

**Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission
on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention
and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention – October 2017**

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Objective	To provide information on services provided by the Permanent Bureau in relation to the 1980 and 1996 Conventions	
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Annex	Attached	
Related documents	N/A	

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A. Introduction

1. This document addresses a range of Permanent Bureau services provided in relation to the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (hereinafter, the "1980 Convention") and the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (hereinafter, the "1996 Convention"), principally in connection with the following Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission to review the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention:

"73. The Special Commission supports the continued publication of *The Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection* and expresses its appreciation to LexisNexis for its support in publishing and distributing the Newsletter. [...]

87. The Special Commission recommends that the Hague Conference on Private International Law, through its Permanent Bureau, continue its current work to support the effective practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions and, in this regard, the Permanent Bureau should:

- (a) focus on the promotion, implementation and effective practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions;
- (b) encourage regional activities including conferences, seminars and training;
- (c) where requests for assistance are received from individuals, provide general information concerning the relevant competent authority(ies); and
- (d) consider ways to enhance further the effectiveness of Special Commission meetings to review the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions.

88. The Special Commission notes the strong support for the continuing work in strengthening the Latin American Regional Office and in developing a Regional Office in the Asia Pacific region.

89. The Special Commission takes note of the report of Professor McEleavy (INCADAT Legal Consultant) which, in answering concerns expressed as to the quality of the database, stressed that continued enhancements are being made to INCADAT but that future improvements are subject to available resources.

90. The Special Commission takes note of Information Document No 7 on the expansion of INCASTAT and acknowledges that work should continue subject to supplementary funding.

91. The Special Commission welcomes the continuing work on iChild carried out by the Hague Conference and WorldReach Canada."

2. Comments with respect to above-quoted Conclusions and Recommendations Nos 87(c) and (d) and 91 will be provided orally to the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission. Information and updates as to the other points and related issues, including publications by the Permanent Bureau, are summarised below, for the purpose of providing a background for discussion at the meeting.

B. Overview of current and prospective Permanent Bureau services

1. **Post-Convention assistance, including training and "twinning" arrangements under both the 1980 and 1996 Conventions (Prel. Doc. No 6, Item Nos 8, 12, 13 and 153, and Annex I)**

a. *Post-Convention assistance, training and seminars*

3. As recommended by the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission, the Permanent Bureau, including, importantly, through its two Regional Offices,¹ has focused on the promotion,

¹ The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC). ROLAC has also entered into an agreement with the University of Belgrano (Argentina), where

implementation and the effective practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions through, among other things, the encouragement of and participation in national or regional activities, including conferences, seminars and training sessions.² The Annex to this document presents a list of principal activities related to the 1980 and 1996 Conventions since the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission.

4. The above-mentioned activities have contributed, *inter alia*, to a variety of developments that have had a concrete impact on the operation of the 1980 Convention in particular, such as: internal protocols adopted by Central Authorities; procedural regulations for the judiciary; concentration of jurisdiction; designations of members of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ); and the provision of training for hundreds of judges, Central Authority officials, prosecutors and defenders of children and adolescents.

b. "Twinning" arrangements

5. Additionally, in furtherance of the relevant Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission, a mentoring programme designed to assist newly-acceding States to the 1980 Convention with implementation and practical operation of the Convention has been established.³ The Permanent Bureau maintains a list of experienced States Parties willing to host a visit from a newly-acceding or ratifying State to the 1980 Convention, as well as from interested States, "for the purpose of gaining knowledge and understanding regarding the effective practical operation of the 1980 Convention".⁴

6. In the context of this initiative, several Central Authorities of newly-acceding States and interested States have contacted the Permanent Bureau with a view to participating in the twinning programme, upon receipt of the standard information letter.⁵ Acting upon the request of these States, the Permanent Bureau has facilitated the liaison between the respective Central Authorities under the 1980 Convention. The Permanent Bureau is not involved in the provision of training or information exchange in these arrangements, and consequently does not monitor the co-operation between States once the twinning relationship has been facilitated.

7. It is also important to stress that this mentoring programme reinforces general co-operation between Central Authorities under the 1980 Convention and therefore newly-acceding States or interested States should be encouraged to participate. Experienced States willing to host a visit from a newly-acceding or ratifying State to the 1980 Convention or other interested States are likewise invited to inform the Permanent Bureau of this willingness.

2. INCADAT, including its possible expansion to include 1996 Convention cases (*Prel. Doc. No 6, Item Nos 137-140*)

8. The International Child Abduction Database (INCADAT)⁶ is the only database of international child abduction cases from all regions of the world that is available online and free of charge. It was established in 1999 on the basis of guidance from the Second Meeting of the Special Commission,⁷ to assist a wide variety of users, including "the judiciary, Central Authorities, the legal profession, as well as individuals affected by or interested in child abduction".⁸ The website's availability in English, French and Spanish adds to its accessibility. It currently contains approximately 1350 cases from over 50 jurisdictions. During the Special

advanced students in legal translation complete a practicum at ROLAC, thereby enabling the translation of a considerable number of documents related to the 1980 and 1996 Conventions.

² See "Table of Conclusions and Recommendations of previous Meetings of the Special Commission (SC) on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention (1989 (1st SC), 1993 (2nd SC), 1997 (3rd SC), 2001 (4th SC), 2002 (follow-up SC), 2006 (5th SC), 2011-2012 (6th SC))", *Prel. Doc. No 6* of July 2017 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (October 2017) (hereinafter, the "Table of Conclusions and Recommendations"), Item Nos 8 and 153 (available on the Hague Conference website at < www.hcch.net > under "Child Abduction Section" then "Special Commission meetings" and "7th Special Commission meeting").

³ *Ibid.*, Item Nos 12 and 13.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Thus far, Armenia and Guinea.

⁶ Available at < www.incadat.com >.

⁷ See Table of Conclusions and Recommendations, Item Nos 137 and 138.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Item No 138.

Commission meeting of 2012, most experts who intervened during the discussion on INCADAT expressed their support for the service, although concerns relating to the quality of the database in the light of its limited funding were also voiced; concerns which, if unaddressed, may pose reputational risks to the Organisation.⁹ Subsequent Conclusions and Recommendations of recent meetings of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions (2011 and 2012) and the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Hague Conference (2017) underline the importance of the database and support the continuation of work on INCADAT, subject to available resources.¹⁰

9. Enabled by supplementary funding generously provided by the Government of Germany and a private donor,¹¹ INCADAT has undergone a major technical refurbishment since November 2016, improving a range of the website's user features. These technical improvements, as well as changes to the editorial workflow described below, were undertaken by the Permanent Bureau in order to address the above-mentioned criticisms raised at the last meeting of the Special Commission. The system can now search the full content of international abduction decisions by keywords and can filter search results. The full text of each decision in the language in which it was rendered (as well as additional language versions, if applicable) will also be readily available for download. In addition, the database has been migrated to a new web-based platform with a modernised and more user-friendly design and layout, which is compatible with mobile devices. The Permanent Bureau plans to formally **launch the new website on 16 October 2017**, during the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission; before this date, the new website will not be publicly available.¹²

10. Another feature that was introduced to reduce delays that inhibit the timely uploading of new cases is the "Synopsis" field. The synopsis provides users with a set of concise keywords that encapsulate the main elements of each case, providing an indication of each decision's most salient aspects at a glance. This new field will be mandatory for all future decisions, whereas summaries of the facts, rulings and grounds (formerly "legal basis") of a decision will only be prepared for very significant cases. Since only a fraction of the time otherwise devoted to preparing summaries is needed to prepare a synopsis, this is likely to result in cases being prepared and uploaded more quickly – particularly those decisions that were not rendered in English, French or Spanish.

11. In addition, the reworking of the INCADAT content management system has implemented a number of critical enhancements to the efficiency of editorial workflow. The Permanent Bureau is now able to create and customise a range of user accounts, making it possible to grant external contributors of case law (*i.e.*, INCADAT correspondents in various States) direct access to the editorial system in a secure manner. INCADAT correspondents will now be able to add and edit cases independently, and mark their entries as "ready for publication" when they are in final draft form, prompting the Permanent Bureau to review and publish the cases.

12. In the interests of consolidating the global network of INCADAT correspondents, the Permanent Bureau invites Central Authorities under the 1980 Convention to designate one or more persons as responsible for periodically entering details on leading cases into the INCADAT content management system and uploading corresponding decisions in their original language with, if possible, a translation into English, French or Spanish. The consolidated and expanded network of correspondents would ideally comprise Central Authority officials, academics, and / or members of the IHNJ. Correspondents would be encouraged to co-operate with the Central Authority in their State, as applicable. The principal aim of this request is to ensure a more geographically representative availability of decisions in the database, to overcome language barriers (*inter alia*, by providing decisions in as many languages as possible), and to keep this important database up to date. In recent years, the proportion of decisions uploaded to

⁹ See Report of Meeting No 23 of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions (25-31 January 2012), pp. 7-9.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Item Nos 139 and 140. See also "Conclusions and Recommendations of the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference (14-16 March 2017)" (hereinafter, "C&Rs of the 2017 Council"), C&R No 33, available on the Hague Conference website at < www.hcch.net > under "Governance" then "Council on General Affairs and Policy".

¹¹ The funds were provided by the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection and Miles & Stockbridge P.C., a law firm based in the United States of America.

¹² Once users are able to access the new website following its launch, they will also have access to all new cases that have been uploaded since the migration of the website in the first half of 2017. Unfortunately, due to technical reasons, these cases cannot be displayed on the "old" website before the launch of the new system.

INCADAT emanating from civil law jurisdictions has significantly increased, in an effort to ensure a more balanced availability of decisions from all legal systems. The expansion of the network of INCADAT correspondents in the manner described above will further support the availability of case law in a manner that is as globally representative as possible.

13. All resources devoted to maintaining, expanding and improving INCADAT since the last meeting of the Special Commission have been funded by voluntary contributions. The Council on General Affairs and Policy in March 2017 encouraged States to continue to support work on INCADAT.¹³

14. Regarding possible future expansion of the database, the Special Commission on the operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions in 2011 suggested "further exploration of the extension of INCADAT to the 1996 Convention".¹⁴ If States agree to consolidate and expand the network of INCADAT correspondents as described above, and in particular designate academics or members of the IHNJ, such correspondents may also provide valuable access to decisions on the 1996 Convention that Central Authorities may not have dealt with directly.¹⁵ Thus, expanding such a network of correspondents, who would liaise with Central Authorities while providing case law on the 1996 Convention for the expansion of INCADAT, would also, in effect, provide Central Authorities with more information on the practical operation of that Convention.

15. The development of an extension to include 1996 Convention case law might be contemplated in the next two to three years, after consolidation of the network of INCADAT correspondents. In the interim, States could be encouraged to share significant cases on the 1996 Convention with the Permanent Bureau, in order to enable the identification of specific functionalities needed for the database extension.¹⁶ The cost of the necessary technical work for developing such an extension would likely be approximately €20,000, with human resources needed to co-ordinate and implement this extension likely amounting to one full time equivalent for a period of one year.

3. Sharing of information and expertise, IHNJ Hague Conference specialised webpage; *The Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection (Prel. Doc. No 6, Item Nos 108, 117-118, Info. Doc. No 1, Item Nos 25-26 and Info. Doc. No 3, Item Nos 26-27 and Info. Doc. No 6, Item No 28)*

a. The Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection

16. *The Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection* was initiated in 1998 with a view to fostering the exchange of information concerning judicial co-operation in matters of international child protection.¹⁷ It has since served as an important forum for the discussion of a wide range of practical issues in service of the Hague Children's Conventions. *The Judges' Newsletter* has been pivotal in the initiation of work on, among other things, enforcement of return orders (Vol. VII), contact and access (Vol. X), direct judicial communications (Vols IV and XV) and Article 13(1)(b) (Vols V and XIX). It has been noted that *The Judges' Newsletter* constitutes "a unique comparative law research tool which has provided key background for the development of many Guides to Good Practice, Practical Handbooks, Guidelines and Principles".¹⁸ *The Judges' Newsletter* is published and available free of charge on the Hague Conference website.¹⁹

¹³ See C&R No 33 of the 2017 Council.

¹⁴ See Table of Conclusions and Recommendations, Item Nos 139 and 140.

¹⁵ This is because a larger proportion of applications is made under the 1996 Convention without the involvement of the Central Authorities than under the 1980 Convention.

¹⁶ A form could be made available for this purpose, which Central Authorities could use to provide basic information on each decision. This would overcome language barriers, and would provide the Permanent Bureau with an understanding of the most important aspects of 1996 Convention case law that would need to be represented in fields in the extended system.

¹⁷ For Conclusions and Recommendations of past Special Commission meetings, see Table of Conclusions and Recommendations, Item Nos 108, 117 and 118.

¹⁸ See "Report on the Experts' Meeting on Issues of Domestic / Family Violence and the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention, 12 June 2017, the University of Westminster, London", Info. Doc. No 6 of August 2017 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (October 2017), at para. 28 (see path indicated in note 2).

¹⁹ At < www.hcch.net > under "Child Abduction Section" then "*The Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection*".

17. Special Commission meetings on the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions have successively acknowledged and supported the essential role of this publication, in particular at the 2011 Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission (Part I), where it was concluded that: "The Special Commission supports the continued publication of *The Judges' Newsletter* on International Child Protection [...]."²⁰ More recently, the usefulness of this publication has been confirmed by the IHNJ itself in Conclusions and Recommendations adopted at the last global meeting of the Network in Hong Kong in 2015.²¹

18. In Question 14.1.c. of Preliminary Document No 2 of January 2017 (hereinafter the "1980 Questionnaire"),²² States were asked to provide comments or reflections on *The Judges' Newsletter*. Overall, States have emphasised in their responses the usefulness of this publication, highlighting the valuable information that it provides and how this publication effectively supports the practical operation of the 1980 Convention.

19. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, the Permanent Bureau has not been able to continue with the publication of new issues of *The Judges' Newsletter* in the last several years. The latest issue of *The Judges' Newsletter* is "Volume XX – Summer-Autumn 2013" which was published in 2014. It is therefore crucial, in line with the aforementioned Conclusions and Recommendations, that the Permanent Bureau is provided with adequate resources in order to resume publication of new issues of *The Judges' Newsletter*.

20. With respect to possible topics for the "Special focus" of future issues of *The Judges' Newsletter*, consideration could be given, e.g., to the following topics:

- the practice of judicial authorities in relation to Article 15 of the 1980 Convention;
- good practices to minimise delays in return cases under the 1980 Convention;
- judicial co-operation on the safe return of the child under the 1980 Convention;
- implementation of the simple and fast procedure provided for under Article 26 of the 1996 Convention;
- implementation of Articles 8 and 9 of the 1996 Convention on transfer of jurisdiction;
- the 20th Anniversary of the IHNJ (2018).²³

b. IHNJ specialised section on the Hague Conference website

21. In 2013, on the occasion of the Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ, the idea was raised to develop a specialised section on the Hague Conference website for the IHNJ.²⁴ A specialised section would constitute a dedicated platform providing information on upcoming significant international, regional and national conferences, seminars and training sessions on international family law, with the subsequent posting of materials from and "Conclusions and Recommendations" of such meetings.²⁵ Support for this dedicated webpage

²⁰ See Table of Conclusions and Recommendations, Item No 117.

²¹ See "Meeting of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ), Hong Kong, 11-13 November 2015 – Conclusions and Recommendations", Info. Doc. No 3 of August 2017 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (October 2017) (hereinafter, the "C&Rs of the meeting of the IHNJ (Hong Kong, 2015)"), C&R No 26 (see path indicated in note 2).

²² "Questionnaire concerning the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*", Prel. Doc. No 2 of January 2017 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (October 2017) (hereinafter, the "1980 Questionnaire") (see path indicated in note 2).

²³ Such a proposition was supported in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ. See "Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the International Hague Network of Judges (17-19 July 2013) – Conclusions and Recommendations", Info. Doc. No 1 of August 2017 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (October 2017) (hereinafter, the "C&Rs of the Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ"), C&R No 25 (see path indicated in note 2).

²⁴ See C&R No 25 of the meeting of the IHNJ (Hong Kong, 2015). See also C&R No 15 of the Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ, which also welcomed this project.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, C&R No 26.

was reiterated at the 2015 global meeting of the IHNJ in Hong Kong, with the suggestion of including additional “other materials” on the specialised section.²⁶ Such materials could comprise, e.g., relevant national judicial guidelines or manuals, recent decisions in the area of international family law, and news items on recent member appointments to the IHNJ.

22. Thus far, this information has been made available primarily via *The Judges’ Newsletter*. However, in order to provide such information in a timely manner, this information should be provided on the Hague Conference website, allowing the Permanent Bureau to update such information regularly and in a cost-effective manner. Subject to available resources, the Permanent Bureau would like to invite the Special Commission to support the development of a specialised section on the Hague Conference website for the IHNJ.

4. Other publications of the Hague Conference on the 1980 and 1996 Conventions (e.g., *Guides to Good Practice and Practical Handbooks; Prel. Doc. No 6, Item No 145*)

23. Since the last meeting of the Special Commission in 2012, the Permanent Bureau has released two new publications to assist Contracting States with the effective implementation and operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions: namely, the *Guide to Good Practice under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: Mediation* (2012) and the *Practical Handbook on the operation of the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention* (2014).

24. Since the adoption of the two instruments, the Permanent Bureau has developed a comprehensive collection of publications, listed below, to provide general information and to address various aspects of the implementation and operation of both the 1980 and the 1996 Conventions. All publications are available on the Hague Conference website in English, French and Spanish, with a range of other language versions available, depending on the publication.²⁷

1980 Convention

Title	Year of Publication
Brochure: <i>The Hague Children’s Conventions</i>	2017
<i>The Judges’ Newsletter</i> on International Child Protection	Last published in 2014
HCCH International Family Law Briefings	Last published in 2014
Brochure: <i>Direct Judicial Communications</i>	2013
Guide to Good Practice under the Child Abduction Convention – Mediation	2012
Guide to Good Practice under the Child Abduction Convention: Part IV – Enforcement	2010
Transfrontier Contact Concerning Children – General Principles and Guide to Good Practice	2008
Guide to Good Practice under the Child Abduction Convention: Part III – Preventive Measures	2005
Guide to Good Practice under the Child Abduction Convention: Part II – Implementing Measures	2003
Guide to Good Practice under the Child Abduction Convention: Part I – Central Authority Practice	2003
CD-ROM: <i>The Children’s Conventions</i>	1998
<i>Actes et documents de la Quatorzième session (1980) – Child Abduction</i>	1982
Explanatory Report on the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention	1982

²⁶ See C&R No 27 of the meeting of the IHNJ (Hong Kong, 2015).

²⁷ Available on the Hague Conference website at < www.hcch.net > under “Child Abduction Section” (for the 1980 Convention) and “Protection of Children Section” then “HCCH publications” (for the 1996 Convention).

1996 Convention

Title	Year of Publication
Brochure: <i>The Hague Children's Conventions</i>	2017
Practical Handbook on the Operation of the 1996 Child Protection Convention	2014
<i>The Judges' Newsletter</i> on International Child Protection	Last published in 2014
HCCH International Family Law Briefings	Last published in 2014
Implementation Checklist	2009
Transfrontier Contact Concerning Children – General Principles and Guide to Good Practice	2008
Explanatory Report on the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention	1998
CD-ROM: <i>The Children's Conventions</i>	1998
<i>Proceedings of the Eighteenth Session (1996) – Protection of Children</i>	1998

25. States' responses to the 1980 Questionnaire and to Preliminary Document No 1 of December 2016²⁸ (hereinafter the "1996 Questionnaire") broadly attest to their satisfaction with and regular use of the publications listed above (in particular, the Guides to Good Practice and Practical Handbook), some of which, however, are now becoming dated.²⁹ It is important, therefore, that these key publications remain up-to-date in order to provide appropriate guidance, reflecting the state of play of each Convention and current developments in Contracting States. The Permanent Bureau at present lacks the resources to conduct a comprehensive review of the older publications dealing with the 1980 Convention in particular.

5. INCASTAT (Prel. Doc. No 6, Item Nos 134-136)

26. Past Special Commission meetings have repeatedly encouraged Central Authorities designated under the 1980 Convention to maintain accurate statistics concerning the cases dealt with under the Convention, and to make annual returns of statistics to the Permanent Bureau using standard forms, which since 2007, have been available electronically on the web-based database, INCASTAT (the International Child Abduction Statistical Database).³⁰

27. Most recently, the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission (Part I), in Conclusions and Recommendations Nos 21 to 23:

"acknowledg[ed] the great value of the 'Statistical analysis of applications made in 2008 under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction' [...] carried out by Nigel Lowe and Victoria Stephens [...]"

"[...] reaffirm[ed] Recommendation No 1.14 of the 2001 meeting of the Special Commission and Recommendation No 1.1.16 of the 2006 meeting of the Special Commission – "Central Authorities are encouraged to maintain accurate statistics concerning the cases dealt with by them under the Convention, and to make annual returns of statistics to the Permanent Bureau in accordance with the standard forms established by the Permanent Bureau in consultation with Central Authorities";

"[...] recommend[ed] that one statistical questionnaire be developed that is capable of being completed online, and that combines the data currently sought for INCASTAT (the International Child Abduction Statistical Database) with the data last sought for the statistical analysis of cases arising in 2008".

²⁸ "Questionnaire on the Practical Operation of the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children*", Prel. Doc. No 1 of December 2016 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (October 2017) (see path indicated in note 2).

²⁹ See, e.g., the responses of Canada, Georgia, Ireland, New Zealand and Nicaragua, amongst others, to various parts of Question 8 of the 1980 Questionnaire; and the responses of Australia, Denmark, Georgia, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom (England) to Question 46 of the 1996 Questionnaire.

³⁰ Table of Conclusions and Recommendations, Item Nos 134-136.

28. Part II of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission, in Conclusion and Recommendation No 90, took note of Information Document No 7³¹ on the expansion of INCASTAT, as suggested at Part I of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission, and “acknowledge[d] that work should continue subject to supplementary funding”.

29. In the light of these Conclusions and Recommendations, a comprehensive statistical study, analysing cases from the year 2015, has once again been prepared by Professor Nigel Lowe and Victoria Stephens,³² in consultation with the Permanent Bureau and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC).³³ The current statistical study was undertaken using the relevant statistical forms on a new, expanded INCASTAT, as recommended by the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission, developed thanks to the generous voluntary contribution of the Government of Canada.

30. This expansion of INCASTAT was undertaken in several stages. Stage 1 was implemented over 2013-2014, enabled by a first tranche of funding from the Government of Canada, where the Permanent Bureau worked with a programmer to add new “layers” to INCASTAT to ensure the collection of additional, detailed data on 1980 Convention cases. Stage 2 was made possible by a second tranche of funding from the Government of Canada in late 2015, which allowed for the development of a wide range of statistical charts and graphs displaying the new data collected in various formats. The statistical charts and graphs have not yet been deployed on the system for general users, but will be activated after the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission, taking into account input from Central Authorities which have used the system for the recent study of 2015 cases.

31. The expanded INCASTAT system, which replaces the paper forms used in previous in-depth studies led by Professor Lowe, has functioned effectively, with the data of more than 70 Contracting States inputted via INCASTAT on 2015 cases. Additional information from Central Authorities as to the operation of the new, expanded INCASTAT will be collected at the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission.

32. Lastly, the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission recommended that the Permanent Bureau explore a technical facility for automated data transfer to INCASTAT for Central Authorities with a particularly high volume of cases; again, due to the financial support of the Government of Canada, the development of this facility is underway, in consultation with relevant Contracting States.³⁴

33. Subsequent to the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission, Central Authorities designated under the 1980 Convention will be regularly reminded to enter their data on an on-going basis into INCASTAT (for example, through quarterly automated e-mail reminders from the Permanent Bureau). However, a number of States, in their 1980 Questionnaire responses, have noted that they would like further training and guidance on the use of INCASTAT. If the Permanent Bureau is to provide such training and support as well as on-going INCASTAT maintenance ensuring its effective operation, it would require additional resources.

³¹ See “Note on the possible expansion of INCASTAT to include the data sought for the statistical analysis of cases arising in 2008”, Info. Doc. No 7 of January 2012 for the attention of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Part II, January 2012), available on the Hague Conference website at < www.hcch.net > under “Child Abduction Section” then “Previous Special Commission meetings” and “Sixth Special Commission meeting (Part I, June 2011; Part II, January 2012)”.

³² Professor Nigel Lowe is Emeritus Professor of Law at Cardiff University and Victoria Stephens is a freelance research consultant based in Lyon.

³³ ICMEC generously provided funding and other support throughout the project. See “A statistical analysis of applications made in 2015 under the 1980 Convention”, “Global report” and “Regional report”, respectively, Prel. Docs Nos 11 A and 11 B for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Child Protection Convention (see path indicated in note 2).

³⁴ See “Conclusions and Recommendations of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions (1-10 June 2011)”, C&R No 23 (see path indicated in note 31).

6. Development of an electronic Country Profile for the 1980 Convention (*Prel. Doc. No 6, Item Nos 141-144*)

34. The Country Profile project for the 1980 Convention was initiated by the Fifth Meeting of the Special Commission (2006), based on a proposal by the delegation of Canada. Discussion at the meeting highlighted “the value of having information concerning the relevant national laws and procedures readily accessible to all States” and the Meeting endorsed the Country Profile for this purpose.³⁵ The Country Profile was finalised in 2011 and circulated to States for completion in advance of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission (Part I). It was anticipated that the Country Profile would assist Contracting States in fulfilling their obligations under Article 7 of the 1980 Convention, in particular Article 7(2)(e) and (i), and that it would also facilitate an efficient exchange of information between States Parties and, in particular, between Central Authorities under the 1980 Convention.

35. In preparation for the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission, States Parties to the 1980 Convention have been invited to complete or to update their Country Profile.³⁶ To date, 62 States (of 98 Contracting Parties to the Convention) have submitted their Country Profile, which are available on the Hague Conference website.³⁷

36. In Question 14.1.a. of the 1980 Questionnaire,³⁸ States were asked to provide comments or reflections on the Country Profile. While a vast majority of respondents acknowledged the usefulness of Country Profiles with regard to the daily operation of the Convention, several States also stressed that the information provided in the responses to the Country Profile was not always complete and / or up-to-date.³⁹ In order to ensure that the information provided in the Country Profile is up-to-date, it was for instance suggested that States provide the Permanent Bureau with an update to their Country Profile on an annual basis.⁴⁰

37. Consideration ought to be given to enhancing the existing Country Profile available under the Child Abduction Section by developing an electronic Country Profile (“e-Country Profile”) in the form developed under the *Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and the Hague Protocol of 23 November 2007 on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations* (the “2007 Convention”).

38. In a similar fashion to the e-Country Profile under the 2007 Convention, the development of an e-Country Profile under the 1980 Convention would facilitate, *inter alia*, information exchange between States Parties as well as prompt updates of the information provided. Such improvements would contribute to enhance the effective operation of the 1980 Convention.

39. The development of an e-Country Profile would likewise assist the Permanent Bureau in quickly extracting and gathering information from the responses to the Country Profile. Responses to the Country Profile are a valuable source of information for the Permanent Bureau and it is therefore important that this information can be retrieved in a swift and cost-effective manner. The Permanent Bureau would thus like to invite the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission to consider the possibility of developing an e-Country Profile under the 1980 Convention, subject to available resources.

³⁵ See “Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Special Commission to review the operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* and the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition and Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (30 October – 9 November 2006)”, atC&R No 1.1.11, available on the Hague Conference website at < www.hcch.net > under “Child Abduction Section” then “Special Commission meetings” and “Fifth Special Commission meeting (November 2006)”.

³⁶ See the 1980 Questionnaire.

³⁷ Available at < www.hcch.net > under “Child Abduction Section” then “Country Profiles”.

³⁸ See the 1980 Questionnaire.

³⁹ See, e.g., the responses of Australia and New Zealand to Question 14.1.a. of the 1980 Questionnaire.

⁴⁰ See the response of Japan to Question 14.1.a. of the 1980 Questionnaire.

7. More regular meetings of the IHNJ (Prel. Doc. No 6, Item Nos 108, 111, 112 and 119 and Info. Docs Nos 1-6)

40. The value of judicial conferences and seminars has been recognised repeatedly at past Special Commissions, most recently at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission, which re-emphasised:

“the importance of interdisciplinary judicial conferences and seminars and the contribution they make to the effective functioning of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions. The Special Commission encourages States to support and provide continued funding for such meetings and other meetings in support of the consistent application of the Conventions”.⁴¹

41. Additionally, global meetings of the IHNJ held since the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission have underlined the importance of meetings of the IHNJ, and recommended more regular meetings of the Network in the future. The 2013 Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ, held at Cumberland Lodge, United Kingdom, acknowledged in its Conclusions and Recommendations:

“the value of this meeting and its successful outcome and notes the desirability of convening regular meetings of Members of the IHNJ (for example, in connection with Special Commission meetings to review the Hague Children’s Conventions). The next meeting of the IHNJ must take place before the next Special Commission meeting on the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions”.⁴²

42. The 2015 meeting of the IHNJ held in China, Hong Kong SAR, likewise acknowledged:

“the value of this meeting and its successful outcome and note[d] the desirability of convening regular meetings of members of the IHNJ (e.g., in connection with Special Commission meetings to review the Hague Children’s Conventions)”.⁴³

43. The Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission may wish to consider whether it would like to encourage more regular meetings of the IHNJ, for example held annually, with the attendance of the maximum number of members of the IHNJ facilitated, subject to available supplementary resources.

44. The 2013 meeting at Cumberland Lodge and the 2015 meeting of the IHNJ in Hong Kong, attended by 50 members of the IHNJ from 40 States, and 30 members of the IHNJ from 19 States, respectively, were enabled, in part, by the generous funding by governmental bodies in the respective host jurisdictions, as well as supplementary funding from other bodies or States.⁴⁴ Funding limitations, however, prevented some members of the IHNJ from attending these conferences.

C. Conclusion

45. Based on the past Conclusions and Recommendations of Meetings of the Special Commission, the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Hague Conference, and responses of Contracting States to the recent Questionnaires, strong support is evidenced for the continued provision of the range of services described above. Due to their affirmed importance for the basic operation and implementation of the 1980 and 1996 Conventions, the Special

⁴¹ See Table of Conclusions and Recommendations, Item No 119; see also Item Nos 108, 111 and 112.

⁴² See C&R No 32 of the Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ.

⁴³ See C&R No 35 of the meeting of the IHNJ (Hong Kong, 2015).

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, C&R No 37: “The meeting expresses its sincere gratitude to the People’s Republic of China, including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and in particular the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for their generosity in hosting and financially enabling this conference. Thanks are also extended to the University of Hong Kong for providing facilities conducive to a successful conference.” See also C&R No 34 of the Conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the IHNJ: “The conference expresses its sincere gratitude to: a. the Judicial Office for England and Wales, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, UNICEF and the State Department of the United States of America for funding this conference; and b. the Office of the Head of International Family Justice (Edward Bennett and Karen Wheller) and the Judicial Office for England and Wales (Maria Wright and Emma Courtman) for organising this conference.”

Commission is invited to suggest that INCADAT, INCASTAT and the (e)Country Profiles should now be considered to be part of the regular operations budget of the Organisation (representing work likely equivalent to 1.5 of a Full Time Employee (FTE)). Where additional resources are needed, the Special Commission may wish to encourage the allocation or seeking of additional funds from a variety of sources. The *Regulations on Financial Matters and Budgetary Practices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law*, adopted in 2016, clarify a framework by which the Organisation can accept voluntary contributions from various sources.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ The Permanent Bureau may accept voluntary contributions “provided that they are to be used for a subject matter falling within the mandate of the Conference, including the work of the Permanent Bureau and its activities”, under Art. 17(1) of the *Regulations on Financial Matters and Budgetary Practices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law* developed by the Working Group on Financial Matters and Budgetary Practices and subsequently approved by Members on 26 November 2015. The Regulations entered into force on 1 January 2016. Further conditions for acceptance of voluntary contributions are set out in Art. 17(2) to (4).

Principal activities related to the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions

February 2012 – September 2017

A) The Hague Permanent Bureau (PB)

Date	Location	Name of seminar / activity	Convention(s)
December 2012	Moscow, Russian Federation	Conference on EU Project "Implementation and Application of the 1980 Hague Convention on Child Abduction in Russia"	1980
June 2013	Brussels, Belgium	EuroMed Justice III Intermediate Regional Conference	1980 and 1996
September 2013	PB	Information session with members of the Central Authority of Norway on the operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention	1980
October 2013	Tunis, Tunisia	Tunis Regional Seminar	1980 and 1996
August 2014	Pristina, Kosovo	Twinning Project "Strengthening International Legal Cooperation"	
December 2014	PB	Information session with members of the Central Authority of Denmark on the operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention	1980
March 2015	Barcelona, Spain	Euromed Justice III Project Final Conference	1980 and 1996
May 2015	PB	Information session with judges from Japan on the operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention	1980
September 2015	Abu Dhabi, UAE	International Parental Child Abduction Symposium	1980
October 2015	PB	Information session with officials from Indonesia on the implementation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention	1980
May 2016	Kathmandu, Nepal	UNICEF Child Protection network meeting in South Asia – Hague Conventions	1980 and 1996
October 2016	PB	Delegation from the Ministry of justice of Armenia / to discuss the revision of implementation legislation in Armenia for the 1980 Child Abduction Convention	1980
September 2016	PB	Delegation from the Ministry of justice of Georgia / to provide technical assistance on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention	1980
September 2016	New Delhi, India	Symposium on the Hague Children's Conventions Annual IAFL Meeting	1980 and 1996
Nov – Dec 2016	Tunis, Tunisia	IRZ Conference	
January 2017	Berlin, Germany	LEPCA II Project Advanced Training for International Child Abduction Lawyers: The Blended Training	1980
July 2017	PB	Delegation from the Ministry of justice of Armenia + IRZ representative / to provide technical assistance on the 1980 and 1996 Conventions (presentations + discussion of case scenarios)	1980 and 1996

July 2017	Luxembourg	EuroMed Justice IV Project Expert Meeting	1980 and 1996
September 2017	PB	Webinar on the 1996 Convention with UNICEF Officials from the South Asia region	1996
October 2017 (up-coming)	PB	Webinar on the 1980 Convention with UNICEF Officials from the South Asia region	1980

B) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

Date	Location	Name of Seminar / Activity	Convention
January 2012	Argentina	Meeting on child protection matters	1980 and 1996
April 2012	Mexico City, Mexico	Child abduction presentation (via videoconference) at the Third Meeting of the Mexican Judicial Network: "Mexico and the Hague Child Protection Conventions"	1980 and 1996
March 2012	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Workshop on child abduction	1980
May 2012	Brasilia, Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with various members of the judiciary and Hague Network Judges Interview with TV justicia (TV channel that deals with news and developments related to the judiciary) 	1980
May 2012	Brasilia, Brazil	"Second International Seminar on International Access to Justice and Free Legal Assistance"	1980
May 2012	Buenos Aires, Argentina	"Seminar on International Child Abduction"	1980
May 2012	Hamilton, Bermuda	Regional Seminar "The Work of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and its Relevance for the Caribbean Region and Bermuda – an Interactive Training Seminar"	1980
June 2012	San Jose, Costa Rica	Videoconference with Central Authority officials.	1980
June 2012	Antigua, Guatemala	"Second Meeting of the Central American Judicial Council"	1980 and 1996
June 2012	Guatemala City, Guatemala	Meeting with Supreme Court Magistrates and the head of the Child Protection Unit, and with officials from the Guatemalan Central Authority and UNICEF	1980 and 1996
August 2012	San Isidro, Argentina	"Seminar on International Child Abduction"	1980
October 2012	Asuncion, Paraguay	Meetings with the Vice President of the Supreme Court and with the National Secretary of Childhood and Adolescence	1980 and 1996
October 2012	Asuncion, Paraguay	Second "International Congress of operators responsible for the implementation of the rights of children and adolescents"	1980
October 2012	Bogota, Colombia	Meeting with various senior members of the judiciary and the Judicial Council	1980 and 1996
October 2012	Medellin, Colombia	"Training on International Family Law and International Legal Co-operation"	1980 and 1996

December 2012	San Jose, Costa Rica	Second presentation (via videoconference) for Central Authority officials on child abduction	1980
2012 (various months)	Nicaragua	Post-Convention Assistance for the development of an administrative and judicial Protocol for child abduction cases	1980
January 2013	Panama City, Panama	Meetings with various members of the judiciary and a Hague Network Judge, Central Authority officials, a member of a parliamentary commission on child protection and women's affairs, and UNICEF representatives	1980 and 1996
February 2013	Guatemala City, Guatemala	Meetings with a Hague Network Judge and Central Authority officials	1980
February 2013	Guatemala City, Guatemala	"International Child Abduction" - Judicial training	1980
February-March 2013	Antigua, Guatemala	"17 th Ibero-American Judicial Summit, First Working Group meeting on judicial co-operation"	1980 and 1996
May 2013	El Salvador, El Salvador	Meetings with the National Prosecutor and judges, child protection authorities and the head of the Treaties Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1980 and 1996
June 2013	Caracas, Venezuela	"First Congress on International Child Abduction"	1980
June 2013	Caracas, Venezuela	Meeting with the Head of the Consular Office.	1980 and 1996
August 2013	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Judicial training on International Child Abduction for Network Judges and mediators	1980
September 2013	Bogotá, Colombia	"17 th Ibero-American Judicial Summit, Working Group on Judicial Co-operation"	1980
September 2013	Montevideo, Uruguay	Judicial training on International Child Abduction	1980
September 2013	Mexico City, Mexico	Meetings with members of the judiciary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Authority for the 1980 Convention	1980 and 1996
September 2013	Guadalajara, Mexico	"36 th Annual Seminar of the Mexican Academy on Private International and Comparative Law (AMEDIP)"	1980 and 1996
October 2013	Brasilia, Brazil	Meetings with members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice	1980 and 1996
October 2013	Brasilia, Brazil	"Seminar on International Child Abduction"	1980 and 1996
October 2013	Asuncion, Paraguay	Training: "Application of the International Conventions on International Child Abduction"	1980
December 2013	Santiago, Chile	"Latin-American meeting on the international protection of children and the recovery of maintenance abroad"	1996

2013 (various months)	Guatemala	Post-Convention assistance for the development of a procedural regulation for child abduction cases	1980
March 2014	Managua, Nicaragua	Videoconference presentation on international child abduction	1980
March 2014	Panama City, Panama	Meeting with the National Organ and UNICEF	1996 and 1980
March 2014	Panama City, Panama	Judicial seminar on international child abduction	1996 and 1980
April 2014	Santiago, Chile	Meeting with academics, Ministry of Justice officials and members of the judiciary, including an International Hague Network Judge	1980 and 1996
April 2014	Santiago, Chile	17th Plenary Session of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit	1980 and 1996
April 2014	Florianopolis, Brazil	Judicial training	1980 and 1996
June 2014	Corrientes, Argentina	Judicial training	1980
July 2014	Washington DC, USA	Training Organisation of American States (OAS) Human Rights Commission staff	1980 and 1996
July 2014	Washington DC, USA	Meeting with OAS Human Rights Commissioners	1980 and 1996
August 2014	San Jose, Costa Rica	"1st Central American and Caribbean Congress on Family Law"	1980
August 2014	San Jose, Costa Rica	Meetings with members of the judiciary, Central Authority and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	1980 and 1996
August 2014	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Meetings with various senior judges, members of the International Hague Network of Judges and Ministry of Justice and Human Rights officials.	1980 and 1996
August 2014	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Training session with judges and officers from the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	1980
August 2014	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Training on child abduction	1980
November 2014	Porto Alegre, Brazil	"National Judicial Seminar on Child Abduction"	1980
December 2014	Quito, Ecuador	"17th Ibero-American Judicial Summit - First Meeting of the Working Group on international judicial cooperation"	1980 and 1996
December 2014	Quito, Ecuador	Meeting with the head of the Central Authority for 1980 and 1996 Convention	1980 and 1996
December 2014	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	Meeting of Central Authorities and Contact Points of "IberRed" on international child abduction	1980

February 2015	Panama City, Panama	"Seventh Plenary Session meeting of Contact Points and the Ibero-American Network of International Legal Cooperation"	1980
February 2015	Guatemala, Guatemala	Meeting with Supreme Court Magistrates, Central Authority officials and a Hague Network Judge	1980 and 1996
April 2015	Lima, Peru	Working meeting with judges and prosecutors appointed to deal with child abduction cases	1980
April 2015	Lima, Peru	Meeting with officials from the National Organ and the Central Authority under the 1980 Convention.	1980 and 1996
May 2015	Apurimac, Peru	Videoconference presentation on judicial training	1980
May 2015	Santiago, Chile	Videoconference discussion on the implementation of the 1996 Convention (together with Central Authority of Uruguay)	1996
May 2015	Córdoba, Argentina	Training on child abduction	1980 and 1996
May 2015	Bogotá, Colombia	"17 th Ibero-American Judicial Summit – Working Group on Judicial Co-operation"	1980 and 1996
May 2015	Bogotá, Colombia	Meeting with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the head of the Central Authority under the 1980 Convention and a Hague Network Judge	1980 and 1996
May 2015	Bogotá, Colombia	"18 th Ibero-American Judicial Summit, Second Meeting of the Working group on International Judicial Cooperation"	1980 and 1996
June 2015	Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago	Regional meeting "International Family Law, Legal Co-operation and Commerce: Promoting Human Rights and Cross-Border Trade in the Caribbean through the Hague Conference Conventions"	1980 and 1996
August 2015	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Training for the Center for Justice and International Law	1980
September 2015	Panama City, Panama	Meeting with the head of the Central Authority and Hague Network Judge	1980 and 1996
September 2015	Panama City, Panama	"18 th Ibero-American Judicial summit, Third Meeting of the Working Group on International Judicial Cooperation"	1980 and 1996
November 2015	Washington, US	Meeting with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States	1980 and 1996
November 2015	Santiago, Chile	Meeting with Minister of Justice and various other Government officials, and the President of the Supreme Court	1980 and 1996
November 2015	Brasilia, Brazil	Meeting with Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1980 and 1996
November 2015	Brasilia, Brazil	Judicial training on Hague Conventions	1980 and 1996
December 2015	Bariloche, Argentina	Judicial training	1980

2015 (various months)	Nicaragua	Post-Convention Assistance for the revision of the 2012 administrative and judicial Protocol for child abduction cases	1980
May 2016	La Plata, Argentina	Seminar "The 1996 Hague Convention: Global and Regional Perspectives - Its impact in Argentina in accordance with the National Civil and Commercial Code"	1996
May 2016	Havana, Cuba	Meetings with officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice	1980 and 1996
May 2016	Havana, Cuba	"8th Congress on Justice and Law"	1980 and 1996
July 2016	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, representatives from other governmental bodies dealing with matters of child protection, and various senior judges, including a Hague Network Judge	1980 and 1996
July 2016	Georgetown, Guyana	Regional meeting: "International Family Law, Legal Co-operation and Commerce: promoting human rights and cross-border trade in the Caribbean through the Hague Conventions"	1980 and 1996
July 2016	Dominican Republic	Interinstitutional meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Child Protection Authority. Meeting with various senior members of the judiciary (including a Hague Network Judge), and Central Authority officials	1980 and 1996
July 2016	Paramaribo, Suriname	Meeting with representatives from the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice.	1980 and 1996
July 2016	Georgetown, Guyana	Meetings with the President, the Attorney General, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a senior official from the Ministry of Social Protection	1980 and 1996
July 2016	Antigua, Guatemala	"Fifth Iber-Red meeting of contact points on Child Abduction"	1980 and 1996
August 2016	Panama	"Central American and Caribbean Family Law Congress"	1980 and 1996
August 2016	Lima, Peru	Meeting with the head of the National Organ and the head of the Central Authority under the 1980 Convention	1980 and 1996
August 2016	Bogotá, Colombia	Judicial training on child abduction	1980
August 2016	Panamá City, Panamá	"Second Central-American Congress on Family Law: The application of alternative dispute resolution methods to child abduction cases"	1980
August 2016	Bogotá, Colombia	Training on child abduction	1980
October 2016	Sint Maarten	Meetings with various senior members of the judiciary, including a Hague Network Judge, and the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, as well as representatives from the Ministry of	1980 and 1996

		Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Youth	
October 2016	Philipsburg , Sint Maarten	"4th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration (CALCA)"	1980 and 1996
November 2016	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Seminar "Challenges of International Child Abduction"	1980 and 1996
November 2016	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Workshop - Meeting of the National Network of Judges specialised in child abduction cases	1980
November 2016	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Private International Law in Integrated Markets Event: "The Judges' prominence in framing international cases and the development of private international law"	1980 and 1996
November 2016	Santiago, Chile	Meeting with Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, and members of the Central Authority	1980 and 1996
November 2016	Santiago, Chile	"Annual meeting of the Chilean PIL Association (ADIPRI)"	1980 and 1996
November 2016	Santiago, Chile	Judicial seminar	1980 and 1996
2016	Argentina	Post-Convention Assistance for the development of a judicial Protocol for child abduction cases	1980
March 2017	Buenos Aires City, Argentina	Videoconference on Child Abduction at the US Embassy	1980
March 2017	Panama City, Panama	"International Seminar on International Child Abduction"	1980 and 1996
March 2017	Panama City, Panama	"2 nd Inter-American Meeting of Central Authorities and International Hague Network Judges on International Child Abduction"	1980 and 1996
June 2017	Buenos Aires City, Argentina	Presentation on Child Abduction at the Canadian Embassy	1980
July 2017	Kingston, Jamaica	Meetings with members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Office of the Children's advocate, Victim Support Department; the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency; the Bar Association and the Child Development Agency (Central Authority)	1980 and 1996
July 2017	Bogotá, Colombia	Meetings with various senior members of the judiciary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, parliamentary representatives, representatives from the President's Office, a prosecutor specialising in child protection and the Central Authority under the 1980 and 1993 Conventions	1980 and 1996
July 2017	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Meeting with representatives from the Child Protection Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office	1980 and 1996
July 2017	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	HCCH Child Protection event	1980 and 1996
July-August 2017	San José, Costa Rica	"Central American Judicial Seminar on the Hague Conventions"	1980 and 1996
August 2017	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	"Seventh Journal of Private International Law Conference"	1980 and 1996

August 2017	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Meeting with Head of Central Authority	1980 and 1996
August 2017	Caracas, Venezuela	Videoconference presentation at the Second Congress on International Child Abduction	1980
August 2017	Nassau, The Bahamas	Meeting with the Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and a Hague Network Judge.	1980 and 1996
August 2017	Managua, Nicaragua	Meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Family, a Hague Network Judge, the President of the Supreme Court and other senior judges, as well as the Central Authority under the 1980 and 1996 Conventions	1980 and 1996
August 2017	Managua, Nicaragua	Lecture and completion of the first diploma course on international child abduction	1980
2017 (various months)	Costa Rica	Post-Convention assistance for the development of an administrative Protocol for child abduction cases	1980

C) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

2013 - present

Date	Location	Name of Seminar / Activity	Convention
May 2014	Beijing, China	"Cross-border Family Matters and the Well-being of the Child: Asia Pacific Perspectives"	1980
June 2015	Macao SAR, China	"Towards the wellbeing of the Child through the Hague Child Abduction and Child Protection Conventions: An Asia Pacific Symposium"	1980
November 2015	Hong Kong SAR	Meeting of the International Hague Network of Judges	1980
June 2016	Tokyo, Japan	Asia Pacific Symposium on the 1980 Hague Convention	1980
September 2016	New Delhi, India	International Academy of Family Lawyers Annual Meeting	1980
September 2016	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting with the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Director of the Rights and Liberties Protection Department	1980
September 2016	Singapore	"Symposium on Cross-border Disputes Involving Children – Perspectives on Family Disputes Involving Children in a Globalised Society"	1980 and 1996
July 2017	Seoul, Korea	HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2017	1980 and 1996
September 2017	Manila, Philippines	14 TH Philippine Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services	1980 and 1996
September 2017	Manila, Philippines	Meeting with various senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines	1980
September 2017	Manila, Philippines	Meetings with the head of American Citizens Services, Meeting with members of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Philippines	1980 and 1996
September 2017	Manila, Philippines	Meeting with various senior officials from the Department of Justice	1980

September 2017	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and presentation on the 1980 Convention (tentative)	1980
October 2017 (up-coming)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Expert Roundtable Discussion on the 1980 Hague Convention	1980
December 2017 (up-coming)	Tokyo, Japan	Tokyo Seminar on the 1980 Hague Convention for Asia Pacific	1980