



MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
& Attorney General's Chambers



INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW, LEGAL CO-OPERATION AND COMMERCE: PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN THE CARIBBEAN THROUGH THE HAGUE CONFERENCE CONVENTIONS”

REGIONAL MEETING

13 – 15 July 2016, Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana



JULY 13, 2016

7pm

Opening Ceremony

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs- Hon. Basil Williams Sir
Matthew Thorpe
UNICEF Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean- María
Cristina Perceval
Secretary General of the HCCH- Dr. Christophe Bernasconi
His Excellency, The President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana,
Mr. David Granger

Welcome Reception

JULY 14, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration Day 1

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Introductory Remarks

HCCH: It's Mandate, Main Achievements and Relevance for the Region

Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General HCCH;

9:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Child Abduction Convention

Chair: Hon. Basil Williams, Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs.

- Judge Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, 7th Judicial Circuit, Maryland, US
- Hon. Justice Richard Williams, Family Law Division of the Grand Court, Grand Cayman, Hague Network Judge

11:00 – 11:20 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:20 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

The International Hague Network of Judges-Direct Judicial Communications

Chair: Dr. Ivelaw Griffith- Vice Chancellor University of Guyana Chair for session:

- The Right Honourable Sir Mathew Thorpe, former Lord Justice of Appeal and Head of International Family Justice 2005-2013. Independent Expert and Consultant 2013-
- The Honourable Madam Justice Allyson Ramkerrysingh, Family Court of Trinidad and Tobago, Port of Spain, Hague Network Judge
- Senior Judge Hetty M. Boone, Deputy Liaison Judge for the Netherlands, District Court of The Hague.

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Child Protection Convention



Chair: Dr. Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Guyana

- Ignacio Goicoechea, Hague Conference on Private International Law
- The Right Honourable Sir Mathew Thorpe, former Lord Justice of Appeal and Head of International Family Justice 2005-2013. Independent Expert and Consultant 2013

Adoption Convention

Chair: Hon. Madam Justice Roxanne George – Judge, Supreme Court of Judicature of Guyana

- Valerie Barlow, US, Central Authority for the Hague 1993 Inter-country Adoption Convention
- Andolphe Guillaume, Juriste - Gestionnaire de Projets, Haiti, Central Authority for the Hague 1993 Inter-country Adoption Convention

4:00 – 4:20 p.m.

Coffee Break

4:20 – 6:00 p.m.

Child Maintenance Convention

Chair: Hon. Madam Justice Yonnette Cummings-Edwards, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Judicature of Guyana

- Professor Juan José Obando, University of Costa Rica, American Association on Private International Law.

International Family Mediation – Central Contact Points

- Ignacio Goicoechea, Hague Conference on Private International Law
- Senior Judge Hetty M. Boone, Deputy Liaison Judge for the Netherlands, District Court of The Hague.

JULY 15, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration Day 2

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Service Convention

Chair: Sir Charles Dennis Byron- President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Trinidad & Tobago.

- Daniel Klimow, Attorney Adviser, Office of Legal Affairs, Overseas Citizens Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Ms. Jewel Major, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, The Bahamas, Central Authority for the Hague 1965 Service Convention
- Mr. Ryan Johnson, Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda, Central Authority for the Hague 1965 Service Convention



11:00 – 11:20 a.m. **Coffee Break**

11:20 a.m. 1:00p.m. **Apostille Convention and e-App Programme**

Chair: Hon. Dominic Gaskin, Minister of Business, Ministry of Business, Guyana

- Dr. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General, HCCH

Evidence & Access to Justice Conventions

Chair: The Hon. Marlene Malahoo Forte Q.C.- Attorney General, Attorney's General Chambers, Jamaica

- Sâmia Cristine Farias de Albuquerque, Head of International Legal Co-operation in Civil matters, Ministry of Justice of Brazil, Central Authority for the Hague 1970 Evidence and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Choice of Court Convention**

Chair: Her Ladyship the Honourable Justice Lorraine Williams, Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, St Kitts and Nevis, Former Attorney General & Former High Commissioner

- Professor Calvin A. Hamilton, FCI Arb, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, Barbados
- Justice Abdullahi Zuru, Commonwealth Secretariat, Guyana.

The Hague Choice of Law Principles

Chair: Hon. Carl Greenidge Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana. (tbc)

- Prof. Theophilus M. F. Ferguson, University of Guyana.

4:00 – 4:20 p.m. **Afternoon Tea**

4:20 – 6:00 p.m.

PLENARY

Outlook and Next Steps

Discussion of the Recommendations and Conclusions

Final remarks

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Cultural Reception**