



INTRODUCTION TO THE

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (ICATAP)





1993 ADOPTION CONVENTION

THE CONVENTION OF 29 MAY 1993 ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

➤ The 1993 Adoption Convention provides safeguards to ensure that if intercountry adoptions take place, it is in the best interests of the child and with respect for their fundamental rights.

MORE THAN

105 CONTRACTING PARTIES



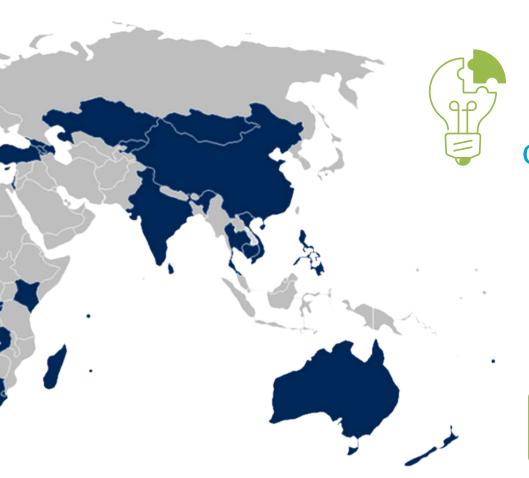
➤ The Convention establishes a system of cooperation between authorities in States of origin and receiving States, designed to ensure that the safeguards are respected, and thus prevent abuses.



POST-CONVENTION ASSISTANCE

➤ To ensure the effective implementation and operation of HCCH Conventions and instruments, the HCCH provides legal advice and training to States upon request.

Through post-Convention assistance (PCA), the recipient State can, among other objectives:



Gain a better understanding of the relevant HCCH Convention's objectives and practical operation



Improve domestic laws and practices



Prepare to join the relevant HCCH Convention



Establish a functioning Central and / or Competent Authority



Prepare and enact implementing legislation

CRITERIA FOR THE RECEIPT OF PCA FROM THE HCCH



Official request received from State



State's commitment to cooperation



Measurable benefits expected



Likelihood of achieving intended objectives



Falls within the Permanent Bureau's expertise

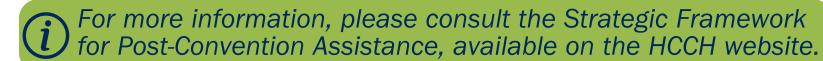


Conducive conditions for assistance



Commitment to:

- cooperate in creation of Plan of Action
- achieve milestones within a reasonable timeframe

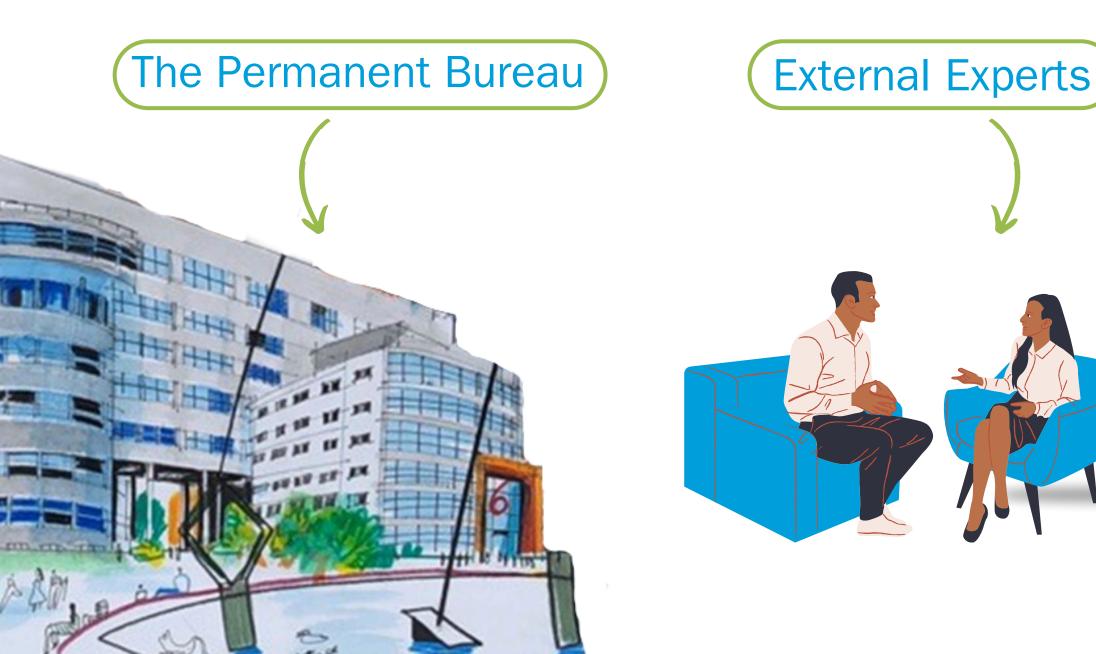




THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (ICATAP)

➤ Through ICATAP, established in 2007, the HCCH provides assistance to certain States which are planning ratification of, or accession to, the 1993 Adoption Convention, or which have ratified or acceded to the 1993 Adoption Convention but are experiencing challenges with its implementation.

The delivery of assistance through ICATAP is conducted by:





DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS AND FUNDING AVAILABLE, THE ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED:



Remotely from the Permanent Bureau as needed



In person via one or several short missions (one week)



In person via longer missions through consultants



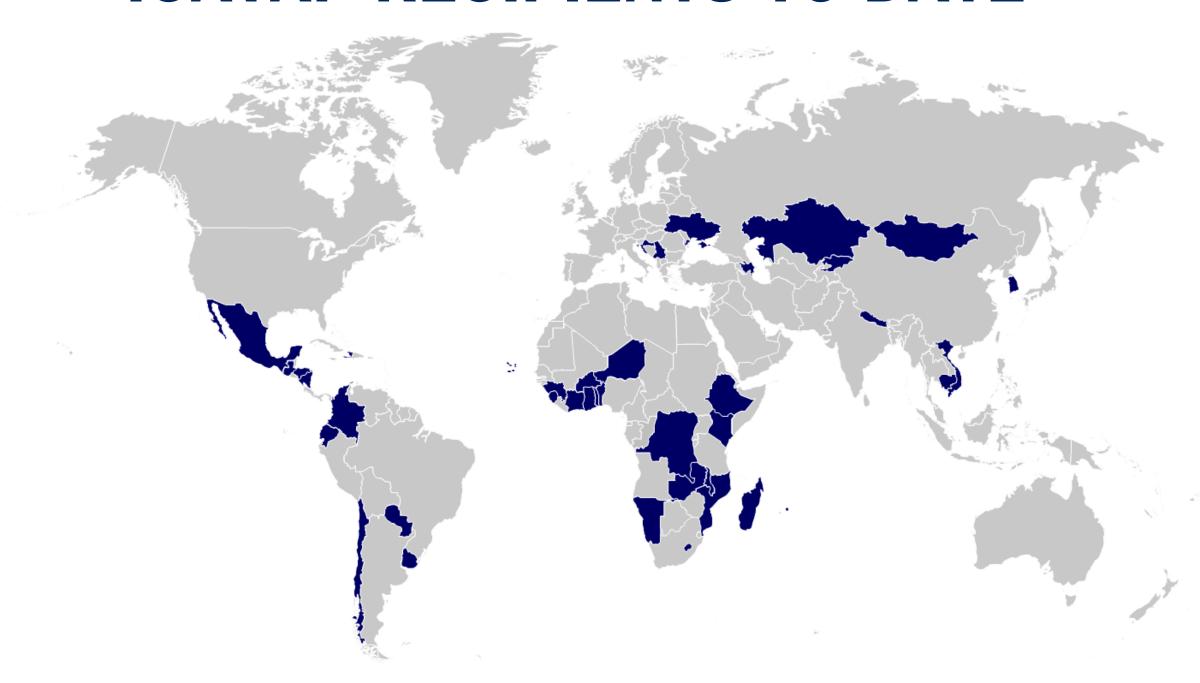
In person via regional workshops

HOW TO APPLY?

Authorities are invited to send an official request to the Permanent Bureau indicating which type of assistance they require and, if possible, the time frame.



ICATAP RECIPIENTS TO DATE



3 STATES

- 19 in Africa
- 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 7 in Asia
- 3 in Eastern Europe

ICATAP is funded entirely through voluntary contributions from HCCH Members and other partners.



The Permanent Bureau is grateful to the many States and organisations which have contributed to its operation over the years.





ACTIVITIES OF ICATAP



Fact-finding missions to assess and provide recommendations for aligning adoption systems, and especially intercountry adoption, with the 1993 Adoption Convention



Assistance with the steps required to sign and ratify, or accede to, the 1993 Adoption Convention



Legal advice on the drafting of legislative bills and regulations



Advice on the establishment and functions of Central Authorities and other competent bodies



Training for competent authorities and stakeholders





WHO CAN REQUEST ASSISTANCE THROUGH ICATAP?



Member States of the HCCH that **have joined** the 1993 Adoption Convention but still encounter **challenges** in its implementation



Member States of the HCCH seriously considering joining the 1993 Adoption Convention and having already **initiated steps** in that respect



Non-Member States of the HCCH that have joined the 1993 Adoption Convention but still encounter challenges in its implementation



Non-Member States of the HCCH seriously considering joining the 1993 Adoption Convention and having already initiated steps in that respect





WHO BENEFITS FROM ICATAP?



States of origin, along with their children and families, benefit directly from successful technical assistance



All States Parties and Members of the HCCH benefit indirectly, as the Convention's reputation and implementation quality impact everyone



States Parties working with these States of origin benefit from adoptions that are in line with the standards and guarantees of the 1993 Adoption

Convention



RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH ICATAP

- > States join the 1993 Adoption Convention
- Laws and regulations in line with the 1993 Adoption Convention are approved
 - Tools, manuals, guides, roadmaps and other documentation
- which assist with better implementing the 1993 Adoption Convention are developed and approved
- Central Authorities and other competent authorities are established and functional, with adequate procedures in place
- Staff of Central Authorities and other relevant actors are trained
 on the 1993 Adoption Convention and acquire a strong level of understanding of the 1993 Adoption Convention
- Central Authorities and other competent authorities improve their coordination and cooperation and are able to more effectively implement the Convention



FUNDING ICATAP



Assistance through ICATAP can only be undertaken if there are funds available. As the HCCH's regular budget does not provide for such funding, ICATAP is fully dependent upon the receipt of voluntary contributions from States and other partners.



The Permanent Bureau is very grateful to the following States and organisations which have supported ICATAP through monetary voluntary contributions: Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Monaco, Philippines, Switzerland, United States of America and UNICEF.



A number of States have also generously provided in-kind assistance by offering the expertise of their Central Authorities' staff, namely Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia and Philippines.

IS YOUR STATE INTERESTED IN FUNDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Please contact the Permanent Bureau to discuss options.



INTERESTED STATES

IS YOUR STATE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Authorities are invited to send an official request containing a summary of the current situation in their State and indicating the type of assistance required as well as the proposed timeframe.

Once the request has been received and reviewed by the Permanent Bureau, it will be integrated into the list of active requests for further action. Please note that priority is given to States which are Members of the HCCH.

For the full list of selection and prioritisation criteria for the provision of technical assistance, please see visit: www.hcch.net/en/governance/strategic-framework-for-post-convention-assistance



