

**LETTRE DU DIRECTEUR DES PROGRAMMES UNICEF CONCERNANT LE
PROGRAMME D'ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE EN MATIÈRE D'ADOPTION
INTERNATIONALE (DISPONIBLE EN ANGLAIS UNIQUEMENT)**

* * *

**LETTER FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF UNICEF CONCERNING THE
INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

*Document d'information No 11 d'avril 2012
à l'intention du Conseil d'avril 2012
sur les affaires générales et la politique de la Conférence*

*Information Document No 11 of April 2012
for the attention of the Council of April 2012
on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference*

United Nations Children's Fund
Three United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Telephone 212 326 7000
Facsimile 212 888 7465
212 888 7454
www.unicef.org

2 April 2012

Mr. Hans van Loon
Secretary General
Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on International Private Law
Scheveningseweg 6
2517 KT The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. van Loon:

On the occasion of the meeting of the General Council on Policy and General Affairs, we wish the Council a successful meeting.

It was with pleasure that UNICEF attended the November 2012 meeting of the "Working Group to Discuss Technical Assistance Provided by the Hague Conference on Private International Law". The Hague Conventions related to children are powerful instruments in strengthening systems for the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. They are relevant private law instruments in a contemporary world of never-before-seen, transnational child mobility.

UNICEF has worked closely with the Permanent Bureau in at least 51 of UNICEF's country offices over the past 5 years, as well as with Headquarters and Regional Offices. The focus of cooperation has been on the promotion and implementation of the Children's Conventions. UNICEF relies on the specific expertise of the Permanent Bureau with regard to these Conventions. Whether a State is a party to the Hague Conventions or not, laws and policies need encouragement and support to raise them to the highest possible standards. Law reform is but one part of those efforts. Investing in capacity building helps everyone, and most of all children and their families.

UNICEF appreciates the technical assistance provided by the Permanent Bureau, particularly acknowledging the "Inter-country Adoption Technical Assistance Programme". Technical assistance is necessary to support the implementation of the Hague Conventions to the benefit of all States. With the increase in membership to the Conventions, particularly from States that may not have the requisite infrastructure, there is a requirement for an expert resource pool that can be consistently drawn upon.

In the deliberations of the Council, we hope that the role of the provision of technical assistance by the Permanent Bureau is reflected upon positively. UNICEF strongly supports the provision of technical assistance by the Permanent Bureau and looks forward to our continued fruitful collaboration to protect children.

Sincerely,


Nicholas Alipui
Programme Director, UNICEF

unite for
children

unicef 