

Country Profile for the 1993 Adoption Convention¹

Receiving State

COUNTRY NAME:

PROFILE UPDATED ON:

I. Central Authority(ies) designated by [name of your State]

1. Contact details²

Central Authority (Art. 6(1)) <i>Please also verify whether the contact details on the “Adoption Section” of the HCCH website www.hcch.net under “Central Authorities” are up to date. If not, please email the updated contact information to secretariat@hcch.net.</i>	
1.1. Name of the office (including acronyms used)	
1.2. Address:	
1.3. Telephone:	
1.4. Fax:	
1.5. Email:	
1.6. Website:	
1.7. Contact person 1	Direct contact details: Direct telephone: Direct email: Preferred language(s) of communication: Preferred method of communication: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Fax

¹ All HCCH documents on adoption mentioned in this document are available on the HCCH website at www.hcch.net under “Adoption Section”.

² Please also verify whether the contact details on the “Adoption Section” of the HCCH website www.hcch.net under “Central Authorities” are up to date. If not, please email the updated contact information to secretariat@hcch.net.

	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
1.8. Contact person 2 (if applicable)	Direct contact details: Direct telephone: Direct email: Preferred language(s) of communication: Preferred method of communication: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Other designated Central Authority(ies), if applicable (Art. 6(2))³	
1.9. Name of the office (including acronyms used)	
1.10. Address:	
1.11. Telephone:	
1.12. Fax:	
1.13. Email:	
1.14. Website:	
1.15. Contact person 1	Direct contact details: Direct telephone: Direct email: Preferred language(s) of communication: Preferred method of communication: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
1.16. Contact person 2 (if applicable)	Direct contact details: Direct telephone: Direct email: Preferred language(s) of communication: Preferred method of communication: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

³ This section will be expandable in order to allow for the inclusion of additional Central Authorities.

Last Update: [INSERT DATE]⁴

II. Relevant legislation in [name of your State]

2. The 1993 Adoption Convention and domestic legislation

<p>2.1. When did the 1993 Adoption Convention enter into force in [name of your State]?</p> <p><i>This information is available on the Status Table for the 1993 Adoption Convention (accessible via the Adoption Section of the HCCH website www.hcch.net).</i></p>	
<p>2.2. Please identify the legislation / regulations / procedural rules which implement or assist with the effective operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in [name of 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.</i></p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

3. Other international agreements on intercountry adoption⁵

<p>Is [name of your State] party to any other international (cross-border) agreements concerning intercountry adoption?</p> <p>See Art. 39.</p>	<p><input 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):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

⁴ This will be done automatically in the electronic format of the Country Profile.

⁵ 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 Arts 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).

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 Adoption Convention in [name of your State].</p> <p><i>See Arts 6-9 and Arts 14-21 if accredited bodies are not used.</i></p>	
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

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 [name of your State].</p> <p><i>See Arts 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 22, 23 and 30.</i></p>	
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

6. National accredited bodies⁶

<p>6.1. Has [name of your State] accredited its own adoption bodies?</p> <p><i>See Arts 10-11.</i></p> <p><i>N.B.</i> the name(s) and address(es) of any national accredited bodies should be communicated by your State to the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH (see Art. 13).⁷</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No - <u>go to Question 7</u></p>
<p>6.2. Please indicate the number of national accredited bodies in [name of your State], including whether this number is limited and, if so, on what basis.⁸</p>	
<p>6.3. Please briefly describe the role of national accredited bodies in [name of your State].</p>	
The accreditation procedure (Arts 10-11)	
<p>6.4. Which authority / body is responsible for the accreditation of national adoption bodies in [name of your State]?</p>	

⁶ "National accredited bodies" in this Country Profile means adoption bodies based within your State (receiving State) which have been accredited under the 1993 Adoption Convention by the competent authorities in your State. See further HCCH, *Guide to Good Practice No 2: Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies*, Bristol, Family Law (Jordan Publishing Limited), 2012 ([GGP No 2](#)), Chapters 3.1 et seq.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Chapter 3.2.1 (para. 111).

⁸ *Ibid.*, Chapter 3.4.

6.5.	Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting accreditation and the most important accreditation <i>criteria</i> .	
6.6.	For how long is accreditation granted in [name of your State]?	
6.7.	Please briefly describe the criteria and the procedure used to determine whether the accreditation of a national adoption body will be <i>renewed</i> .	
Monitoring of national accredited bodies⁹		
6.8.	Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise national accredited bodies in [name of your State]?	
	<i>See Art. 11(c).</i>	
6.9.	Please briefly describe how national accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in [name of your State] (e.g., if inspections are undertaken, how frequently).	
6.10.	Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the accreditation of bodies can be revoked (i.e., withdrawn).	
6.11.	If national accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Adoption Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions (e.g., fine, withdrawal of accreditation): <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]		

7. Authorisation of national accredited bodies to work in other Contracting States (Art. 12)¹⁰

The authorisation procedure		
7.1.	Which authority / body in [name of your State] is responsible for the authorisation of national accredited bodies to work with, or in, other Contracting States?	
7.2.	Is authorisation granted as part of the accreditation procedure or is a separate authorisation procedure undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted as part of the accreditation procedure. <input type="checkbox"/> A separate procedure is undertaken for authorisation.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Chapter 7.4.

¹⁰ In relation to authorisation of accredited bodies, *ibid.*, Chapter 4.2.

7.3. Is authorisation granted to national accredited bodies to work in <i>all</i> States of origin or must national accredited bodies apply for authorisation to work in specific, pre-identified State(s) of origin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted generally: once authorised, national accredited bodies are able to work in <i>all</i> States of origin. <input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted specifically: national accredited bodies must apply for authorisation to work in one or more pre-identified State(s) of origin.
7.4. Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting authorisation and the most important authorisation <i>criteria</i> . ¹¹ If [name of your State] does not have authorisation criteria, please explain on what basis decisions concerning authorisation are made. Please also explain whether [name of your State] has any criteria concerning how the national accredited body must establish itself in the State(s) of origin or whether this is left entirely to the requirements of the State of origin (e.g., requirements that the body must have a local representative in the State of origin, or must establish a local office).	
7.5. For how long is authorisation granted?	
7.6. Please briefly describe the criteria and procedure used to determine whether authorisation will be <i>renewed</i> .	
Monitoring the work of your authorised national accredited bodies in other Contracting States	
7.7. Please briefly describe how [name of your State] ensures that authorised national accredited bodies (including their representatives, co-workers and any other staff ¹² in the State of origin) are monitored / supervised by [name of your State] in relation to their work / activities <i>in the State of origin</i> .	
7.8. Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the authorisation of national accredited bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

8. Approved (non-accredited) persons (Art. 22(2))¹³

¹¹ In relation to authorisation criteria, *ibid.*, Chapters 2.3.4.2 and 4.2.4.

¹² For an explanation of the terminology used concerning the staff of the national accredited body working in the State of origin, *ibid.*, Chapters 6.3 and 6.4.

¹³ *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.

<p>Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in [name of your State]?</p> <p><i>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 Adoption Convention, available on the Adoption Section of the HCCH website.</i></p> <p><i>If your State has made a declaration according to Art. 22(2), the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH should be informed of the names and addresses of these bodies and persons (Art. 22(3)).¹⁴</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, [name of your State] has made a declaration under Article 22(2) and the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons is possible. Please specify their role:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

IV. The children proposed for intercountry adoption

9. The adoptability of a child (Art. 4(a))

<p>Does [name of your State] have its own criteria concerning the adoptability of a child (e.g., maximum age) which must be applied <i>in addition to</i> the requirements of the State of origin?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, there are no additional criteria concerning adoptability – the requirements of the State of origin are determinative.</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

10. The best interests of the child and subsidiarity (Art. 4(b))

<p>Does [name of your State] request information / evidence from the State of origin to satisfy itself that the State of origin has respected the principle of subsidiarity (<i>i.e.</i>, proof that family reunification was attempted, or that the possibility of in-country permanent family placements has been explored)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

11. Children with special needs

<p>Does [name of your State] have its own definition of the term “children with special needs” which is applied in intercountry adoption cases?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide the definition used in [name of your State]:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – the definition used in the State(s) of origin is determinative.</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

12. The nationality of children who are adopted intercountry¹⁵

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.2.2.5.

¹⁵ Regarding nationality, see further HCCH, *Guide to Good Practice No 1: The Implementation and Operation of the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention* Bristol, Family Law (Jordan Publishing Limited), 2008 ([GGP No 1](#)), Chapter 8.4.5.

<p>Do children who are adopted intercountry to [name of your State] acquire the nationality of [name of your State]?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always. Please specify:</p> <p>(i) At what stage nationality is acquired by the child: and</p> <p>(ii) The procedure which must be undertaken (or whether acquisition of nationality is <i>automatic</i> upon the occurrence of a particular event, e.g., the making of the final adoption decision):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It depends – please specify which factors are taken into consideration (e.g., the nationality of the prospective adoptive parents (PAPs), whether the child loses their nationality of the State of origin):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, the child will never acquire this nationality.</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

V. Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs)

13. Limits on the acceptance of files

<p>13.1. Does [name of your State] place any limit on the total number of applications for intercountry adoption which are accepted during a given period of time?</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>
<p>13.2. Does [name of your State] allow PAPs to apply to adopt from more than one State of origin at the same time?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify whether any limits are applied:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – PAPs may only apply to adopt from one State of origin at any one time.</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

14. Determination of the eligibility and suitability of PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption¹⁶ (Art. 5(a))

Eligibility criteria	
<p>14.1. Do PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption have to fulfil any criteria in [name of your State] concerning their relationship status(es)?</p> <p><i>Please tick any / all boxes which apply and indicate in the space provided whether any further</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the following person(s) may apply in [name of your State] for an intercountry adoption:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Married, heterosexual couples:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Married, same-sex couples:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples in a legally registered partnership:</p>

¹⁶ I.e., this section refers to the eligibility criteria applied, and suitability assessment undertaken, in relation to PAPs who are habitually resident in your State and who wish to adopt a child who is habitually resident in another Contracting State to the 1993 Adoption Convention: see further Art. 2 of the Convention and HCCH, Note on Habitual Residence and Scope of the 1993 Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 2018 ([Note on Habitual Residence](#)).

<p><i>conditions are imposed (e.g., duration of marriage / partnership / relationship, cohabitation).</i></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 type="checkbox"/> Single men:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Single women:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, there are no relationship status criteria for PAPs.</p>
<p>14.2. Are there any age requirements in [name of your State] for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minimum age requirements:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Maximum age requirements:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Difference in years required between the PAPs and the child:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>14.3. Are there any <i>other</i> eligibility criteria which [name of your State] requires PAPs to fulfil?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional / differing criteria must be met for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Couples must supply evidence of infertility:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For persons with children already (biological or adopted), there are additional criteria (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Suitability assessment¹⁷</p>	
<p>14.4. Which body(ies) / expert(s) perform the assessment of whether the PAPs are suitable persons to undertake an intercountry adoption?</p>	
<p>14.5. Please briefly describe the procedure which is used to assess the PAPs and determine their suitability to undertake an intercountry adoption.</p>	
<p>Final approval</p>	
<p>14.6. Which body / person gives the final approval that the PAPs are eligible and</p>	

¹⁷ This suitability assessment will usually form one part of the report on the PAPs (Art. 15): as to which, see [GGP No 1](#) (op. cit. note 15), Chapter 7.4.3 and Question 17 below.

suited to undertake an intercountry adoption?	
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

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

<p>15.1. In [name of your State], are courses provided to prepare PAPs for intercountry adoption?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether the courses are mandatory: - At what stage of the adoption procedure they are offered: - Who provides the courses: - Whether they are provided to PAPs individually or collectively (<i>i.e.</i>, in a group): - Whether they are provided “in person” or electronically: - How many hours the courses last: - The content of the courses: - Whether there are specific courses for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs: - Whether the courses are (or can be) targeted at preparing PAPs for the adoption of a child from specific States of origin: <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>15.2. Aside from any courses provided, what, if any, (other) counselling or preparation is provided to individual PAPs (<i>e.g.</i>, meeting with adoptive parents, language and culture courses)?</p>	<p>Please specify, in each case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If it is mandatory for PAPs to use the service; - Who provides the service; and - At what stage in the adoption procedure the service is provided.
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

VI. The intercountry adoption procedure

16. Applications

16.1. To which authority / body should PAPs apply for an intercountry adoption?	
<p>16.2. Please indicate which documents [name of your State] requires to be included within the PAPs' file for transmission to the State of origin:</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An application form for adoption completed by the PAPs <input type="checkbox"/> A statement of "approval to adopt" issued by a competent authority <input type="checkbox"/> A report on the PAPs including the "home study" and other personal assessments (see Art. 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' passports or other personal identification documents <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' birth certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the birth certificates of any children living with the PAPs <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of marriage, divorce or death certificates, as applicable (please specify in which circumstances): <input type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the health of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Proof of no criminal record <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): please explain
16.3. Is it compulsory in [name of your State] for an accredited body to be involved in an intercountry adoption procedure? ¹⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify at which stage(s) of the procedure an accredited body must be involved (e.g., for the preparation of the home study, for the submission of the adoption file to the State of origin, for all stages of the procedure): <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify who assists PAPs if no accredited body is involved in the adoption procedure:

¹⁸ See [GGP No 1](#) (op. cit. 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 Adoption Convention.

<p>16.4. Are any <i>additional</i> documents required if PAPs apply through an accredited body?</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply and specify where relevant.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input 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):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A contract signed by the accredited body and the PAPs:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A document issued by a competent authority of the receiving State certifying that the accredited body may undertake intercountry adoptions:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

17. The report on the PAPs (Arts 5(a) and 15(1))

<p>17.1 Which body(ies) / expert(s) prepare the report on the PAPs?</p> <p>Please include all those involved with the preparation of any of the documents which are included within such a report.</p>	
<p>17.2 Is a “standard form” used for the report on the PAPs in [name of your State]?</p> <p>See Recommended Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention - Form No 7.¹⁹</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide a link to the form or attach a copy:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please indicate whether [name of your State] has any requirements concerning the information which must be included in the report on the PAPs and / or the documentation which must be attached to it:</p>
<p>17.3 For how long is the report on the PAPs valid in [name of your State]?</p>	
<p>17.4 Who is responsible in [name of your State] for renewing the report on the PAPs if the period of validity expires before the intercountry adoption is completed and what is the procedure for renewal?</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

18. Transmission of the PAPs’ file to the State of origin

<p>18.1. Who sends the finalised application file of the PAPs to the State of origin?</p>	
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¹⁹ HCCH, *Recommended Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention*, 2024 ([Model Forms](#)).

18.2. If no accredited body is involved with the intercountry adoption application (see Question 16.3 above), who assists the PAPs with compiling and transmitting their application file?	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable – an accredited body will always be involved (see response to Question 16.3 above).
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

19. Receipt of the report on the child (Art. 16(2)) and acceptance of the match (Art. 17(a) and (b))

Receipt of the report on the child (Art. 16(2))	
19.1. Which authority / body in [name of your State] receives the report on the child from the State of origin?	
Acceptance of the match	
19.2. Does [name of your State] require that the matching be accepted by a competent authority in [name of your State]?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which authority determines whether to accept the match (e.g., the Central Authority or another competent authority): and - The procedure which is followed (e.g., the report on the child is transmitted <u>first</u> to the competent authority to determine whether the match is accepted and only if this authority accepts the match is the report sent to the PAPs): <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Go to Question 19.3</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain the procedure which is followed once the authority / body referred to in Question 19.1 has received the report on the child from the State of origin: <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Go to Question 19.4</u></p>
19.3. Which criteria must be fulfilled for the relevant authority in [name of your State] to accept the match?	
19.4. Does [name of your State] impose any requirements on PAPs concerning the length of time they are given to decide whether to accept a match?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in addition to any requirements of the State of origin, [name of your State] has a time-limit – please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No, the requirements of the State of origin are determinative in this regard.
19.5. Do PAPs receive any kind of assistance from [name of your State] when deciding whether to accept a match?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify what type of assistance is provided (e.g., counselling): <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

20. Agreement under Article 17(c)

20.1. Which competent authority / body agrees that the adoption may proceed in accordance with Article 17(c)?	
20.2. At what point in the adoption procedure is the Article 17(c) agreement given in [name of your State]?	<input type="checkbox"/> [Name of your State] waits for the State of origin to provide its agreement first; OR <input type="checkbox"/> [Name of your State] sends its agreement to the State of origin with a notice that the match has been accepted; OR <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

21. Travel of the PAPs to the State of origin²⁰

21.1. Does [name of your State] impose any travel requirements / restrictions on PAPs in addition to those imposed by the State of origin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the additional requirements / restrictions: <input type="checkbox"/> No
21.2. Does [name of your State] permit an escort to be used to bring the child to the adoptive parents in [name of your State] in any circumstances?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in which circumstances: <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

22. Authorisation for the child to enter and reside permanently (Arts 5(c) and 18)

22.1. Please specify the procedure to obtain authorisation for the child to enter and reside permanently in [name of your State].	
22.2. Which documents are necessary for a child to be able to enter and reside permanently in [name of your State] (e.g., passport, visa)?	
22.3. Which of the documents listed in response to Question 22.2 above must be issued by [name of your State]? Please indicate which public / competent authority is responsible for issuing each document.	
22.4. Once the child has arrived in [name of your State], what is the procedure, if any, to notify the Central Authority or accredited body of their arrival?	
Last Update: [INSERT DATE]	

²⁰ See [GGP No 1](#) (*op. cit.* note 15), Chapter 7.4.10.

23. Final adoption decision and the Article 23 certificate

<p>23.1. If the final adoption decision is made in [name of your State], please indicate which authority in [name of your State] is competent to make the final adoption decision and issue the certificate under Article 23.</p> <p><i>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 Adoption Convention. The designation (or any modification to a designation) should be notified to the depositary of the Convention, and should be available on the Status Table for the 1993 Adoption Convention (under "Authorities"), available on the Adoption Section of the HCCH website.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competent authority making the final decision: - Competent authority issuing the certificate under Article 23:
<p>23.2. Does [name of your State] use the "Recommended model form – Certificate of conformity of intercountry adoption"?</p> <p>See Recommended Model Forms for use under the 1993 Adoption Convention - Form No 9.²¹</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>23.3. 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 State of origin?</p>	
<p>23.4. In cases in which the Article 23 certificate is issued in the State of origin, which authority or body in [name of your State] should receive a copy of this certificate?</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

VII. Intra-family intercountry adoptions

24. Procedure for the intercountry adoption of a child who is a relative of the PAPs (intra-family intercountry adoption)

<p>24.1. Please explain the circumstances in which an intercountry adoption will be classified as an "intra-family intercountry adoption" in [name of your State].</p> <p>Please include an explanation of the degree of relationship which a child must</p>	
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²¹ [Model Forms](#) (op. cit. note 19).

<p>have with PAPs to be considered a “relative” of those PAPs.</p>	
<p>24.2. Does [name of your State] apply the procedures of the 1993 Adoption Convention to intra-family intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><i>N.B. If the child and PAPs are habitually resident in different Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes – go to Question 25</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 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 24.3</p>
<p>24.3. If [name of 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The counselling and preparations which PAPs must undergo in [name of your State]: - The preparation of the child for the adoption: - The report on the PAPs: and - The report on the child:
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

VIII. Simple and full adoption²²

25. Simple and full adoption

<p>25.1. Is “full” adoption permitted in [name of your State]?</p> <p>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8.</p>	<p><input 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>
<p>25.2. Is “simple” adoption permitted in [name of your State]?</p> <p>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only (e.g., for intra-family adoptions only) – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>

²² According to the 1993 Adoption 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](#) (op. cit. note 15), Chapter 8.8.8.

<p>25.3. Does the law in [name of your State] permit “simple” adoptions to be converted into “full” adoptions in accordance with Article 27 of the 1993 Adoption Convention?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1)(a).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide details of how this is undertaken and please specify whether this is done on a regular basis when a State of origin grants a “simple” adoption or only in specific cases:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 26</p>
<p>25.4. If conversion of a “simple” adoption into a “full” adoption is sought in [name of your State] following an intercountry adoption, how does [name of your State] ensure that the consents referred to in Article 4(c) and (d) of the 1993 Adoption Convention have been given in the State of origin to a “full” adoption (as required by Art. 27(1)(b))?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1)(b) and Art. 4(c) and (d).</i></p>	
<p>25.5. Following a conversion in [name of your State], please explain which authority is responsible for issuing the Article 23 certificate in relation to the conversion decision. Please also explain the procedure which is followed.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The competent authority and the procedure is the same as stated in response to Question 23 above. Please explain the procedure followed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify and explain the procedure followed):</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

IX. Post-adoption matters

26. Preservation of, and access to, information concerning the child’s origins (Art. 30) and the adoption of the child

<p>26.1. Which authority in [name of your State] is responsible for preserving information concerning the child’s origins, as required by Article 30?</p>	
<p>26.2. For how long is the information concerning the child’s origins preserved?</p>	
<p>26.3. Does [name of 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the adoptee and / or their representative(s); - the adoptive parent(s); - the birth family; and / or - any other person(s)? <p>If so, are there any criteria which must be met for access to be granted (e.g., age of the adopted child, consent of the birth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The adoptee and / or their representative(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> No - The adoptive parents: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> No - The birth family

<p>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>See Art. 9(a) and (c) and Art. 30.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>- Any other persons: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain who and any criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>26.4. Where access to such information is provided, is any counselling or other guidance / support given in [name of your State]?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>26.5. 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 their biological family, tracing extended family)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

27. Post-adoption reports²³

<p>27.1. Absent specific requirements of the State of origin in this regard, who is responsible in [name of your State] for <i>writing</i> post-adoption reports and <i>sending</i> such reports to the State of origin?</p>	
<p>27.2. Absent any specific requirements of the State of origin in this regard, is there a model form which is used by [name of your State] for post-adoption reports?</p>	<p><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):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – in which case, please specify the content expected by [name of your State] in a post-adoption report (e.g., medical information, information about the child's development, schooling):</p>
<p>27.3. How does [name of your State] ensure that the requirements of the State of origin in relation to post-adoption reporting are fulfilled?</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

28. Post-adoption services and support (Art. 9(c))

<p>Apart from the matters raised in Question 26 above, what, if any, post-adoption services and support is / are provided by [name of your State] to the child and / or PAPs following</p>	
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²³ See [Model Forms](#) (*op. cit.* note 19), Form No 6.

<p>completion of an intercountry adoption (e.g., counselling, support to preserve cultural links)?</p> <p>In particular, please state whether any specific post-adoption services or support are provided in [name of your State] in the case of children with special needs.</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

X. The financial aspects of intercountry adoption²⁴

Receiving States are also kindly requested to complete the “[Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption](#)”.

29. The costs²⁵ of intercountry adoption

<p>29.1. Are the costs of intercountry adoption regulated by law in [name of your State]?</p>	<p><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:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>29.2. Does [name of your State] monitor the payment of the costs of intercountry adoption?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please briefly describe how this monitoring is undertaken:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>29.3. Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in [name of your State] paid through the accredited body involved in the particular intercountry adoption (if applicable – see Question 16.3 above) or directly by the PAPs themselves?</p> <p>See Toolkit against Illicit Practices,²⁶ Fact Sheet 3, line 28.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Through the accredited body:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directly by the PAPs:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>29.4. Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in [name of your State] paid in cash or only by bank transfer?</p> <p>See Toolkit against Illicit Practices, Fact Sheet 3, line 26.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Only by bank transfer:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In cash:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>29.5. Which body / authority in [name of your State] receives the payments?</p>	

²⁴ See HCCH, *Toolkit for preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption*, 2023 ([Toolkit against Illicit Practices](#)), Glossary and Fact Sheet 3 “Improper Financial and other Gain” and the HCCH tools on [Financial aspects](#) of intercountry adoption.

²⁵ See the definition of “costs” provided in the [Toolkit against Illicit Practices](#), *ibid.*, Glossary.

²⁶ *Op. cit.* note 24.

<p>29.6. Does [name of 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)?</p> <p><i>N.B. Please also ensure that your State has completed the “Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption”.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please indicate how this information may be accessed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

30. Contributions, co-operation projects and donations²⁷

<p>30.1. Does [name of your State] permit contributions²⁸ to be paid (either through [name of your State]’s Central Authority or a national accredited body) to a State of origin in order to engage in intercountry adoption with that State?</p> <p>See Toolkit against Illicit Practices, Fact Sheet 3.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What type of contribution is permitted by [name of your State]: - Who is permitted to pay it (i.e., the Central Authority or a national accredited body): - How it is ensured that contributions do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>30.2. Does [name of your State] undertake (either through the Central Authority or national accredited bodies) cooperation projects in any States of origin?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What type of cooperation projects are permitted by [name of your State]: - Who undertakes such projects (i.e., the Central Authority and / or national accredited bodies): - Whether such projects are mandatory according to the law of [name of your State]: - Whether such projects are monitored by an authority / body in [name of your State]: - How it is ensured that cooperation projects do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

²⁷ See the definitions of these terms provided in the Glossary of the [Toolkit against Illicit Practices](#) (op. cit. note 24).

²⁸ *Ibid.*, the Glossary of the [Toolkit against Illicit Practices](#) 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 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>30.3. If permitted in the State of origin, does [name of your State] permit PAPs or accredited bodies to make donations to orphanages, institutions or birth families in the State of origin?</p> <p><i>N.B. This is <u>not</u> recommended as a good practice: see further Toolkit against Illicit Practices, Fact Sheet 3.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To whom donations may be made (e.g., to orphanages, other institutions and / or birth families): - What donations are intended to be used for: - Who is permitted to pay donations (e.g., only accredited bodies or also PAPs): - At what stage of the intercountry adoption procedure donations are permitted to be paid: - How it is ensured that donations do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption procedure: <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

31. Improper financial or other gain (Arts 8 and 32)

<p>31.1. Which authority is responsible for preventing improper financial or other gain in [name of your State] as required by the Convention?</p>	
<p>31.2. What measures have been taken in [name of your State] to prevent improper financial or other gain?</p>	
<p>31.3. Please explain the sanctions which may be applied if Articles 8 and / or 32 are breached.</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

XI. Illicit practices²⁹

32. Response to illicit practices in general

<p>Please explain how your Central Authority and / or other competent authorities respond to intercountry adoption cases involving alleged or actual illicit practices.³⁰</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

33. The abduction, sale of and traffic in children

²⁹ “Illicit practices” in this Country Profile refers to “practices leading to situations where a child has been, or is to be, adopted without respect for the rights of the child or for the safeguards of the 1993 Adoption Convention” ([Toolkit against Illicit Practices](#) (op. cit. note 24)).

³⁰ *Ibid.*

<p>33.1. Please indicate which laws in [name of your State] seek to prevent the abduction, sale of and traffic in children in the context of your intercountry adoption programmes.</p> <p>Please also specify which bodies / persons the laws target (e.g., accredited bodies (national or foreign), PAPs, directors of children’s institutions).</p>	
<p>33.2. Please explain how [name of your State] monitors respect for the above laws.</p>	
<p>33.3. If these laws are breached, what sanctions may be applied? (e.g., imprisonment, fine, withdrawal of accreditation.)</p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

34. Private and / or independent adoptions

<p>Are private and / or independent adoptions permitted in [name of your State]?</p> <p><i>N.B. “Independent” and “private” adoptions are <u>not</u> consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Adoption Convention: see further GGP No 1 at Chapters 4.2.6 and 8.6.6, and the Toolkit against Illicit Practices, Glossary, Fact Sheet 2 (line 3) and Fact Sheet 10 (line 7).</i></p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Private adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in [name of your State]:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent adoptions are permitted - please explain how this term is defined in [name of your State]:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Neither</u> private nor independent adoptions are permitted.</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

XII. International mobility³¹

35. The scope of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Art. 2)

<p>35.1. If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in [name of your State], wish to adopt a child habitually resident in another Contracting State to the 1993 Adoption Convention, are they permitted to do so under the law of [name of your State]?</p> <p><i><u>Example:</u> Indian PAPs habitually resident in the USA wish to adopt a child habitually resident in India.</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 [name of your State]³² and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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³¹ See further the [Note on Habitual Residence](#) (op. cit. note 16).

³² According to the 1993 Adoption Convention (see Art. 2), this is an *intercountry* adoption due to the differing habitual residences of the PAPs and the child. The Convention procedures, standards and safeguards should therefore be applied to such adoptions: see further, [Note on Habitual Residence](#) case example 1.a (op. cit. note 16).

<p>35.2. If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in [name of your State], wish to adopt a child also habitually resident in [name of your State], are they permitted to do so under the law of [name of your State]?</p> <p><i>Example: Indian PAPs habitually resident in the USA wish to adopt a child also habitually resident in the USA.</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 [name of your State]³³ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>35.3. If a State of origin treats an adoption by PAPs habitually resident in [name of your State] as a <i>domestic</i> adoption when, in fact, it should be processed as an intercountry adoption under the 1993 Adoption Convention, how does [name of your State] deal with this situation?</p> <p><i>Example: PAPs who are nationals of State X habitually reside in your State. They wish to adopt a child from State X. Due to their nationality, the PAPs are able to adopt a child in State X in a domestic adoption procedure (in breach of the Convention). They then seek to bring the child back to your State.</i></p>	
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

XIII. Selection of partners for intercountry adoption³⁴

36. Selection of partners

<p>36.1. With which States of origin does [name of your State] currently partner on intercountry adoption?</p>	
<p>36.2. How does [name of your State] determine with which States of origin it will partner?</p> <p>In particular, please specify whether [name of your State] only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p> <p><i>To see which States are Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption Convention, please refer to the Status Table for the Convention (accessible via the Adoption Section of the HCCH website www.hcch.net).</i></p>	

³³ According to the 1993 Adoption 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, [Note on Habitual Residence](#) case example 1.b (*op. cit.* note 16).

³⁴ In relation to the choice of foreign States as partners in intercountry adoption arrangements, see further [GGP No 2](#) (*op. cit.* note 6), Chapter 3.5.

<p>36.3. If [name of your State] also partners with <i>non-Contracting States</i>, please explain how it is ensured that the safeguards of the 1993 Adoption Convention are complied with in these cases.³⁵</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: [name of your State] only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p>
<p>36.4. Are any formalities required in order to commence intercountry adoptions with a particular State of origin (e.g., the conclusion of a formal agreement³⁶ with that State of origin)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain the content of any agreements or other formalities:³⁷</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Last Update: [INSERT DATE]</p>	

³⁵ See [GGP No 1](#) (*op. cit.* 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”.

³⁶ See note 5 above concerning Art. 39(2) and the requirement to transmit a copy of any such agreements to the depositary for the 1993 Adoption Convention.

³⁷ *Ibid.*