

COUNTRY PROFILE

1993 HAGUE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION CONVENTION¹

STATE OF ORIGIN

COUNTRY NAME: LESOTHO

PROFILE UPDATED ON: 16TH FEBRUARY 2026

PART I: CENTRAL AUTHORITY

1. Contact details ²	
Name of office:	LESOTHO CENTRAL AUTHORITY
Acronyms used:	LCA
Address:	P/ BAG A222
Telephone:	00266 22314099
Fax:	00266 22310456
E-mail:	linkeng.khubetsoana@gov.ls
Website:	
Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):	LINKENG KHUBETSOANA AND MOOKHO MOTHEO. 00266 62730839, 00266 63604757 ENGLISH LANGUAGE
<i>If your State has designated more than one Central Authority, please provide contact details for the further Central Authorities below and specify the territorial extent of their functions.</i>	
N/A	

¹ Full title: the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (referred to as the “1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention” or the “1993 Convention” in this Country Profile). Please note that any reference to “Articles” (or Art. / Arts for short) in this Country Profile refers to Articles of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention.

² Please verify whether the contact details on the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net > under “Intercountry Adoption Section” then “Central Authorities” are up to date. If not, please e-mail the updated contact information to < secretariat@hcch.net >.

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

2. The 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention and domestic legislation	
<p>a) When did the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention enter into force in your State?</p> <p><i>This information is available on the Status Table for the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention (accessible via the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >).</i></p>	DECEMBER, 2012
<p>b) Please identify the legislation / regulations / procedural rules which implement or assist with the effective operation of the 1993 Convention in your State. Please also provide the date of their entry into force.</p> <p><i>Please remember to indicate how the legislation / regulations / rules may be accessed: e.g., provide a link to a website or attach a copy. Where applicable, please also provide a translation into English or French if possible.</i></p>	CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND WELFARE ACT, 2011, ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE POLICY, 2013, STANDARDS OF CARE GUIDELINES.

3. Other international agreements on intercountry adoption³	
<p>Is your State party to any other international (cross-border) agreements concerning intercountry adoption?</p> <p><i>See Art. 39.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regional agreements (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral agreements (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-binding memoranda of understanding (please specify): MEMORANDA WITH CANADA, USA AND NETHERLANDS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

PART III: THE ROLE OF AUTHORITIES AND BODIES

4. Central Authority(ies)	
<p>Please briefly describe the functions of the Central Authority(ies) designated under the 1993 Convention in your State.</p> <p><i>See Arts 6-9 and Arts 14-21 if accredited bodies are not used.</i></p>	<p>-supervise and monitor accredited bodies.</p> <p>-ensures that adoption of a child outside the country is done if no appropriate placement or adoption within the extended family is possible.</p>

³ See Art. 39(2) which states: "Any Contracting State may enter into agreements with one or more other Contracting States, with a view to improving the application of the Convention in their mutual relations. These agreements may derogate only from the provisions of Articles 14 to 16 and 18 to 21. The States which have concluded such an agreement shall transmit a copy to the depositary of the Convention" (emphasis added).

	<p>-ensures that appropriate matching of a child an adoptive family has been done in in the best interests of the child.</p> <p>-ensure that costs involved in processing the adoption are reasonable and do not lead profiteering and trafficking in children. e.t.c</p>
--	---

5. Public and competent authorities	
<p>Please briefly describe the role of any public and / or competent authorities, including courts, in the intercountry adoption procedure in your State.</p> <p><i>See Arts 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 22, 23 and 30.</i></p>	<p>-After the accredited bodies' representatives received the dossiers, they make reports which are then submitted to the Central Authority.</p> <p>- The reports are then checked by the Central Authority for compliance. The report is given to the applicant's legal representative who will then use the report to support the adoption application to court.</p> <p>-Then if the courts are satisfied that the application is in order, the adoption is granted. Then accredited bodies take the court order to the Ministry of Home Affairs to apply for travel documents for an adopted child</p>

6. National accredited bodies⁴	
<p>a) Has your State accredited its own adoption bodies?</p> <p><i>See Arts 10-11.</i></p> <p>N.B. the name(s) and address(es) of any national accredited bodies should be communicated by your State to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference (see Art. 13).⁵</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – <u>go to Question 7</u></p>
<p>b) Please indicate the number of national accredited bodies in your State, including whether this number is limited and, if so, on what basis.⁶</p>	N/A
<p>c) Please briefly describe the role of national accredited bodies in your State.</p>	N/A
6.1 The accreditation procedure (Arts 10-11)	
<p>a) Which authority / body is responsible for the accreditation of national adoption bodies in your State?</p>	THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

⁴ "National accredited bodies" in this Country Profile means adoption bodies based within your State (State of origin) which have been accredited under the 1993 Convention by the competent authorities in your State. See further *Guide to Good Practice No 2 on Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies* (hereinafter "GGP No 2"), available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net > at Chapters 3.1 *et seq.*

⁵ See GGP No 2, *ibid.*, Chapter 3.2.1 (para. 111).

⁶ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 3.4.

b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting accreditation and the most important accreditation <i>criteria</i> .	
c) For how long is accreditation granted in your State?	
d) Please briefly describe the criteria and the procedure used to determine whether the accreditation of a national adoption body will be <i>renewed</i> .	
6.2 Monitoring of national accredited bodies⁷	
a) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise national accredited bodies in your State? <i>See Art. 11 c).</i>	- LCA
b) Please briefly describe how national accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in your State (<i>e.g.</i> , if inspections are undertaken, how frequently).	We do not have accredited bodies, instead we have countries' representatives.
c) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the accreditation of bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	- It is revoked if the accredited body does not comply with the set standards.
d) If national accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions (<i>e.g.</i> , fine, withdrawal of accreditation): -The body that does not comply with the 1993 Convention is fined a certain amount of money <input type="checkbox"/> No

7. Authorised foreign accredited bodies⁸ (Art. 12)	
a) Has your State authorised any foreign accredited adoption bodies to work with, or in, your State? N.B. <i>the name(s) and address(es) of any authorised foreign accredited bodies should be communicated by your State to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 8
b) Please indicate the number of foreign accredited bodies authorised to work with, or in, your State. If this number is limited in any way, please indicate on what basis your State limits the number. ⁹	Three
c) Please briefly describe the role of authorised foreign accredited bodies in your State.	- THEY TAKE CARE OF THE MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR THE CHILDREN PROPOSED FOR THEIR STATES.

⁷ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 7.4.

⁸ "Authorised foreign accredited bodies" are adoption bodies based in another Contracting State to the 1993 Convention (usually a receiving State) which your State has authorised, under Art. 12, to work with, or in, your State on intercountry adoption. See further GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 4.2.

⁹ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 4.4 on "limiting the number of accredited bodies authorised to act in States of origin".

	- THEY ALSO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE BIRTH CERTICATES AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN WHICH BEAR THE NAMES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS.
<p>d) Are there any requirements concerning the way foreign accredited bodies must operate in your State?</p> <p><i>Please tick any which apply.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> The foreign accredited body must establish an office in your State with a representative and professional staff (from the receiving State or from your State – please specify): OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The foreign accredited body must work with your State through a representative, acting as an intermediary, but an office is not required: OR <input type="checkbox"/> The foreign accredited body must be in direct contact with the Central Authority but need not have an office or a representative in your State: OR <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
7.1 The authorisation procedure	
a) Which authority / body in your State is responsible for the authorisation of foreign accredited bodies?	MINISTRY OF GENDER, YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting authorisation and the most important authorisation <i>criteria</i> . ¹⁰ If your State does not have authorisation criteria, please explain on what basis decisions concerning authorisation are made.	.
c) For how long is authorisation granted?	AS LONG AS A COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE IS INTERESTED.
d) Please briefly describe the criteria and procedure used to determine whether authorisation will be <i>renewed</i> .	N/A
7.2 Monitoring of authorised foreign accredited bodies	
a) Does your State monitor / supervise the activities of authorised foreign accredited bodies? ¹¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 8
b) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise the activities of authorised foreign accredited bodies?	LCA
c) Please briefly describe how the activities of authorised foreign accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in your State (<i>e.g.</i> , if inspections are undertaken, how frequently).	LC.A CHECKS THEIR REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR ADOPTION APPLICATION

¹⁰ In relation to authorisation criteria, please see GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapters 2.3.4.2 and 4.2.4.

¹¹ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 7.4 and, in particular, para. 290.

d) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the authorisation of foreign accredited bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	IF THEY DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE SET STANDARDS.
e) If authorised foreign accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions (<i>e.g.</i> , fine, withdrawal of authorisation): FINE <input type="checkbox"/> No

8. Approved (non-accredited) persons (Art. 22(2))¹²	
a) Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons <i>from your State</i> permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in your State? N.B. see Art. 22(2) and check whether your State has made a declaration according to this provision. You can verify this on the Status Table for the 1993 Convention, available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website. If your State has made a declaration according to Art. 22(2), the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference should be informed of the names and addresses of these bodies and persons (Art. 22(3)). ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, our State has made a declaration according to Article 22(2). Please specify the role of these approved (non-accredited) persons in your State: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons <i>from other Contracting States</i> permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in your State? N.B. see Art. 22(4) and check whether your State has made a declaration according to this provision. You can verify this on the Status Table for the 1993 Convention, available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the role of these approved (non-accredited) persons in your State: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, our State has made a declaration according to Article 22(4).

PART IV: THE CHILDREN PROPOSED FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

9. The profile of children in need of intercountry adoption	
Please briefly describe the general profile of the children usually in need of intercountry adoption in your State (<i>e.g.</i> , age, sex, state of health).	AGE,SEX.STATE OF HEALTH

10. The adoptability of a child (Art. 4 a))	
a) Which authority is responsible for establishing that a child is adoptable?	LCA

¹² See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 13.

¹³ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 13.2.2.5.

b) Which criteria are applied to determine whether a child is adoptable?	IF A CHILD IS IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION.
c) Please briefly describe the procedures used in your State to determine whether a child is adoptable (<i>e.g.</i> , search for the child's birth family). <i>N.B.</i> the issue of consent is dealt with at Question 12 below.	FAMILY REUNIFICATION

11. The best interests of the child and subsidiarity (Art. 4 b))	
a) Please briefly describe how your State ensures that the principle of subsidiarity is respected when undertaking intercountry adoptions (<i>e.g.</i> , through the provision of family support services, the promotion of family reunification and domestic alternative care solutions).	FAMILY REUNIFICATION, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
b) Which authority determines, after consideration of the subsidiarity principle, that an intercountry adoption is in a child's best interests?	LCA
c) Please briefly explain how that decision is reached (<i>e.g.</i> , whether there are specific legal criteria which are applied) and at what stage of the intercountry adoption procedure.	LCA BASES ITSELF ON THE COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE REPORT AFTER A COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE SUBMITS HIS REPORT TO THE LCA.

12. Counselling and consents (Art. 4 c) and d))	
a) According to your State's domestic legislation, please explain which person, institution or authority has to consent to the adoption of a child in the following scenarios – where: (i) Both parents are known; (ii) One parent is unknown or deceased; (iii) Both parents are unknown or deceased; (iv) One or both parents have been deprived of his / her / their parental responsibilities (<i>i.e.</i> , the rights and responsibilities which attach to being a parent). In each case, please remember to specify in which circumstances a <i>father</i> will have to consent to his child's adoption. Please also specify whether your answer would be different if any of the known parents had not yet reached the age of majority.	(i) BOTH PARENTS (ii) A LEGAL GUARDIAN (iii) A LEGAL GUARDIAN (iv) A LEGAL GUARDIAN. (v) IN ALL THE CASES FATHER WOULD HAVE TO GIVE CONSENT IF HE WAS AVAILABLE BUT NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR HIS CHILD. (vi) THE ANSWER WOULD BE DIFFERENT BE AS THE PARENTS WOULD NOT HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OG MAJORITY.
b) Please describe the procedure for: (i) counselling and informing the birth parents / family regarding the	(i) BIRTH PARENTS OR FAMILY ARE GIVEN AT LEAST THREE MONTHS WITHIN WHICH THEY BEING TOLD ABOUT EFFECTS OF ADOPTION AND OTHER RELEVANT THINGS.

consequences of a domestic / intercountry adoption; and (ii) obtaining their consent(s) to an adoption. ¹⁴	(ii) WHEN THEY HAVE UNDERSTOOD ADOPTION THEY ARE ADVISED TO WRITE A RELINQUISHING LETTER.
c) Does your State use the model form "Statement of consent to the adoption" developed by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference? <i>The model form is available on the Intercountry Adoption section of the Hague Conference website.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – please provide (or link to) any form(s) which your State uses for this purpose: WE ACCEPT RELINQUISHING LETTERS WITH A PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S STAMP.
d) Having regard to the age and degree of maturity of a child, please briefly describe how your State ensures that consideration is given to the child's wishes and opinions when determining whether an intercountry adoption should proceed. <i>See Art. 4 d) 2).</i>	IF THE CHILD IS AT LEAST TEN YEARS OF AGE, THE CHILD'S CONSENT TO THE ADOPTION HAS TO OBTAINED UNLESS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CHILD TO GRANT SUCH CONSENT.
e) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which a child's <u>consent</u> to an intercountry adoption is required in your State. Where the child's consent is required, please describe the procedure which is used to ensure that the child has been counselled and duly informed of the effects of the adoption. <i>See Art. 4 d) 1).</i>	WHERE THE CHILD IS TEN YEARS AND ABOVE

13. Children with special needs

a) In the context of intercountry adoption, please describe what is meant in your State by "children with special needs".	CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUDE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, AGE(children above the age of six), AND SIBLINGS AS THEY CANNOT BE SEPARATED.
b) What, if any, procedures does your State use to expedite the adoption of children with special needs?	ON THE MINUTES OF THE MATCHING PROCESS WHICH WE CIRCULATE TO THE CONTRACTING STATES, WE INCLUDE THAT WE HAVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN MATCHED AND THE NATURE OF THE SPECIAL NEED.

14. The preparation of children for intercountry adoption

Is there a special procedure in your State to prepare a child for an intercountry adoption?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details (e.g., the stage at which the preparation is undertaken, which persons / bodies are responsible for preparing the child and the methods used): ADOPTION PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO SENT THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS OR ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT THAT WILL MAKE THE ADOPTIVE CHILD TO FAMILIRISE HIMSELF
---	---

¹⁴ See also Part VIII below on "Simple and Full Adoption" and Art. 27 of the 1993 Convention.

	<p>WITH THEM OR SURROUNDINGS SO THAT HE CAN IDENTIFY WITH ANYTHING WHEN HE MOVES IN WITH THEM.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
--	---

15. The nationality of children who are adopted intercountry¹⁵	
<p>Are children who are nationals of your State and who are adopted intercountry permitted to retain their nationality?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It depends – please specify which factors are taken into consideration (<i>e.g.</i>, the nationality of the foreign resident prospective adoptive parents (“PAPs”), whether the child acquires the nationality of the receiving State): IT DEPENDS ON THE NATIONALITY OF THE FOREIGN RESIDENT “PAPS”.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, the child will never retain this nationality</p>

PART V: PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS (“PAPs”)

16. Limits on the acceptance of files	
<p>Does your State place any limit on the number of PAPs’ files which are accepted from receiving States?¹⁶</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the limit applied and the basis on which it is determined:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

17. Eligibility criteria for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State¹⁷	
<p>a) Do PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State have to fulfil any criteria concerning their relationship status(es)?</p> <p><i>Please tick any / all boxes which apply and indicate in the space provided whether any further conditions are imposed (e.g., duration of marriage / partnership / relationship, cohabitation).</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the following person(s) may apply in our State for an intercountry adoption:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married, heterosexual couples:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Married, same-sex couples:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples in a legally registered partnership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples in a legally registered partnership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples that have not legally formalised their relationship:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples that have not legally formalised their relationship:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single men:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single women:</p>

¹⁵ Regarding nationality, see further the *Guide to Good Practice No 1 on the implementation and operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention* (hereinafter, “GGP No 1”), available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](http://www.hcch.net) of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >, at Chapter 8.4.5.

¹⁶ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 3.4.2 and, in particular, para. 121.

¹⁷ *I.e.*, this section refers to the eligibility criteria for PAPs who are habitually resident in *another* Contracting State to the 1993 Convention and who wish to adopt a child who is habitually resident in *your* State: see further Art. 2 of the 1993 Convention.

	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No, there are no relationship status criteria for PAPs.
b) Are there any age requirements for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum age requirements: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum age requirements: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Difference in years required between the PAPs and the child: TWENTY-ONE <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Are there any <i>other</i> eligibility criteria which PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State must fulfil?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional / differing criteria must be met for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Couples must supply evidence of infertility: <input type="checkbox"/> For persons with children already (biological or adopted), there are additional criteria (please specify): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): PROVEN INTERGRITY AND HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD(except road traffic offence) <input type="checkbox"/> No

18. Preparation and counselling of PAPs (Art. 5 b))

Does your State require that PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State receive preparation and / or counselling concerning intercountry adoption <i>in the receiving State</i> ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please explain what kind of preparation is expected: WE REQUIRE THAT THEY SHOULD ATTEND PREPARATORY CAUSES WHEREBY THEY CAN LEARN ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE ADOPTED CHILDREN <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

PART VI: THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCEDURE

19. Applications

a) To which authority / body in your State does the adoption file of PAPs have to be submitted?	LCA
b) Please indicate which documents must be submitted with an application: <i>Please tick all which apply.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An application form for adoption completed by the PAPs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A statement of "approval to adopt" issued by a competent authority in the receiving State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A report on the PAPs including the "home study" and other personal assessments (see Art. 15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' passports or other personal identification documents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' birth certificates

	<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the birth certificates of any children living with the PAPs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of marriage, divorce or death certificates, as applicable (please specify in which circumstances): AS PROOF FOR THE ALLEGED STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the health of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the financial circumstances of the family (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): <input type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the employment status of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of no criminal record <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): please explain
<p>c) Is it compulsory in your State for an accredited body to be involved in an intercountry adoption procedure?¹⁸</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify whether it must be a <i>national</i> accredited body, a <i>foreign authorised</i> accredited body or whether it may be either of these accredited bodies. ¹⁹ Please also specify at which stage(s) of the procedure an accredited body must be involved (<i>e.g.</i> , for the preparation of the home study, for the submission of the adoption file to your State, for all stages of the procedure): IT IS A FOREIGN AUTHORISED ACCREDITED BODY. IT IS INVOLVED FOR ALL STAGES OF THE PROCEDURE. <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>d) Are any <i>additional</i> documents required if PAPs apply through an accredited body?</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney issued by the PAPs to the accredited body (<i>i.e.</i> , a written document provided by the PAPs to the accredited body in which the PAPs formally appoint the accredited body to act on their behalf in relation to the intercountry adoption): <input type="checkbox"/> A contract signed by the accredited body and the PAPs: <input type="checkbox"/> A document issued by a competent authority of the receiving State certifying that the accredited body may undertake intercountry adoptions: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>e) Please specify the language(s) in which any documents must be submitted:</p>	<p>ENGLISH</p>

¹⁸ See GGP No 1, *supra*, note 15, paras 4.2.6 and 8.6.6: "independent" and "private" adoptions are not consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Convention.

¹⁹ See the definitions provided at notes 4 and 8 above.

f) Do any of the required documents need to be legalised or apostilled?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify which documents: <input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 20
g) Is your State party to the <i>Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents</i> (the Hague Apostille Convention)? <i>This information is available on the Status Table for the Hague Apostille Convention (see the Apostille Section of the Hague Conference website).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the date of the entry into force of the Hague Apostille Convention in your State: <input type="checkbox"/> No

20. The report on the child (Art. 16(1) a))	
a) Who is responsible for preparing the report on the child?	IT IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN AUTHORISED ACCREDITED BODY.
b) Is a "standard form" used for the report on the child?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide a link to the form or attach a copy: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please indicate whether your State has any requirements concerning the information which should be included in the report on the child and / or the documentation which should be attached to it:
c) Does your State use the "Model Form – Medical Report on the Child" and the "Supplement to the general medical report on the child"? <i>See GGP No 1 – Annex 7, available here.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

21. The report on the PAPs (Art. 15(2))	
a) For how long is the report on the PAPs valid in your State?	FOR AS LONG AS THEY HAVE BEEN MATCHED WITH A CHILD
b) Once a report on PAPs is no longer valid, please indicate what steps must be taken to renew it. <i>E.g., does an updated report have to be submitted or is an entirely new report required? In either case, what is the procedure?</i>	N/A

22. Matching of the child and the PAPs (Art. 16(1) d) and (2))	
22.1 The authorities and the matching procedure	
a) Who is responsible for the matching of the child and the PAPs in your State?	LCA .

b) What measures are taken to ensure that the matching process is performed by an independent, duly qualified authority?	
c) What methodology is used for the matching in your State?	WE LOOK AT THE SPECIFICATIONS BY PAPS ON THE DOSSIERS
d) Is any preference given to PAPS who have a close connection with your State (e.g., nationals of your State who have emigrated to a receiving State)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
e) Who is responsible for notifying the receiving State of the matching?	THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE FOREIGN AUTHORISED ACCREDITED BODY
f) How does your State ensure that the prohibition on contact in Article 29 is respected?	WE ARE STRICT ABOUT THE LINE OF COMMUNICATION TO AVOID UNAUTHORISED CONTACT.
22.2 Acceptance of the match	
a) Does your State require that the matching be approved by the relevant authorities / bodies of the receiving State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details of the required procedure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) How much time is the receiving State given to decide whether to accept a match?	THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT, THEY DO NOT NORMALLY DELAY
c) If the relevant authorities / bodies of the receiving State and / or the PAPS refuse the match, what, if any, are the consequences in your State?	WE HAVE NOT HAD SUCH EXPERIENCE
22.3 Information following acceptance of the match	
Once the match has been accepted, do PAPS receive information regularly concerning the child and his / her development (i.e., during the remainder of the intercountry adoption procedure and prior to entrustment)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify who is responsible for providing this information: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Agreement under Article 17 c)	
a) Which competent authority / body agrees that the adoption may proceed in accordance with Article 17 c)?	THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOREIGN AUTHORISED ACCREDITED BODY
b) At what point in the adoption procedure is the Article 17 c) agreement given in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Our State sends the Article 17 c) agreement to the receiving State with the proposed match; OR <input type="checkbox"/> The receiving State must accept the match first and then our State will provide its Article 17 c) agreement; OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

24. Travel of the PAPs to your State²⁰	
a) In order to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State, is it mandatory for PAPs to travel to your State at any point?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, in which case please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At what stage(s) in the intercountry adoption procedure the PAPs must travel to your State: WHEN COMING TO COLLECT THE CHILD, AFTER EVERYTHING HAS BEEN FINALISED - How many trips are required to complete the intercountry adoption procedure: ONE - How long the PAPs need to stay for each trip: TWO WEEKS TO BOND WITH THE CHILD - Any other conditions: <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State permit an escort to be used to take the child to the adoptive parents in the receiving State in any circumstances?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in which circumstances: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

25. Entrustment of the child to the PAPs (Art. 17)	
<p>After the procedures in Article 17 have been completed, what is the procedure for the physical entrustment of the child to the PAPs?</p> <p>Please include an explanation of the procedures used to prepare the child for entrustment (e.g., counselling, visits with the PAPs, being in the temporary care of the PAPs for increasing periods).</p>	

26. Transfer of the child to the receiving State (Arts 5 c) and 18)	
a) Which documents does your State require in order for the child to be permitted to leave your State and travel to the receiving State (e.g., passport, visa, exit permit)?	BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND A PASSPORT
b) Which of the documents listed in response to Question 26 a) above does your State issue? Please list the documents including, in each case, which public / competent authority is responsible for issuing the document.	BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND PASSPORT ARE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
c) Other than the issuance of the documentation mentioned above, are there any other administrative or procedural matters which must be completed in order for the child to be permitted to leave your State and travel to the receiving State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

²⁰ See GGP No 1, *supra*, note 15, Chapter 7.4.10.

27. Final adoption decision and the Article 23 certificate	
a) In intercountry adoption cases, is the final adoption decision made in your State or in the receiving State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In our State – go to Question 27 c) <input type="checkbox"/> In the receiving State – go to Question 27 b)
b) Following the making of the final adoption decision in the receiving State: (i) Are any further steps required in your State to complete the procedure (e.g., obtaining a copy of the final adoption decision from the receiving State)? (ii) Which authority or body in your State should receive a copy of the Article 23 certificate issued by the receiving State?	(i) N/A (ii) N/A Go to Question 28
c) If the final adoption decision is made in your State, which competent authority: (i) Makes the adoption decision; and (ii) Issues the certificate under Article 23 of the 1993 Convention? N.B. According to Art. 23(2), the authority responsible for issuing the Art. 23 certificate should be formally designated at the time of ratification of / accession to the 1993 Convention. The designation (or any modification of a designation) should be notified to the depositary of the Convention. The answer to (ii) above should therefore be available on the Status Table for the 1993 Convention (under "Authorities"), available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website.	(i) LCA (ii) LCA
d) Does your State use the "Recommended model form – Certificate of conformity of intercountry adoption"? See GGP No 1 – Annex 7, available here .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Please briefly describe the procedure for issuing the Article 23 certificate. E.g., how long does it take to issue the certificate? Is a copy of the certificate always given to the PAPs? Is a copy sent to the Central Authority in the receiving State?	WE REQUEST THE DATES ON WHICH THE CHILD WAS ACCEPTED IN THE RECEIVING STATE AND WE WRITE IT DOWN IN THE CERTIFICATE TOGETHER WITH THE MATCHING DATE, IT SIGNED AND STAMPED. IT IS THEN GIVEN TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOREIGN AUTHORISED ACCREIDITED BODY.
28. Duration of the intercountry adoption procedure	
Where possible, please indicate the average time which it takes to: (i) Match a child who has been declared adoptable with PAPs for the purposes of an intercountry adoption;	(i) WE DO MATCHING QUARTERLY (ii) MINIMUM OF THREE MONTHS (iii) IT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO US

<p>(ii) Physically entrust a child to PAPs once a match has been accepted by the PAPs and approved by the relevant authorities / bodies in the receiving State, if applicable;</p> <p>(iii) Make a final adoption decision following the entrustment of a child to PAPs (if applicable in your State: <i>i.e.</i>, if the final adoption decision is made in your State and not in the receiving State).</p>	
--	--

PART VII: INTRA-FAMILY INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

29. Procedure for the intercountry adoption of a child who is a relative of the PAPs (“intra-family intercountry adoption”)	
<p>a) Please explain the circumstances in which an intercountry adoption will be classified as an “<i>intra-family intercountry adoption</i>” in your State. Please include an explanation of the degree of relationship which a child must have with PAPs to be considered a “relative” of those PAPs.</p>	<p>WE DO NOT HAVE INTRA-FAMILY IN OUR LEGISLATION BUT IN PRACTICE IT INCLUDES A SITUATION WHERE A CHILD IS ADOPTED BY ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. IT ONLY COVERS BLOOD RELATIONSHIP AND EXTENDED FAMILIES.</p>
<p>b) Does your State apply the procedures of the 1993 Convention to intra-family intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><i>N.B.</i> <i>If the child and PAPs are habitually resident in different Contracting States to the 1993 Convention, the Convention is applicable, irrespective of the fact that the child and PAPs are related: see further GGP No 1 at para. 8.6.4.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – go to Question 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in general, although there are some differences in the procedures for intra-family intercountry adoptions – please specify: . Go to Question 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 29 c)</p>
<p>c) If your State does not apply the Convention procedures to intra-family intercountry adoptions, please explain the laws / rules / procedures which are used in relation to:</p> <p>(i) The counselling and preparations which PAPs must undergo in the receiving State;</p> <p>(ii) The preparation of the child for the adoption;</p> <p>(iii) The report on the PAPs; and</p> <p>(iv) The report on the child.</p>	<p>(i)</p> <p>(ii)</p> <p>(iii)</p> <p>(iv)</p>

PART VIII: SIMPLE AND FULL ADOPTION²¹

30. Simple and full adoption	
<p>a) Is “full” adoption permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 21 below.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>

²¹ According to the 1993 Convention, a **simple** adoption is one in which the legal parent-child relationship which existed before the adoption is not terminated but a new legal parent-child relationship between the child and his / her adoptive parents is established. A **full** adoption is one in which the pre-existing legal parent-child relationship is terminated. See further Arts 26 and 27 and GGP No 1, *supra*, note 15, Chapter 8.8.8.

<p>b) Is "simple" adoption permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 21 below.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 31</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only (<i>e.g.</i>, for intra-family adoptions only) – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>c) If a "simple" adoption is to be undertaken in your State in an intercountry adoption case, does your State nonetheless usually seek the birth mother / family's consent(s)²² to a "full" adoption where this is in the child's best interests (<i>i.e.</i>, so that a "conversion" of the adoption may be undertaken in the receiving State if the other conditions in Art. 27(1) are fulfilled)?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1) b) and Art. 4 c) and d).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide details of how this is undertaken:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>d) How does your State respond to requests from receiving States to obtain the consent(s) of a child's birth mother / family²³ to the conversion of a "simple" adoption into a "full" adoption (in accordance with Art. 27) when the request is made many years after the original adoption?</p>	

PART IX: POST-ADOPTION MATTERS

31. Preservation of, and access to, information concerning the child's origins (Art. 30) and the adoption of the child	
<p>a) Which authority is responsible for preserving information concerning the child's origins, as required by Article 30?</p>	LCA
<p>b) For how long is the information concerning the child's origins preserved?</p>	FOR EVER
<p>c) Does your State permit the following persons to have access to information concerning the child's origins and / or information concerning the adoption of the child:</p> <p>(i) the adoptee and / or his / her representative(s);</p> <p>(ii) the adoptive parents;</p> <p>(iii) the birth family; and / or</p> <p>(iv) any other persons?</p> <p>If so, are there any criteria which must be met for access to be granted (<i>e.g.</i>, age of the adopted child, consent of the birth family to the release of information concerning the child's origins, consent of the adoptive parents to the release of information concerning the adoption)?</p>	<p>(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: WE GIVE THE INFORMATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOREIGN AUTHORISED ACCREDITED BODY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(ii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: INFORMATION IS GIVEN THROUGH THE REPRESENTATIVE.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iv) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

²² Or other person(s) whose consent to the adoption is required under Art. 4 c) and d) of the 1993 Convention.

²³ *Ibid.*

<i>See Art. 9 a) and c) and Art. 30.</i>	
d) Where access to such information is provided, is any counselling or other guidance / support given in your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: GUIDANCE IS GIVEN ON REQUEST. <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Once access to such information has been provided, is any <i>further</i> assistance offered to the adoptee and / or others (e.g., regarding making contact with his / her biological family, tracing extended family)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: TRACING EXTENDED FAMILY <input type="checkbox"/> No

32. Post-adoption reports	
a) Is there a model form which is used by your State for post-adoption reports?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify whether use of the form is mandatory and indicate where it may be accessed (e.g., provide a link or attach a copy): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – in which case, please specify the content expected in a post-adoption report (e.g., medical information, information about the child’s development, schooling): WE DO NOT HAVE A MODEL FORM AS THE FOLLOW UPS ARE DONE BY THE RECEIVING STATES AND WE RECEIVE THE REPORTS FROM.
b) What are the requirements of your State in relation to post-adoption reports? Please indicate: (i) How frequently such reports should be submitted (e.g., every year, every two years); (ii) For how long (e.g., until the child is a certain age); (iii) The language in which the report must be submitted; (iv) Who should write the reports; and (v) Any other requirements.	(i) EVERY SIX MONTHS FOR THREE YEARS AND YEARLY FOR TWO YEARS (ii) FOR FIVE YEARS (iii) ENGLISH (iv) THE FIRST THREE YEARS IT IS WRITTEN BY THE FOREGIN AUTHORISED ACCREDITED BODY AND THE LAST TWO YEARS ARE WRITTEN BY THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND MONITORED BY THE URGENCY OF THE RECEIVING STATE. (v) THERE ARE NONE
c) What, if any, are the consequences in your State if post-adoption reports are either: (i) Not submitted at all; or (ii) Submitted, but not in accordance with your requirements?	(i) THERE ARE NONE (ii) THIS MAY HOWEVER IMPACT ON THE MOU THE COUNTRY HAS WITH RECEIVING STATES
d) What does your State do with post-adoption reports? (i.e., to what use are they put?)	WE EVALUATE IF THE CHILDREN ARE STILL IN GOOD CONDITION AND ARE WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

PART X: THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION²⁴

²⁴ See the tools developed by the “Experts’ Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption”, available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website: i.e., the *Terminology on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* (“Terminology”), the *Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption*

States of origin are also kindly requested to complete the "Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption", available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website.

33. The costs²⁵ of intercountry adoption	
a) Are the costs of intercountry adoption regulated by law in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify any relevant legislation / regulations / rules and indicate how they may be accessed (e.g., link to a website or attach a copy). Please also briefly explain the legal framework: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State monitor the payment of the costs of intercountry adoption?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please briefly describe how this monitoring is undertaken: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
c) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your State paid through the accredited body involved in the particular intercountry adoption (if applicable – see Question 19 c) above) or directly by the PAPs themselves? <i>See the "Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption" at para. 86.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Through the accredited body: <input type="checkbox"/> Directly by the PAPs: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): N/A
d) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your State paid in cash or only by bank transfer? <i>See the "Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption" at para. 85.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Only by bank transfer: <input type="checkbox"/> In cash: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): N/A
e) Which body / authority in your State receives the payments?	N/A
f) Does your State provide PAPs (and other interested persons) with information about the costs of intercountry adoption (e.g., in a brochure or on a website)? N.B. Please also ensure that your State has completed the "Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption" (see above).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please indicate how this information may be accessed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

34. Contributions, co-operation projects and donations²⁶	
a) Is it mandatory for a receiving State (either through its Central Authority or authorised foreign accredited bodies) to pay a contribution ²⁷ to your State if	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of contribution is required:

("Note"), the *Summary list of good practices on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* and the *Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption*.

²⁵ See the definition of "costs" provided in the Terminology, *ibid*.

²⁶ See the definitions of these terms provided in the Terminology. In addition, on contributions and donations, see Chapter 6 of the Note, *supra*, note 24.

²⁷ See further the Terminology, *supra*, note 24, which states that there are two types of contributions: (1) contributions demanded by the State of origin, which are mandatory and meant to improve either the adoption system or the child protection system. The amount is set by the State of origin. These contributions are managed by the authorities or others appropriately authorised in the State of origin which decide how the funds will be used; (2) contributions demanded by the accredited body from PAPs. These contributions may be for particular

<p>it wishes to engage in intercountry adoption in your State?</p> <p><i>For good practices relating to contributions, see the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at Chapter 6.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is responsible for paying it (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority or the relevant authorised foreign accredited body): AUTHORISED FOREIGN ACCREDITED BODY. • How it is ensured that contributions do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: IT IS MONITORED AND SUPERVISED BY THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT . IT IS KEPT INTO THE MINISTRY'S ACCOUNT, DEVELOPMENT FUND. <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Are receiving States (either through their Central Authority or authorised foreign accredited bodies) permitted to undertake co-operation projects in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – it is a <i>mandatory</i> requirement for authorisation to be granted to a foreign accredited body.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – it is <i>permitted</i> but not required.</p> <p>In either of the above cases, please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of co-operation projects are permitted: • Who may undertake such projects (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority and / or authorised foreign accredited bodies): • Whether such projects are monitored by an authority / body in your State: • How it is ensured that co-operation projects do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) Does your State permit PAPs or authorised foreign accredited bodies to make donations to orphanages, institutions or birth families in your State?</p> <p><i>N.B. This is <u>not</u> recommended as a good practice: see further the "Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption" at Chapter 6 (in particular, Chapter 6.4).</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To whom may donations may be made (<i>e.g.</i>, to orphanages, other institutions and / or birth families): THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT • What donations are used for: TO DEVELOP LIVES THE VULNERABLE CHILDREN • Who is permitted to pay donations (<i>e.g.</i>, only authorised foreign accredited bodies or also PAPs): ANYBODY • At what stage of the intercountry adoption procedure donations are permitted to be paid: AT ANY TIME • How it is ensured that donations do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry

children's institutions (*e.g.*, for maintenance costs for the child) or for the co-operation projects of the accredited body in the State of origin. The co-operation projects may be a condition of the authorisation of that body to work in the State of origin. The amount is set by the accredited body or its partners. The payment may not be a statutory obligation and accredited bodies may present the demand in terms of "highly recommended contribution", but in practice it is "mandatory" for the PAPs in the sense that their application will not proceed if the payment is not made.

	<p>adoption process: DONATIONS MUST GO THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
--	--

35. Improper financial or other gain (Arts 8 and 32)	
a) Which authority is responsible for preventing improper financial or other gain in your State as required by the Convention?	IT IS THE MINSYTRY THROUGH LCA
b) What measures have been taken in your State to prevent improper financial or other gain?	THE DONATIONS ARE KEPT IN THE MINISTRY'S ACCOUNT
c) Please explain the sanctions which may be applied if Articles 8 and / or 32 are breached.	IMPRISONMENT

PART XI: ILLICIT PRACTICES²⁸

36. Response to illicit practices in general	
Please explain how your Central Authority and / or other competent authorities respond to intercountry adoption cases involving alleged or actual illicit practices. ²⁹	THERE ARE LAWS IN PLACE TO COMBAT ILLICIT PRACTICES.

37. The abduction, sale of and traffic in children	
a) Please indicate which laws in your State seek to prevent the abduction, sale of and traffic in children in the context of your State's intercountry adoption programmes. Please also specify which bodies / persons the laws target (e.g., accredited bodies (national or foreign), PAPs, directors of children's institutions).	CHILDREN PROTECTION AND WELFARE ACT 2011, ANTI-TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS ACT
b) Please explain how your State monitors respect for the above laws.	ADOPTION PROCEDURES ARE STRINGENT
c) If these laws are breached, what sanctions may be applied (e.g., imprisonment, fine, withdrawal of accreditation)?	IMPRISONMENT

²⁸ "Illicit practices" in this Country Profile refers to "situations where a child has been adopted without respect for the rights of the child or for the safeguards of the Hague Convention. Such situations may arise where an individual or body has, directly or indirectly, misrepresented information to the biological parents, falsified documents about the child's origins, engaged in the abduction, sale or trafficking of a child for the purpose of intercountry adoption, or otherwise used fraudulent methods to facilitate an adoption, regardless of the benefit obtained (financial gain or other)" (from p. 1 of the *Discussion Paper: Co-operation between Central Authorities to develop a common approach to preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption cases*, available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](http://www.hcch.net) of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >).

²⁹ *Ibid.*

38. Private and / or independent adoptions	
<p>Are private and / or independent adoptions permitted in your State?</p> <p>N.B. "Independent" and "private" adoptions are <u>not</u> consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Convention: see further GGP No 1 at Chapters 4.2.6 and 8.6.6.</p> <p>Please tick all which apply.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Private adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in your State:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in your State:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Neither</u> private nor independent adoptions are permitted</p>

PART XII: INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

39. The scope of the 1993 Convention (Art. 2)	
<p>a) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in your State, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: French national PAPs are habitually resident in Guinea and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in Guinea.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i> adoption in your State³⁰ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child from another Contracting State to the 1993 Convention, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: French national PAPs are habitually resident in Guinea and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in India.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) If nationals of your State, habitually resident in another Contracting State to the 1993 Convention, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in your State, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: Guinean national PAPs are habitually resident in Germany and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in Guinea.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i> adoption in your State³¹ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply: IT WILL BE TREATED AS INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

PART XIII: SELECTION OF PARTNERS FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION³²

40. Selection of partners

³⁰ According to the 1993 Convention (see Art. 2), this is a *domestic* adoption due to the fact that the habitual residence of the PAPs and the child is in the same Contracting State: see further, GGP No 1, *supra*, note 15, Chapter 8.4.

³¹ According to the 1993 Convention (see Art. 2), this is an *intercountry* adoption due to the differing habitual residences of the PAPs and the child (despite their common nationality). The Convention procedures, standards and safeguards should therefore be applied to such adoptions: see further, GGP No 1, *supra*, note 15, Chapter 8.4.

³² In relation to the choice of foreign States as partners in intercountry adoption arrangements, see further GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 3.5.

a) With which receiving States does your State currently partner on intercountry adoption?	USA, NETHERLANDS AND CANADA
b) How does your State determine with which receiving States it will partner? In particular, please specify whether your State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Convention. <i>To see which States are Contracting States to the 1993 Convention, please refer to the Status Table for the 1993 Convention (accessible via the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >).</i>	WE DETERMINE IF THEY ARE THE CONTRACTING STATES
c) If your State also partners with <i>non-Contracting States</i> , please explain how it is ensured that the safeguards of the 1993 Convention are complied with in these cases. ³³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: our State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Convention.
d) Are any formalities required in order to commence intercountry adoptions with a particular receiving State (e.g., the conclusion of a formal agreement ³⁴ with that receiving State)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain the content of any agreements or other formalities: ³⁵ <input type="checkbox"/> No

³³ See GGP No 1, *supra*, note 15, Chapter 10.3 regarding the fact that “[i]t is generally accepted that States Party to the Convention should extend the application of its principles to non-Convention adoptions”.

³⁴ See note 3 above concerning Art. 39(2) and the requirement to transmit a copy of any such agreements to the depositary for the 1993 Convention.

³⁵ *Ibid.*