-26 October

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) and meeting to discuss the IHNJ, direct judicial communications in international family law matters and the operation of the 1980 HCCH Child Abduction Convention from a judicial perspective  
*Miami (United States)*



## 28-31 August

Meeting of the Experts' Group on Co-operation and Access to Justice for International Tourists Project  
*The Hague*

## 18-21 September

Sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 13(1)(b) to develop a Guide to Good Practice under the 1980 HCCH Child Abduction Convention  
*The Hague*

## 5-7 December

Conference, "The Cross-border Protection of Vulnerable Adults"  
*Brussels (Belgium)*

## 13-14 September

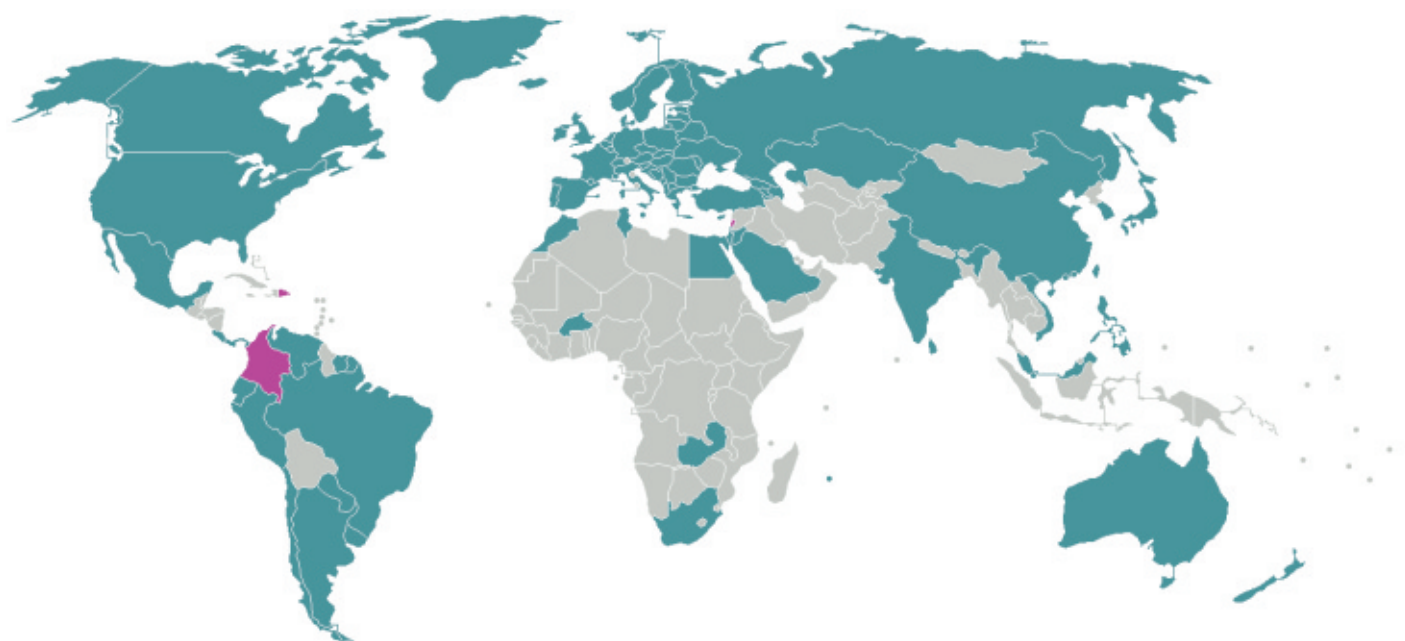
Informal Brainstorming Meeting  
*The Hague*

## 12 September

Commemorative ceremony to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HCCH  
*The Hague*



# Members

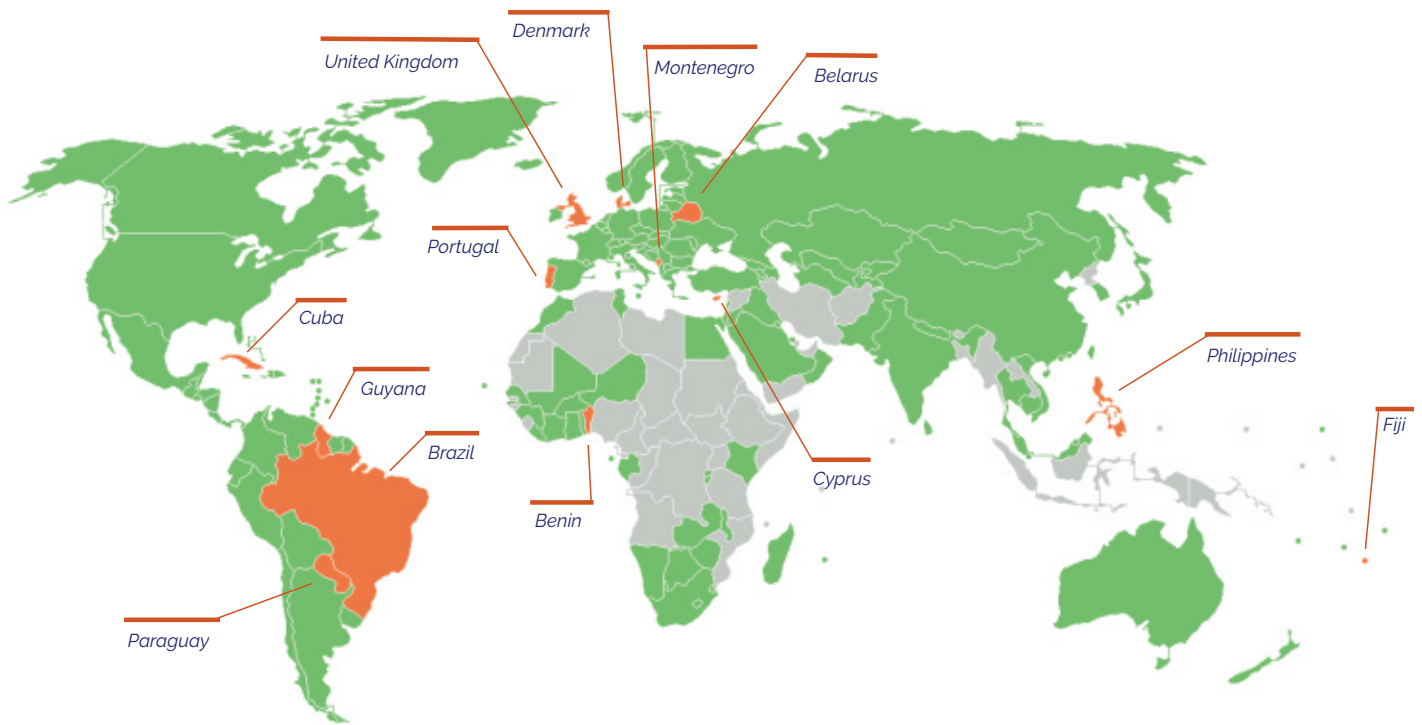


*Members*



*Admitted States (the membership of Colombia, Dominican Republic and Lebanon is currently subject to their acceptance of the Statute)*

# Ratifications & Accessions



## New Ratifications & Accessions to HCCH Conventions in 2018

- Ratifications & Accessions in 2018
- Other Connected Parties

\* EIF: Entry into force in 2018  
 \*\* EIF: Entry into force in 2019

### 1961 Apostille Convention

Philippines \*\*  
 Guyana \*\*

### 1965 Service Convention

Brazil \*\*

### 1980 Child Abduction Convention

Cuba \*

### 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention

Benin \*

### 1996 Child Protection Convention

Paraguay \*\*  
 Fiji \*\*

### 2000 Protection of Adults Convention

Cyprus \*  
 Portugal \*

### 2005 Choice of Court Convention

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland \*\*  
 Denmark \*  
 Montenegro \*

### 2007 Child Support Convention

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland \*\*  
 Belarus \*



0

New Member to the HCCH

# Facts

2

New Accessions  
1961 Apostille Convention

1

New Accession\*  
1980 Child Abduction Convention

1

New Accession  
1965 Service Convention

1

New Ratification  
1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention



2

New Accessions  
1996 Child Protection Convention

1+1+1

New Accession\*\* | Accession | Ratification  
2005 Choice of Court Convention

2

New Ratifications  
2000 Protection of Adults Convention

2

New Ratifications  
2007 Child Support Convention

\*

Accession giving rise to an acceptance procedure

\*\*

State bound as a result of an approval by an REIO





**3,771** in 2017  **4,105** in 2018

### Number of fans on Facebook

**3,708** in 2017  **4,456** in 2018

Number of followers  
on LinkedIn

**1,055**  **1,347**  
in 2017 in 2018

## Number of followers on Twitter

€ 160,000 of  
monetary voluntary contributions  
for the office in The Hague

€ 18,000 of monetary voluntary contributions (Government of Argentina) for the operation of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

€ 180,000 of monetary voluntary contributions (mainly from the Government of Hong Kong SAR) for the operation of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)



# A year to reflect:

- 25     The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1993 HCCH Intercountry Adoption Convention
  
- 25     The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ)
  
- 26     Fourth Meeting of the Special Commission on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments
  
- 26     HCCH-UNICEF Regional workshops in Asia on the role of the HCCH Conventions in cross-border protection of children
  
- 27     Third and fourth meetings of the Experts' Group on the Parentage / Surrogacy Project
  
- 27     Experts' Group on the use of Video-link and Other Modern Technologies in the Taking of Evidence Abroad
  
- 28     Fourth meeting of the Experts' Group on Cross-border Recognition and Enforcement of Agreements in Family Disputes Involving Children
  
- 28     Sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 13(1)(b) to develop a Guide to Good Practice under the 1980 HCCH Child Abduction Convention
  
- 29     EC-HCCH Joint Conference on the Cross-border Protection of Vulnerable Adults - An important step forward
  
- 29     The Co-operation in Respect of Protection of Tourists and Visitors Abroad Project

# HCCH

## Other Notable Events

### The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1993 HCCH Intercountry Adoption Convention

2018 also marked two further anniversaries. The first was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of the HCCH Intercountry Adoption Convention. With currently almost 100 Contracting Parties, this HCCH Convention is one of the most successful instruments of the Organisation. In recognition of this significant milestone, the Permanent Bureau published a new brochure for this HCCH Convention. Titled "25 Years of Protecting Children in Intercountry Adoption", the brochure presents the fundamentals of the HCCH Intercountry Adoption Convention in an easily accessible form for a general audience. Moreover, it analyses its main achievements, as well as remaining challenges.



Brochure

### The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ)

The second anniversary saw the celebration of 20 years of the IHNJ, with an international conference held at Florida International University, Miami, to commemorate the proposal to establish an international network of judges specialising in family matters, first put forward at the 1998 De Ruwenberg Seminar for Judges on the international protection of children. Back then entirely uncharted territory, participants recommended that States build a judicial network to further strengthen the protection of children internationally. At its core, the IHNJ was to comprise one or more designated members of a State's judiciary. These judges were to act as communication and liaison channels both within their own, but also with judges in other, jurisdictions. The initial scope of the network was the HCCH Child Abduction Convention, with the judges assisting with the effective operation of that HCCH Convention. Today, 84 States have delegated 133 judges to the IHNJ. The network has grown

and developed into an essential aspect of international child protection. But, equally important, the establishment of the IHNJ has set a precedence. There is now wide recognition that global and regional treaties benefit greatly from direct judicial communication.

Today, many such agreements are supported by networks akin to the IHNJ.



Miami Event



## A year to reflect:

### Fourth Meeting of the Special Commission on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments

The fourth and final Meeting of the Special Commission on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments took place in May 2018 and produced the 2018 draft Convention. The Special Commission considered that it had completed its mandate and that work on the draft Convention had reached the point where the 22<sup>nd</sup> Diplomatic Session could be convened in mid-2019. Preparations for this Diplomatic Session are underway, as are arrangements for a further meeting of experts to address matters relating to direct jurisdiction. The latter is scheduled to take place shortly after the conclusion of the Diplomatic Session.



Judgments  
Project



### HCCH-UNICEF Regional workshops in Asia on the role of the HCCH Conventions in cross-border protection of children

Following successful joint webinars in late 2017, the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific and the HCCH co-organised two workshops in Nepal and Thailand. The first took place in May 2018 and covered South Asia; the second in September 2018 covering East Asia and the Pacific. Participants discussed the cross-border movement of children from Asia, and mechanisms to support their safe migration and gained an insight into how HCCH Child Protection Conventions can address cross-border child protection issues in Asia, including in the context of irregular migration (e.g., trafficking, unaccompanied

children). They also highlighted the importance of co-operation to prevent and address child trafficking, as well as to protect migrant children. In addition, participants shared their relevant experiences with HCCH Conventions and reflected on how they implement them. The workshops also were a platform for participants to learn more about the HCCH and to better understand the benefits of becoming a Member of the Organisation.



Adoption  
Section

# HCCH

## Other Notable Events

### Third and fourth meetings of the Experts' Group on the Parentage / Surrogacy Project

The Experts' Group on Parentage / Surrogacy held further meetings in 2018. The third and fourth meetings continued exploring the feasibility of establishing international rules around international legal parentage, including international surrogacy arrangements (ISAs). Noting that an absence of uniform private international law rules on legal parentage can lead to "limping parentage", and with that to problems for children and families, experts reiterated that uniformity may assist in addressing such problems. The experts also identified three primary methods of establishing legal par-



entage across most States but decided to focus on the two methods that are used most and laid out certain core criteria any new instrument would need to feature if it were to boost the predictability, certainty and continuity of international legal parentage. This included that experts expressed a

preference for a simple instrument, not only to ensure its value for families, but also to make it easy for States to implement. Easy implementation, it was said, would enable a broad uptake by as many States as possible and with that the maximum protection

of children. Moreover, the experts recapped the need for such instrument to consider fundamental rights; the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the best interests of children, while it also needs to complement the existing suite of HCCH Family Conventions.



Parentage /  
Surrogacy  
Project

### Experts' Group on the use of Video-link and Other Modern Technologies in the Taking of Evidence Abroad

In 2018, the Experts' Group on the use of video-link and other modern technologies in the taking of evidence abroad completed its work on drafting a Guide to Good Practice on the use of video-link under the 1970 HCCH Evidence Convention, which is complemented by specific Country Profiles for the Contracting Parties to the Convention. The Guide to Good Practice analyses developments in relation to the use of video-link in the taking of evidence under the

Evidence Convention, including references to internal law and other international agreements. It also outlines good practices to be followed and reflects additional information provided in the Country Profiles. The Guide itself will be published in the course of 2019 following approval by the Council on General Affairs and Policy.



Use of video-  
link Project

## A year to reflect:

### Fourth meeting of the Experts' Group on Cross-border Recognition and Enforcement of Agreements in Family Disputes Involving Children

In June 2018, the Experts' Group on cross-border recognition and enforcement of agreements in family disputes involving children held its fourth meeting under the chairmanship of Prof. Paul Beaumont from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland (UK). The experts initially recapped their work in relation to the development of a non-binding "Practical Guide to Family Agreements" under the 1980 Child Abduction, 1996 Child Protection and 2007 Child Support Conventions. Once finalised, it will provide best practices on how family law agreements involving children can be recognised and enforced in a foreign State under these

HCCH Conventions. The experts had specific regard to a shift of a child's habitual residence following a non-return agreement, an issue discussed during the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention in October 2017. Moreover, the experts also considered the possible paths to take with their work. While they agreed to recommend a continuation of the work, they equally highlighted the need for further research on the practical issues and good practices concerning the enforcement of cross-border family agreements in different legal systems. Experts opined that the findings of such research could inform the experts' decision on whether to uphold their recommendations concerning the possible development of a new binding instrument.



Family Agreements Project

### Sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 13(1)(b) to develop a Guide to Good Practice under the 1980 HCCH Child Abduction Convention

The Working Group on the draft Guide to Good Practice on Article 13(1)(b) met in September 2018. The Honourable Mrs Diana Bryant, AO, QC, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, again chaired the meeting of the Working Group to consider and discuss a revised draft Guide to Good Practice on the interpretation and application of Article 13(1)(b) of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention. This final revision of the draft Guide to Good Practice was the result of consultations with the Members of the HCCH and a significant step towards finalising the document for approval and subsequent publication in 2019.



Article 13(1)(b) Project



# HCCH

## Other Notable Events

### **EC-HCCH Joint Conference on the Cross-border Protection of Vulnerable Adults An important step forward**

More than 130 experts gathered in Brussels to discuss issues pertaining to the "Cross-border Protection of Vulnerable Adults". They stressed the practical importance of the topic, emphasising the current needs of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations as well as States' responses and experiences in this regard. They also shared their experiences with the implementation and operation of the HCCH Adults Convention and pondered possible future work in this area of the law. The conference offered a unique forum for experts to approach the issue from a wide range of viewpoints, including those of international organisations as well as professional organisations active in this area. The experts also considered any needs for additional legal norms and / or co-

operation mechanisms, post-Convention services and the development of good practices. This included suggestions concerning the abolition of exequatur, increasing party autonomy, the use of consular affairs services, the benefits of direct judicial communications and the development of model forms and certificates as well as electronic registries.



**Adults  
Protection  
Event**

### **The Co-operation and Access to Justice for International Tourists Project**

Experts of 15 States and the European Union met in The Hague for a meeting of the Experts' Group on the Co-operation and Access to Justice for International Tourists' Project. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Fernando Bucheli Vargas, Consul General of Ecuador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Experts shared experiences and data in relation to the protection of international tourists, drawing on their respective domestic and regional regimes such as the 2005 Mercosur Agreement and the ECC-Net. The experts covered a vast range of issues. They considered the notion of tourists and their vulnerabilities. They also reflected on the possible need and importance of providing appropriate access to justice for

tourists through an international instrument; the growth of mass tourism, especially in emerging economies, as well as any changes experienced by the tourism industry. They remarked on the shortcomings of the current tourist protection regimes and pondered whether, and, if so, to what extent, there may be a correlation between the rise in tourism and tourism expenditure on the one hand, and the number of dissatisfied tourists on the other. The discussions also benefitted the finalisation of a comprehensive draft Report through a consultant, generously funded by the Brazilian Government, at the end of 2018. CGAP will decide in March 2019 on possible next steps in relation to this project.



**Tourism  
Project**

# Governance



## Meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP)

The 2018 Meeting of CGAP took place from 13 to 15 March 2018. 171 participants representing 63 Members, one REIO and 12 observers took part in the meeting and witnessed the signature and ratification by Portugal of the HCCH Protection of Adults Convention. The participants received updates on and considered a wide range of issues relating to the HCCH's normative, non-normative and governance agenda, setting the Organisation again an ambitious work agenda for 2019. This work agenda in the form of the Conclusions and Recommendations of CGAP is available on the HCCH's website.

## Meeting of the Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR)

The 2018 Meeting of the CDR took place on 12 June 2018. It approved the HCCH's Budget for the Financial Year 2018-2019, with a total Budget of € 4,213,480. The CDR also approved the re-election of the Chair of the Standing Committee of the CDR, Mr Nic Turner, Ministry of Justice, UK, until 2020 as well as the election of Mr Luiz Otávio Ortigão de Sampaio, Counsellor at the Embassy of Brazil to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as Vice Chair of the Standing Committee.

## HCCH Strategic Plan

The work of the HCCH takes place in an increasingly more diverse and complex environment. Life, transactions and legal proceedings across borders have become increasingly the norm. Therefore, Members decided that while the 2002 Strategic Plan had proven successful in many regards, changes were required to future-proof the Organisation and prepare it well for this new environment. Preliminary work regarding a new strategic plan had already started in 2016. However, the 125th Anniversary of the HCCH served as a good opportunity to take stock and map out strategic priorities, including any challenges and opportunities for the HCCH. The aim was to develop a new Strategic Plan that could aid with the HCCH's retaining its pre-eminence in developing practical, global private international law solutions.

The HCCH Strategic Plan 2019-2022 will be the result of a systematic, Member-driven process under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Ms Maria Teresa De Jesus Infante Caffi, Ambassador of Chile to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It is a complete overhaul of the Organisation's 2002 Strategic Plan, but it nevertheless reflects past experiences and reinforces long-standing and proven goals of the HCCH. These are now complemented by new directions and elements, many of which were the outcomes of the important events that marked the HCCH's 125th Anniversary, including the HCCH's conferences in Hong Kong and Buenos Aires, as well as of the Members' Brainstorming session in September 2018. The draft will be submitted for approval to CGAP in March 2019.

## HCCH Rules of Procedure

At its 2018 Meeting, CGAP endorsed the establishment of an open-ended Working Group to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing Rules of Procedure. It mandated the Working Group to consider a wide range of issues relevant to the Rules of Procedure, including the application of the Rules across the various bodies of the HCCH; rules concerning observers at HCCH meetings; and how and when to make decisions by distance. In discharging its mandate, the Working Group is to have regard to existing rules and procedures of the HCCH. It is to submit a set of Draft Procedural Rules to CGAP in 2020. Over the course of 2018, the Working Group met four times. Chaired by His Excellency Mr Marcin Czepelak, Ambassador of Poland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Working Group initially met to lay the groundwork for its work, then commenced its considerations concerning the issue of observers at meetings of the HCCH.



# Our People



## Team of the Permanent Bureau

(per 31 December 2018)

Ms Maryze BERKHOUT

*Head of Finance / Senior Human Resources Officer*

Mr Christophe BERNASCONI

*Secretary General*

Mr Frédéric BREGER

*Legal Officer*

Ms Florencia CASTRO

*Legal and Office Co-ordinator (ROLAC)*

Ms Mayela CELIS

*Principal Legal Officer*

Ms Marie-Charlotte DARBAS

*Information Manager*

Ms Lydie DE LOOF

*Publications Co-ordinator*

Ms Marie DEPLEDT

*Library Assistant*

Ms Willy DE ZOETE

*Senior Administrative Assistant*

Ms Eugenia GENTILE

*Finance / Human Resources Assistant*

Ms Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR

*First Secretary designate*

Mr Ignacio GOICOECHEA

*Representative (ROLAC)*

Ms Maja GROFF

*Senior Legal Officer*

Mr Stuart HAWKINS

*Website / IT Officer*

Mr Thomas JOHN

*Attaché to the Secretary General / Principal Legal Officer*

Ms Anna KOELEWIJN

*Head of Administration*

Mr Philippe LORTIE

*First Secretary*

Mr Thomas MACHUELLE

*Translator / Reviser*

Ms Laura MARTÍNEZ-MORA

*Principal Legal Officer*

Ms Laura MOLENAAR

*Administrative Officer*

Ms Alix NG

*Office Manager (ROAP)*

Ms Capucine PAGE

*Legal Officer*

Ms Sophie PINEAU

*Personal Assistant to the Secretary General*

Mr Frank POON

*Representative (ROAP)*

Ms Mathilde PRÉNAS

*Senior Administrative Assistant*

Mr João RIBEIRO-BIDAOU

*First Secretary*

Mr Victor TOMOV

*Temporary Financial / Project Assistant*

Mr Willem VAN DER ENDT

*General Services Officer*

Ms Livia VAN DER GRAAF

*Project Officer*

Mr Brody WARREN

*Legal Officer*

Ms Ana ZANETTIN

*Translator / Reviser / Administrative Assistant*

Ms Ning ZHAO

*Senior Legal Officer*

### Consultants to the HCCH

#### **Consultants supporting Normative Work**

Ms Hannah BAKER

*Parentage / Surrogacy Project*

Mr Emmanuel GUINCHARD

*Tourism Project*

Ms Julianne HIRSCH

*Voluntary Agreements Project*

Ms Cara NORTH

*Judgments Project*

Ms Victoria STEPHENS

*INCADAT*

Mr Michael WELLS-GRECO

*Parentage / Surrogacy Project*

#### **Consultants supporting Governance & Operations**

Ms Helene GUERIN

*Publications*

Mr Willem-Paul HERBER

*Accountant*

### Secondments to the Permanent Bureau

Mr Keith LOKEN (Lawyer, seconded to the Permanent Bureau (The Hague) from the Bureau of Consular Affairs, US Department of State, United States of America)

Mr Dongwon KANG (Judge, seconded to the Permanent Bureau (The Hague) from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea)

Ms Judy XIONG (Lawyer, seconded to the Permanent Bureau (ROAP) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China)

Ms Caroline KORAH (Lawyer, Dawson Cornwell)

### iSupport

Mr Jean-Marc PELLET

*iSupport Co-ordinator*

## Internship Programme at the HCCH

### Interns at the Office in The Hague, the Netherlands

Mr Phillip ADNETT (United Kingdom)  
Ms Olga CERAN (Poland)  
Ms Lindy CHRISTINE (United Kingdom)  
Ms Josephine DOOLEY (Australia)  
Ms Katja KARJALAINEN (Finland)  
Ms Alexandra KAYE (Australia)  
Ms Coline LOPEZ (France)  
Ms Hana MIAN (Australia)  
Ms Daphné MÉLÈS (France)

Ms Michelle OELOFSE (South Africa)  
Ms Julie PHELINE (France)  
Ms Rutuja POL (India)  
Ms Jeweher SAIDI (Tunisia)  
Ms Lenka VYSOKA (Czech Republic)  
Ms Charlotte WEINEKÖTTER (Switzerland, Germany)  
Ms Romina URSIC (Italy)  
Mr Hiroto YOSHIMI (Japan)  
Ms Yao ZHANG (People's Republic of China)

### Interns at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ms Eliana ABOLSKY (Argentina)  
Ms María Luz ALBORNOZ (Argentina)  
Ms Laura ANTMANN (Argentina)  
Ms Lucila BONANTINI (Argentina)  
Ms Julieta BURLLAILLE (Argentina)  
Ms Carmen DEL PINO (Argentina)  
Mr Tomás ELIA (Argentina)  
Ms Magali FELMAN (Argentina)  
Ms Agustina GATTI (Argentina)

Mr Ignacio GUIMARD DRAVICH (Argentina)  
Ms Emilia GORTARI WIRZ (Argentina)  
Ms María Camila QUIROGA (Argentina)  
Ms Micaela RIOS CONTRERAS (Argentina)  
Ms Sofía RODRÍGUEZ (Argentina)  
Ms Verónica RODRÍGUEZ (Argentina)  
Mr Tomás RODRÍGUEZ CORREA (Argentina)  
Ms Constanza VELAZQUEZ (Argentina)

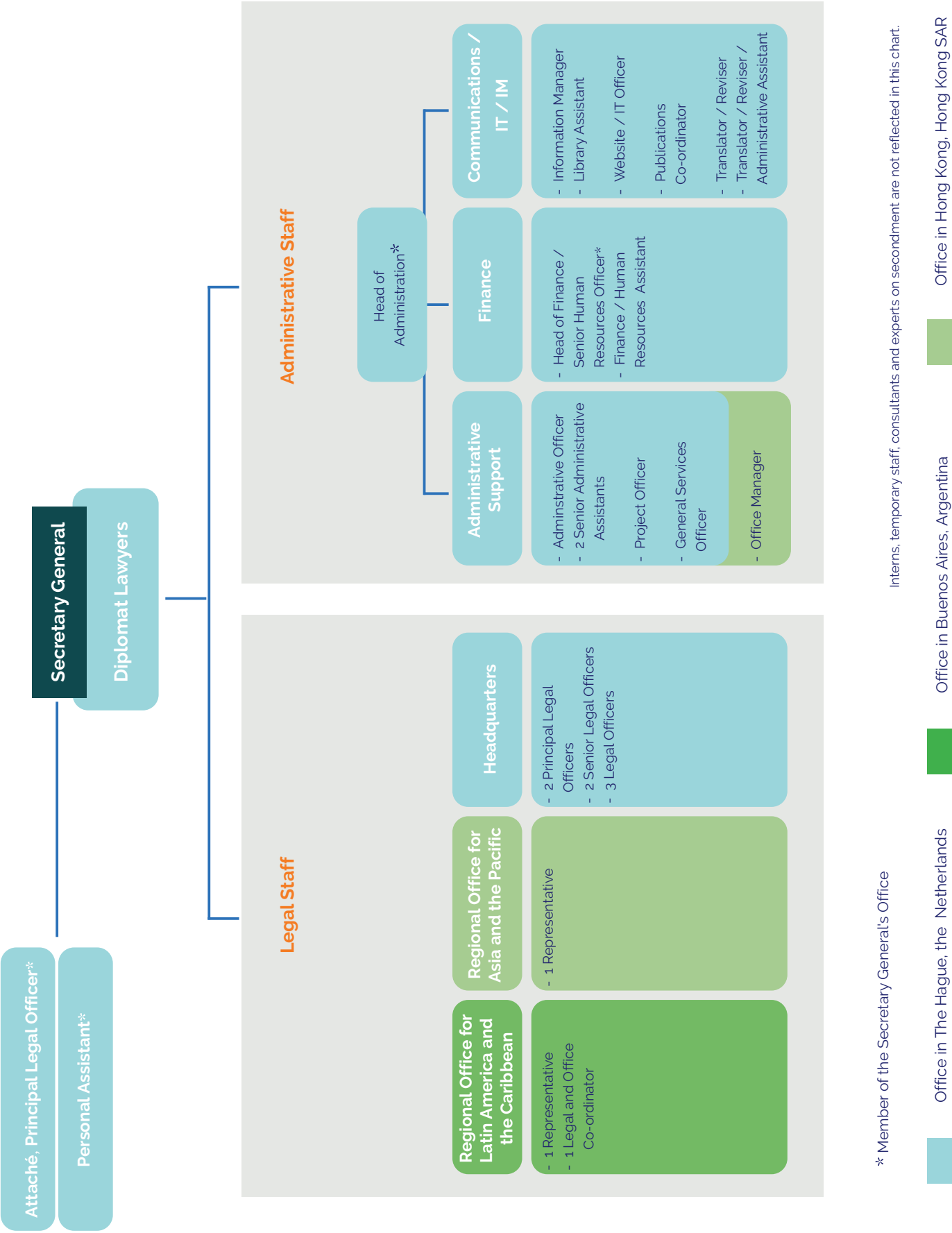
### Interns at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, People's Republic of China

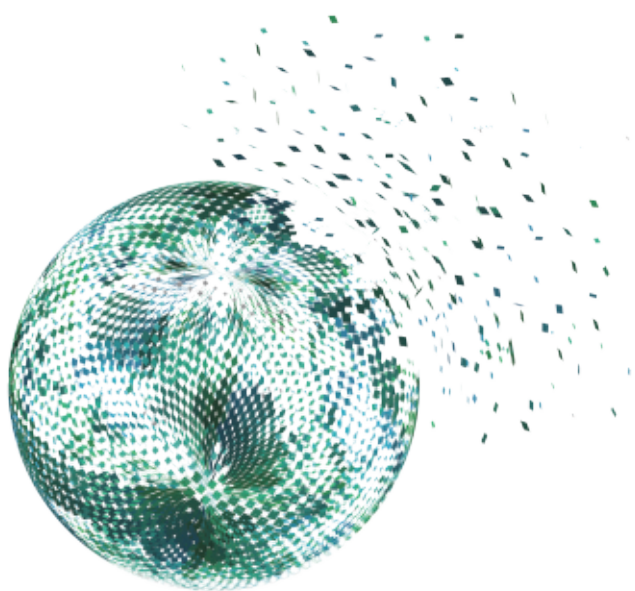
Ms Yidan HUANG (People's Republic of China)  
Ms Ruby WANG (People's Republic of China)  
Ms Olivia WEI Youjia (People's Republic of China)  
Ms Jeremia Sarah CHOW (Canada)  
Ms Ailly HE (People's Republic of China)  
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Organisational chart of the Permanent Bureau (2018)





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