

Questionnaire

Name of State or territorial unit: ^[1]	United States
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For the purpose of the 13 to 15 February 2023 meeting of the EG, Members are invited to report on consideration given to and / or implementation of the following arrangements in their jurisdiction:

- a. Developments in general regarding the international transfer of maintenance funds:

OCSE is pleased to report that its Central Authority Payment (CAP) service has been successfully implemented and is currently in production for outgoing U.S. payments between two U.S. states (Georgia and Michigan) and Germany.

The CAP service, operated by OCSE, receives payments from participating U.S. states for foreign authorities that have enrolled in the service and consolidates those payments by destination foreign authority. The U.S. Department of Treasury's International Treasury Service (ITS) sends a single weekly electronic payment in the foreign authority's local currency to the foreign authority. OCSE's CAP service provides a secure data file, containing the case and payment details for each child support payment, to the foreign authority. This information enables the foreign authority to disburse the funds received to the appropriate child support creditors.

Over the next few months, the CAP service will work with additional U.S. child support agencies to help them enroll in CAP to send payments to Germany. Once that process has been completed, CAP will extend its services to manage payments to additional foreign authorities. OCSE will provide further enrollment information to Central Authorities at that time.

OCSE is grateful to the Central Authorities of Germany and Sweden for their assistance in the design and development of its CAP service.

- b. Elimination of the use of cheques (see Report and C&R 2022 No 1)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please see the response to (a) above. The CAP service provides a means for U.S. state child support agencies to transition from checks to electronic payments for outgoing international payments. Once the CAP service is implemented, OCSE expects the use of checks in

international payments from the United States to be reduced.

- c. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 10)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

The CAP service, described in paragraph (a), reduces the costs of child support payment transfers to foreign authorities by utilizing federal agencies for the transmission of funds. None of the federal agencies deduct fees or costs from the child support payments, and ITS converts payments to the currency of the foreign authority before sending them at a currency conversion rate beneficial for creditors. ITS uses well-established, high-volume methods to transmit the payments.

- d. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 11)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please see the responses above.](#)

- e. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see Report and C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please see the responses above.](#) CAP does not charge fees or costs to creditors or foreign authorities when sending payments, although fees may be charged by the receiving financial institution, outside the control of the U.S. Central Authority.

- f. Requesting Central Authority providing confirmation to the requested Central Authority that the amounts received are the same as the amounts sent and, where applicable, information on the reasons for any difference (see Report and C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Once CAP has confirmed that the payment has been sent, CAP provides a secure payment file to the foreign authority that includes the amount paid by the debtor in U.S. dollars and the converted amount. Using this information, the foreign authority can identify and resolve any payment discrepancies.](#)

- g. Establishment of a centralised point (e.g., bank account, central bank) for international transfers dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 4 and 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please see the response to paragraph \(a\) above.](#)

- h. Use of the possibilities afforded by the *Universal Postal Union Postal Payment Services Agreement* of 6 October 2016 (see Report and C&R 2022 No 4)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[The CAP service uses the processes established by the U.S. Department of Treasury for international electronic payments.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

- i. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see Report and C&R 2022 No 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[This is not considered a priority. Our primary objective is to support state child support](#)

agencies in the U.S. in transitioning from paper checks to electronic payments for outgoing payments to foreign authorities.

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

j. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see Report and C&R 2022 No 6)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[State child support agencies are responsible for monitoring payments; however, the CAP service will assist state agencies by providing information about payments transferred through the service.](#)

k. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested States, attached to each transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 No 7)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[The data file provided by CAP to the foreign authority contains the case and payment detail provided by the state child support agency for each payment using the child support specific National Automated Clearing House Association \(Nacha\) format.](#)

l. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see Report and C&R 2022 No 8)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please see the explanation of the CAP service in paragraph (a) above. Child support payments are converted into the destination foreign currency before they are transmitted.

- m. Provision of information about international banking to creditors and debtors (see Report and C&R 2022 No 12)

- Not being considered. Please explain:

State child support agencies provide relevant information to debtors and creditors concerning transmission of child support payments.

- Is being considered. Please explain:

- Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- n. Implementation of a legal framework enabling the Central Authority, acting both as requesting and requested Central Authority, to handle the transfer of funds – or at least major parts of the process – in as automated a manner as possible (see Report and C&R 2022 No 13)

- Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- Has already been implemented. Please explain:

The CAP service uses an automated system to support the international electronic transmission of funds on behalf of states, within the legal framework of U.S. law and policy.

- o. Implementation of an arrangement with banks that are transparent in relation to their fees and / or are part of the SWIFT Global Payment Initiative (GPI) (see Report and C&R 2022 No 14)

- Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

- Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please see the detailed response to paragraph (a) above. The process used by CAP includes payments through the SWIFT (wire payment) system. CAP does not charge fees to foreign authorities or creditors. Fees may be charged by the foreign receiving financial institution, but this is beyond the control of the U.S. Central Authority.

p. Would your State consider contributing to iSupport ITMF in terms of expertise and experience?

Yes

OCSE is willing to provide expertise and advice to iSupport ITMF as we have done for the iSupport project in the past.

No

Please insert text here

q. Any other developments in your State including bilateral solutions put in place between States and ongoing trials between States:

Once the CAP service has completed enrollment of interested U.S. states for transmitting payments with Germany, OCSE will provide additional information to foreign authorities about the process for enrolling with CAP to receive payments through the service.

Thank you!