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Introduction

The Permanent Bureau is undertaking preparations for the Special Commission to review the practical operation of the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption, which is to be held in The Hague from 17-23 September 2005. It is intended that the Special Commission will provide the opportunity for State Parties to the Convention (as well as States which are considering or preparing for ratification or accession) to exchange information and experiences on the operation of the Convention, to compare practices, and to consider any difficulties in respect of the implementation and practical operation of the Convention. In order to make the maximum use of the time available at the Special Commission, the Permanent Bureau is gathering information with a view to its circulation for use by the Special Commission. We would be very grateful for your co-operation in this exercise, and we hope that you will be able to send us your replies to this Questionnaire by 14 June 2005.

If you responded to the Questionnaire in 2000, you may wish to refer to your answers from 2000 again in this Questionnaire. For example, if you provided copies of legislation in 2000, and that legislation has not changed, a statement to that effect will suffice for an answer and it is not necessary to provide copies again in 2005. Both this Questionnaire and that of 2000 are available on the Hague Conference website at: <www.hcch.net> under Convention 33, Questionnaires and Responses.

The information provided in responses to this Questionnaire will be supplemented by responses to the draft Statistics Forms and draft Organigram. These forms are in Annexes 1 and 2 of this Questionnaire. States are encouraged to complete those forms to provide the Permanent Bureau with the best information possible.

This Questionnaire is addressed to Member States of the Hague Conference and Contracting States to the 1993 Convention. Obviously, it is understood that some questions can only be readily answered by Contracting States. It is also understood that some questions are more relevant to States of origin than to Receiving States and vice versa.

As regards all other States which are not yet Party to the Convention, as well as certain intergovernmental organisations and non -governmental international organisations which have also been invited to the Special Commission as observers, we would welcome from them any comments in respect of any items in the Questionnaire which are considered relevant.

We intend, except where expressly asked not to do so, to place all replies to the Questionnaire on the Hague Conference website. We would therefore request that replies be sent to the Permanent Bureau, if possible by e-mail, to: secretariat@hcch.net.

NAME OF COUNTRY OR ORGANISATION:

Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China http://www.mca.gov.cn/ China Center for Adoption Affairs http://www.china-ccaa.org/

A EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS

If a question does not apply to your State, please answer "Not applicable".

- 1. Description
- (a) Is your country (primarily) a receiving State or a State of origin? If both, please ensure your answers to the questions clearly distinguish, when necessary, between your role as a receiving State and your role as a State of origin.
 - China is a State of origin.
- (b) If your country is not yet a Party, please specify if your country is considering becoming a party to the Convention.
 - China is a party to the Convention.
- (C) Was your country represented at the 2000 Special Commission? Were the Conclusions and Recommendations of that meeting discussed or implemented by relevant authorities in your country?

Yes. Yes.

2. Good practice

The Permanent Bureau has commenced work on a Guide to Good Practice on Implementation of the Convention. A consultative group met in September 2004 to provide advice to the Permanent Bureau on this project. It is anticipated that the draft Guide will be circulated, in English, French and Spanish, to all Contracting States in June

2005 seeking comments and for discussion at the Special Commission.

(a) In relation to any aspect of inter-country adoption, what examples of good practice can you report, (i) from your own country or (ii) from another country?

China's inter-country adoption operating system is unified and standard. The adoption law is enacted by the legislature, the National People's Congress and the administrative regulations are formulated by the Cabinet, the State Council; and the rules and special operational regulations are formulated by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, which is in charge of inter-country adoption, and implemented nationwide.

(b) Please indicate what topics you would suggest for future chapters in the Guide to Good Practice (in addition to "Implementation", "Central Authority Practice" arid possibly "Accreditation").

Temporarily not.

(c) Have you experienced any major concerns or problems (i) in your State and (ii) in another State, associated with implementation of the Convention, such as a lack pf implementing legislation, inadequate staffing or funding issues?

Not applicable as the National People's Congress has just ratified the "Convention" and the implementation is still in the preparatory stage.

(d) If your State has signed but not yet ratified the Convention, please indicate whether your State would like implementation assistance from the Permanent Bureau or other States. What type of assistance would be most beneficial?

On the training in the implementation of the "Convention".

3. Questions concerning scope

Please specify any difficulties you have experienced in determining whether certain situations do or do not come within the scope of the Convention.

In particular, have there been any problems in determining whether:

(a) a child was or was not habitually resident in the State of origin;

No.

(b) a prospective adopter was or was not habitually resident in the receiving State (as e.g. in the case of a short-term or temporary resident); and

Which country's central organ is required to produce the document of approval for inter-country adoption if a prospective adopter resides in the receiving state? Can the naturalization, citizenry treatment and other rights and interests be guaranteed?

Most of the prospective adopters accepted by the CCAA live in receiving states and only a small number live temporarily in countries other than the receiving countries due to study or work. The main problem in handling such cases is that if a prospective adopter lives in a country other than the receiving country for a period in excess of 12 months, the government of the prospective adopter's resident country refuses to produce the document of approval for inter-country adoption so that the adoption process would be interrupted.

(c) the removal of the child was or was not "for the purpose of adoption" in the receiving State (as e.g. where the child is initially moved to the receiving country on a temporary basis or for foster care, and later on adoption is considered)?

No.All children inter-country adopted are moved to the receiving countries after the foreign adoptive parents come to China to complete related registrations.

- 4. General principles for protection of children
- (a) What are the different types of care available to a child in need of care and

protection in your State?

There are mainly three types of care: by welfare institutions, fostering families and adoption (including domestic and inter-country adoption. The principle is to give priority to domestic adoption, supplemented by international adoption.)

(b) Please specify the procedures or other measures in place to ensure that due consideration is given to the possibilities for placement of the child within the State of origin before inter-country adoption is considered (the principle of subsidiarity see Article 4 b) and Preamble, paragraphs 1-3).

China's Adoption Law and Regulations on the Registration of Adoption of Children in China by Foreign Nationals have strict and clear stipulations concerning the qualifications of adopters and the provision of documents and materials and adoption procedures. Besides, the examination of the qualifications of adopters and adoptees is made part of the responsibilities of inter-country adoption registration organs. The civil affairs departments of provincial people's governments udertake the examinations and decide whether or not the adoptee can be adopted and undertake the legal responsibilities for the results of the examinations. If parties concerned deem their rights and interests encroached upon in the process, they may take administrative actions.

(c) What are your procedures to establish if a child is adoptable?

The civil affairs departments of provincial people's government move the children to the China Center for Adoption Affairs if they deem the children are adoptable, together with a series of documents or certificates. The "Rules on the Registration of Adoption of Children in China by Foreign Nationals" stipulates the related procedures in Article 7.

At present, children offered for inter-country adoption in China are mainly orphans and abandoned infants and children whose parents cannot be found who have been sent to the social welfare institutions. The first step is for the welfare institutions to receive orphans and abandoned infants, which requires strict procedures and formalities, filling in of forms and provision of corresponding certificates. For instance, for orphans, certificates for the death of their parents; for abandoned infants, certificates by the people who have found the infants and the case report certificates by the police. The second step is that, when it is confirmed that the children cannot get proper placement In the home country, , welfare institutions would select some abandoned infants or orphans as target for adoption and submit related materials to the civil affairs departments of provincial people's governments. The third step is that the civil affairs departments of provincial people's governments examine the materials about the children for inter-country adoption. Those that pass the examinations would get the qualifications for inter-country adoption and the materials about the children will be sent to the CCAA, which will seek foreign adopters.

(d) What procedures are in place to ensure that consent to an adoption is given in accordance with Article 4 c) and d) of the Convention?

In according with Article 4 c) and d), the procedures are in place only when the persons and the children for adoption with corresponding abilities have given their consent freely, in the required legal form, and expressed or evidenced in writing. In

China, social welfare institutions have the right to choose by law children for adoption and are required to submit materials about such children for inter-country adoption to the civil affairs departments of provincial people's governments and written consent of the children at and above the age of 10. The process of registration of adoptive relationship also embodies the above principle.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs provides: in adoption registration, the registration organ (civil affairs department of provincial people's governments) must inquire into the persons or institutions offering the children for adoption and adoptees at and above the age of 10. The contents of inquiry for children for adoption at and above the age of 10 include name, age and free and clear expression of consent after the consequences of adoption are made clear. The contents of inquiries for persons or institutions offering the children for adoption include the reasons for offering the children for adoption, whether it is voluntary and how much fees they collect from the adoption.

(e) Do you make use of the Model Form for the "Statement of consent to the Adoption"? See < www.hcch.net>, "Inter-country Adoption", "Practical Operation Documents", "Annex B to the Special Commission Report of October 1994".

No.

(f) Have you applied the "Recommendation concerning the application to refugee children and other internationally displaced children of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption"? See Annex A to the Special Commission Report of October 1994.

No.

(g) How is the eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents assessed in your country (see Article 5 a))?

China's Adoption Law provides that adopters shall meet simultaneously the following requirements: childless; capable of rearing and educating the adoptee; suffering no such disease as in medically regarded as unfit for adopting a child; and having reached the age of 30. In addition to the general provisions, the law provides other special provisions. Article 8 provides that the adopter may adopt one child only, male or female. Article 9 provides that where a male person without spouse adopts a female child, the age difference between the adopter and the adoptee shall be no less than 40 years. Article 10 provides that where a person with spouse adopts a child, the husband and wife shall adopt the child in common.

Adoption of Chinese children by foreign nationals must also follow the provisions of the Chinese law and conform to the related provisions of their resident countries. They are required to forward their adoption applications and report on family status of adopters and certificates to CCAA through adoption organizations of their resident country. CCAA will scrutinize the applications and related materials.

(h) What preparation (counselling, education or training) is given to prospective adoptive parents to prepare them for the inter-country adoption?

The adoptive parents must have a full understanding of inter-country adoption. They should be well prepared for the possible risks and delays, the problems possibly existing with the adopted children with regard to development, mental status and sentiments, the possible inadaptability of the children in post-placement, the anticipated understanding of the cultural, historical and language of the resident countries of the adopted children. They must also be well prepared materially, such as parenting of the new born, nursery and feeing knowledge, and the problems they must heed in coming to China for adoption and registration.

(i) Please also specify the measures I procedures in place to ensure that the requirements concerning the counselling of prospective adopters are complied with (see Article 5 b)).

We ensure that the prospective adoptive parents meet the requirements psychologically and see that they are suitable for adopting children mainly through the family report among the application documents. The family report is completed by professional social workers entrusted by the government departments of the resident countries of adopters after a number of family visits. It gives a comprehensive and objective evaluation of the adopters with regard to security, stability, adaptability and love of children after getting enough information about the background of adopters, their motives for adoption, marital status, family financial situation, their own children, housing status, conditions of the community, whether or not they have the record of maltreatment or family violence, whether or not they have criminal record, upbringing plan, co-inhabitant non-family members and guardians.

(j) Please specify any post-adoption services established or contemplated in your country (see Article 9 c)).

CCAA requires foreign adoptive families to submit two post-placement reports through adoption organizations of their countries: one at the sixth month of adoption and the other at the 12th month of adoption. If the adopted Chinese children have not been naturalized when the second report is submitted, CCAA will require the adoptive families to continue to provide post-placement reports, one for every six months until the children are naturalized.

5. Central Authorities

(a) Please specify any of the functions under Chapter IV of the Convention performed directly by your Central Authority or Central Authorities.

The functions of the central authorities provided by Article 15 through 21 in the "Convention" are performed by the China Center for Adoption Affairs, an adoption organization entrusted by the government of the People's Republic of China.

(b) Please indicate the number of personnel employed by your Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoption, their experience and qualifications, and what type of training they have received. (Where personnel undertake other functions, count them only for the amount of time spent on inter-country adoption, for example, if a person spends 50% of their time on inter-country adoption, count them as 0.5 of a person.)

At present, there are 52 employees to deal with inter-country adoption. We hold many regular and short-term training programs, seminars and workshop to update their knowledge and expertise in this field, we also encourage them to engage in studies of relevant disciplines such as law.

- (c) What procedures are in place to ensure continuity of experienced staff and training for new staff?
- (d) Have you experienced difficulties with regard to the establishment or operation of the Central Authority, for example, difficulties over funding or resources?

No.

(e) Please provide details of any difficulties you have experienced communicating with "central" Central Authorities in other countries or with provincial Central Authorities (in your own country or other countries)?

The difficulties lie in the knowledge and understanding of the adoption laws of receiving states. It is often the case that laws of the two countries are in conflict to each other and the adoption management systems are also different.

6. Accreditation

At the Special Commission meeting in September 2005, the first day will be devoted to an examination of accreditation issues. Your responses to this part of the questionnaire will be very helpful to the Permanent Bureau in the planning and preparations for that day.

Accredited bodies

(1) Please indicate whether your country uses or intends to use accredited bodies in inter-country adoption. If so, please provide details on the topics (a) to (m) below.

China has not use or plans to use certified organizations in the process of inter-country adoption.

- (a) Please provide details (including powers and resources) of the authority or authorities which grant accreditation.
- (b) How many bodies have been accredited by your country? Federal States may provide the number for each state or province. If possible, please indicate how many bodies have been refused accreditation.
- (c) Please give a brief outline of your accreditation criteria, guidelines or legislation.
- (d) What is the process by which accreditation is granted?
- (e) If possible, please provide an electronic copy of your accreditation criteria, guidelines or legislation, and any translations into English, French or Spanish.

- (f) How is the supervision of accredited bodies carried out in your State (Article 11 c)? Are there regular reporting requirements (including financial reporting) by the accredited body to the supervising authority?
- (g) How is the performance of the accredited body assessed or evaluated?
- (h) Has the competent supervisory authority encountered any difficulties in relation to (f)?
- (i) Are you aware of any acts or behaviour by accredited bodies or approved bodies or persons that contravened your accreditation criteria? Please also provide details of any sanctions or penalties applied?
- (j) What are the conditions for renewal of accreditation?
- (k) Have you experienced any difficulties in obtaining assistance or cooperation from other Central Authorities in regard to accredited bodies?
- (I) Have you experienced any difficulties or concerns regarding the supervision pf accredited bodies in other countries?
- (m) Do you consider that standard or model accreditation guidelines would assist countries in developing appropriate safeguards or procedures?
- (2) Has your country authorised foreign accredited bodies to undertake inter-country adoptions in your country (see Article 12)?

China has never authorized certified foreign organizations to undertake China's intercountry adoption affairs.

- (a) What steps are involved in the process of authorisation?
- (b) What supervision of foreign authorised bodies occurs?
- (c) Have you experienced any difficulties regarding a body accredited in one State and authorised to act in another State?
- (3) If your State has decided not to use accredited bodies, please explain the reasons and indicate what has influenced the decision.
- (4) What particular issues concerning accreditation would you like discussed on the Accreditation Day (17 September)?
- (5) Would you like to see a chapter on Accreditation developed for the Guide to Good Practice for Inter-country Adoption? What issues do you think should be covered in this chapter?

Contents that are associated with certification principles and procedures.

(6) Please indicate whether your country uses or intends to use approved bodies pr persons (see Article 22(2)) in inter-country adoption. If so,

No.

- (a) How many bodies or persons have been approved by your country to provide adoption services in accordance with Article 22(2)?
- (b) Do you grant approval to persons or bodies from abroad?
- (c) What are the guidelines by which approval is granted (if different from 1(c))?
- (d) What is the process by which approval is granted and renewed?
- (e) How is the supervision of approved bodies or persons carried out in your State (Article 22(2))?
- (f) Has your country made a declaration under Article 22(4)?

7. Procedural aspects

- (1) Please indicate any operational difficulties that have been experienced, including in particular:
- (a) obtaining accurate and sufficient health and social information on the child; The difficulties in obtaining full information about the social aspects of children are: Chinese children placed for adoption are mainly abandoned infants who are raised by social welfare institutions and whose parents cannot be found. So the social welfare institutions find it difficult to provide the materials about the infants before they were picked up.

obtaining accurate and sufficient information on prospective adoptive parents;1

We obtain the information about prospective adoptive parents mainly from application documents filed by adopters. We hope that such information is accurate. But in the past, we discovered that some prospective adopters had concealed or evaded important information that is unfavorable to adopters. That is very unfavorable for inter-country adoption.

(b) obtaining an accurate estimate of fees to be paid by adoptive parents prior to adoption and /or travel to collect the child;²

No.

(c) documentation requirements, including requirements for legalisation or authentication of documents, or the acceptance of documents by the other country;

No.

(d) obtaining the agreements required in Article 17;

Before placement, we require prospective adoptive parents to submit adoption application documents including the certificate of consent of the responsible organs of their resident countries, which confirms that the adopted children have got the permission for permanent residence in the receiving countries. According to the Rules on Adoption Registration, we must perform the duties of examining the adoption applications and related certificates required of adoption applicants and we only do the matching only after confirmation of the qualifications of the prospective adoptive parents.

(e) receiving post-placement reports from adoptive parents or Central Authorities;³

China has established inter-country adoption cooperation relationship with 16 countries. In some countries, the specific adoption affairs are undertaken by the government. But due to limitations of functions and human resources of government departments, they are often unable to provide post-placement reports as timely and completely as adoption organizations. Secondly, the overwhelming majorities of adoption organizations have designated special persons to file post-placement reports. So their reports are satisfactory both in quantity and quality. But some adoption organizations do not pay much attention to filing post-placement reports. They are quite passive in attitude and not in real earnest and so they are inefficient and the reports are poor in quality. Thirdly, some adoptive families fail to notify adoption organizations after the home addresses have been changed so that adoption organizations are unable to contact them. There are also some adoptive families who regard adopted children as their own and deem it unnecessary for adoption organizations to interfere in their private life.

(f) translation requirements;

No.

(g) time taken to process Convention cases.

No.

(2) Do you permit prospective adopters, once their eligibility and suitability have been established, to make their own arrangements for contacting directly the placement agencies in the country of origin?

Not applicable, we do not have placement agencies in China.

(3) Has the practice referred to in the preceding question given rise to particular problems of which you are aware?

Not applicable.

(4) Please provide details on the breakdown of placements in the Receiving State.

What steps have been or are being taken in your country to address this problem (Article 21)⁴?

Up till now, we have only found 32 case of the breakdown of placements in the United States. In such circumstances, CCAA would require adoption organizations to submit the following supplementary materials as soon as possible: copy of the certificates for the original adopters to give up the right of guardian, the copy of the final court ruling on termination of adoption, copy of application by new adopters, copy of family report of new adopter, copy of the court ruling on adoption, and other documents and correspondence between the adoption organizations and CCAA so as to know about and ensure the smooth process of the secondary adoption.

(5) Legalisation of foreign documents can be very time consuming for Contracting States. At the Special Commission on the Apostille, Evidence and Service Conventions in

November 2003, a recommendation was made concerning the 1993 Convention. The Report states that:

"The Special Commission stressed the usefulness of linking the application of the Hague Adoption Convention of 1993 to the Apostille Convention [the 1961 Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents]. In light of the high number of public documents included in a typical adoption procedure, the Special Commission recommended that States that are party to the Adoption Convention but not to the Apostille Convention consider actively becoming party to the latter. ~

Would you favour a similar recommendation from the forthcoming Special Commission meeting for the 1993 Convention?

We will give it careful consideration.

(6) DNA testing has been used to establish identity (if, for example, a consent is in doubt). Can you provide details of such cases, including the cost and procedures involved?

Not applicable.

- 8. Private international law issues
- (1) The Convention does not determine which authorites have jurisdiction to grant or amen/revoke an adoption nor which law applies to the conditions governing, or the effects of, an adoption.
- (a) Are you aware of any difficulties that may have arisen in the application of the Convention concerning the jurisdiction of the authorities to grant or amend / revoke an adoption?

No.

(b) Are you aware of any difficulties that may have arisen in the application of the Convention concerning the law or laws to be applied to the conditions governing, pr the effects of, an adoption?

No.

If the answer to either or both of these questions is "yes", do you wish the Permanent Bureau to study these questions further?

- (2) Issues of applicable law may arise when bodies accredited in one Contracting State act in another Contracting State (Article 12), for example:
- whether and to what extent agents of that body are authorised to act and bind their principal;
- whether they have exceeded or misused their authority.

Have you experienced any difficulties in this respect (see also the Hague Convention of 14 March 1978 on the Law Applicable to Agency)?

Not applicable. China does not authorize accredited foreign bodies to act in China.

- 9. Recognition and effects
- (1) Have your courts used the Recommended Model Form "Certificate of Conformity ofInter-country Adoption"? See < www.hcch.net>, "Inter-country Adoption", "Practical Operation Documents", "Annex C to the Special Commission Report of October 1994".

No.

(2) Have you knowledge of any difficulties that have arisen in obtaining certificates under Article 23(1)?

No.

(3) Do you have information about any case in which recognition of a Convention adoption has been refused under Article 24?

No.

(4) Are there any circumstances in which you would recognise the validity of a foreign adoption coming within the scope of the Convention despite Convention procedures or requirements not having been followed?

No.

Please specify any other difficulties that have arisen in relation to Chapter V of the Convention.

- 10. Payment of reasonable charges and fees
- (1) Please quantify the costs and expenses charged or fees paid in your country in respect of inter-country adoptions (Article 32(2)). Is this information freely available and accessible to prospective adoptive parents and competent authorities?

Fixed fee collection items: \$365, service fees, CCAA, RMB250 yuan, registration fee, China provincial level civil affairs departments

Other fees: passport fees, varying with different places.

Prospective adoptive parents and related organizations may get the information at any time.

(2) Have you had any experiences with the use of fee caps, established and publicised appropriate fees, established expediting fees, or other similar controls?

The fee collection standards of CCAA and civil affairs departments are open. There is no additional expediting fees.

(3) Do you have any comments on the practice in some countries of requiring a mandatory contribution by adoptive parents for the support or development of child protection services in such countries?

China's adoption law encourages adopters to donate to welfare institutions.

(4) Do you have any comments on or experiences of uneven processing amongst countries due to large disparities in fees (for example, applications from countries that offer higher fees may be processed more quickly)?

No.

(5) Are you aware of any instances of disparity between professional salaries or fees charged for adoptions compared to other forms of legal work? (For example, large legal fees may be charged for adoption, while standard or lower fees are paid for other family law matters such as divorces -- see Article 32(3).)

No.

(6) Are you aware of any significant differences in fees charged for inter-country adoption by regional or provincial authorities?

No.

(7) To what extent, if any, are inter-country adoption fees used (a) to support or develop the national childcare and protection system; or (b) to contribute to funding resources of Central Authorities or accredited bodies?

All the fees are to cover the regular operation of CCAA.

(8) Do you have any other comments about reasonable or unreasonable costs and expenses or fees?

No.

(9) Are you aware of any other problems arising from the payment of fees or charges in your country or in other countries with which you have adoption arrangements?

No.

11. Improper financial gain

(1) Please indicate the laws (including criminal sanctions), measures and procedures in place to give effect to the principle that no one shall derive improper financial or other gain from an activity related to an inter-country adoption (Article 32(1)).

China's Interim Regulations concerning State Civil Servants provides in Article 31 that "State Civil Servants shall strictly abide by discipline and shall not commit the following acts: (6) embezzlement, theft, engaging in bribery, taking bribes or abusing power for personal gains or gains for others."

Article 32 of the Regulations says: "State civil servants shall be given administrative punishments for committing the acts listed in Article 31 if the acts are not serious enough to constitute a crime or although the acts are serious enough to constitute a crime but no criminal responsibilities are affixed."

The Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China provides in its Article 385, Chapter VIII, Section Two that Any State functionary who, by taking advantage of his position, extorts money or property from another person, or illegally accepts another person's money or property in return for securing benefits for the person shall be guilty of acceptance of bribes.

Article 389 provides that "Whoever, for the purpose of securing illegitimate benefits, gives money or property to a State functionary shall be guilty of offering bribes."

Article 394 provides that "Any State functionary who, in his activities of domestic public service or in his contacts with foreigners, accepts gifts and does not hand them over to the State as is required by State regulations, if the amount involved is relatively large, shall be convicted and punished in accordance with the provisions of this Law."

Similar provisions are provided in Article 386 through Article 395 of the Criminal Law. If the acts are serious enough to constitute a crime for violating the above provisions, criminal responsibilities shall be affixed according to the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China".

The Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China provides in its Article 240 Chapter IV, Section Two that the persons kidnapping women and children shall be sentenced for 5-10 years imprisonment and amercement .Kidnapping women and children refers to the actions of kidnapping, abduction ,subornation, meeting and sending-off the women and children."

The Adoption Law of the People's Republic of China provides in Article 20, Chapter II, that "It is strictly forbidden to buy or sell a child or to do so under the cloak of adoption."

The same law in Article 31, Chapter V, provides that "Whoever abducts and traffics in a child under the cloak of adoption shall be investigated for criminal responsibility in accordance with law. Whoever abandons an infant shall be fined by a public security organ; if the act constitutes a crime, the offender shall be investigated for criminal responsibility in accordance with law.

If a case is established as a crime for violating the above provisions, criminal responsibilities shall be affixed according to the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China.

(2) Are you aware of any instances of success in enforcing penalties to discourage

improper financial gain?

No.

(3) Are you aware of any difficulties in the enforcement of laws or regulations or in prosecution of criminal activity?

No.

(4) Apart from the measures referred to in Question 11(1) above, have any other preventive measures been taken in your country to combat improper financial gain?

There are also some administrative measures to prevent government officials from improper financial gain.

(5) Please provide details of any measures taken to prevent solicitation (e.g. through inducements to consent) of children for adoption (Articles 8 and 29).

All the Chinese laws related to women and children such as the Criminal Law, the Adoption Law and the Marriage Law provide severe punishments on such criminal acts as theft, abduction, selling and buying children. The Ministry of Civil Affairs, a department under the Central Government, also provides that "It is strictly forbidden to seek illicit gains from foreign adoption." In order to prevent inducements to consent of children for adoption, the Ministry also forbids designation of children for adoption and all the inter-country adoption matching and the provision of information about children for adoption shall be the responsibility of CCAA. With CCAA's consent, no one shall provide information about children for adoption to foreign adopters or foreign adoption organizations. Without the consent of the civil affairs departments of provincial people's governments, no social welfare institutions shall receive foreign adopters or foreign adoption organizations.

(6) Have you experienced any difficulties in obtaining co-operation or assistance from other States in eliminating practices that lead to improper financial gain?

No.

12. Relative adoptions

Do you have any comments on the application of the Convention procedures to relative(inter-family) adoptions?

Temporarily no.

13. Children with special needs

What policies or programmes do you have to ensure that children with special needs are given the same opportunity to find a family through inter-country adoption as other children?

In order to take realistic steps to solve the difficulties of handicapped orphans in welfare

institutions, helping them to improve the abilities of self-service and independence and realizing the desire of returning to families and the society, the Ministry of Civil Affairs decided to carry out starting from 2004 a large scaled surgery correction and recuperation activities for handicapped orphans, namely, "Program of Action for the Healthy Tomorrow of Handicapped Orphans". The funds for the Program mainly came from the government, with some from people's groups and individuals. CCAA is responsible for accepting donations by foreign organizations and adoptive families. The implementation of the Program has free tens of thousands of handicapped orphans from the suffering of diseases and increased the opportunities for them to seek families. From 2002, CCAA introduced the practice of entrusting foreign adoption organizations to seek adoptive families for children in special needs and published related operational procedures. All these have helped raise the number of adoptions and success rates of children in special needs. In addition, CCAA has opened a "green passage" for families wishing to adopt children in special needs, helping them expedite the registration procedures and reduce related fees, all with the aim of encouraging and promoting inter-country adoption of children in special needs.

14. Other forms of cross-border child care

International foster care, transnational kafala and other forms of child care with a cross-border element are not covered by the 1993 Convention, but by the Hague Convention pf 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children:

See for example its Articles 3 e) and 33(1).

(1) Is your country involved in international placements of children other than for purposes of adoption?

No.

(2) Are you aware of any difficulties concerning such placements?

No.

(3)If your country is not yet a Party to the 1996 Convention, is your country actively studying ratifying or acceding to it?

Yes, we are considering it positively.

15. Avoiding the Convention

Are you aware of any attempts to circumvent the Convention or to avoid protections afforded to children, including the moving of children or birth parents to other countries?

No.

16. Additional safeguards and bilateral arrangements

Please describe any additional safeguards, requirements or procedures, which you apply to Convention adoptions (i.e. over and above those which are set out in the Convention itself). Are these applied generally, or only in relation to particular States?

Adoption Law of the People's Republic of China and Measures for Registration of Adoption of Children by Foreigners in PRC. They apply generally.

Have you made agreements with one or more other Contracting State (see Article 32(2)) with a view to improving the application of the Convention? If so, please specify with which States and what matters are covered by the agreements.

Do you have any comments on the efficacy of bilateral arrangements:

- (a) with non-Contracting States? Are Convention safeguards applied?Yes.
- (b) with Contracting States? Do they improve the operation of the Convention? Have they caused any difficulties?

Yes. Through the co-operation, we all improve the operation of the Convention.

17. Limits on number of States with whom cooperation is possible

In making arrangements for inter-country adoption (whether as a receiving State or as a State of origin), have you found it necessary to confine co-operation under the Convention to a limited number of other Contracting States? If so, please explain the reasons (e.g. no appropriate accredited body, lack of resources to process applications from large number of States, etc) and indicate what has influenced the choice of these States.

Yes, we have suspended establishing co-operative relationship with new countries. As people's living standard is increasing and morality improving, the number of the abandoned and orphans is decreasing. The pressure from the receiving countries have become too heavy.

B SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER SPECIAL COMMISSION

18. Do you regularly hold seminars, training sessions or workshops on the Adoption Convention in your State? Would you welcome participants from other countries? Would you find it helpful if there was a consistent way to announce such activities to other States? Do you have suggestions?

Not applicable. We have just ratified the Convention, but we will consider it actively.

19. In the current negotiations for a new Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance, an Administrative Co-operation Working Group has been established to examine and report on practical problems and issues of administrative co-operation between authorities. Would you favour the establishment of a similar group for the 1993 Convention?

We have not considered it.

20. Please indicate which topics you consider priority issues for the Special Commission in September 2005, and their degree of importance.

As China has only just ratified the convention, we do not have a clear idea about each topic's importance at the date.

21. Any other suggestions, comments and observations are welcomed.

Notes: 1. See "Convention", Article 15 and Article 16.

- 2. See Para 7, P. 42, "2000 Special Commission Report";
- 3. See Article 20 of the "Convention";
- 4. The new statistics form has specific placement items;
- 5. See Page 5 of 2003 edition of Conclusions and Suggestions adopted in Hague Apostille Evidences and the practice operation of the service convention by the Special Commission. You can also search the website of Hague Convention
 - 6. See Para 6.

ANNEX1 -- ORGANIGRAM

Introduction and explanation

In response to the recommendation of the Special Commission of 20001 the Permanent Bureau has prepared a model form designed to provide information on which entity in each State performs each function outlined in the Convention.2 The form is applicable to both States of Origin and Receiving States, and also includes space for the reporting and updating of names and contact information for the Central Authorities, Public Authorities, Courts, Accredited Bodies and Approved Persons in each State.

With reference to the recommendation of the Special Commission of 2000, it was npt possible in the time available to develop a simple form that would show the interaction of the competent authorities and bodies in each State. Any additional information could be provided by States in a separate document.

We would welcome comments on the form and its ease of use, and any suggested changes or additions. It is thought that the exercise of preparing answers to the form may be the best way to test its value and may highlight any need for revision. Therefore, we would like, if possible, to receive completed forms from States prior to 14 June 2005. If your State has already sent the information requested in Section C, please send only revisions as necessary.

- 1. N.B. A Special Commission on the Convention was held from 28 November-i December 2000 on the Practical Operation of the Convention. The report of this meeting, Report and Conclusions of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption, was published in English and French and is available on the Hague Conference website at: http://hcch.e-vision.nl/upload/scrpt33e2000.pdf
- 2. See Report on the Special Commission of 2000, page 41, paragraphs 1 and 2.

ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE

1993 HAGUE INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION CONVENTION

Country:	
States which are so are solely receiving States of origin and requested to ensu	box(es) that indicate which body performs the stated function plely States of origin should complete only section A; States which a States should complete only section B; States which act as both receiving States should complete sections A and B. All States are that the Permanent Bureau has the information requested in covide updated information where changes are needed.
	(CAN)
	(CAR)
(PA)	
(CT)	(A DAI)
	(ABN)
	(ABF)

(APN) (APF) (IAE)

Central Authority National Central Authority Regional Public Authority Court or Tribunal Accredited Body National

(ABN) Accredited Body Foreign (APN) Approved Person National

(APF) Approved Person Foreign

(IAE) Independent Accrediting Entity appointed by Central Authority

Section A: States of origin

Country in Charles of a right					
Article	Action	Responsible Party			
4 a)	Establishes that the child is adoptable	∐CAN ★CAR □PA □CT			
4 b)	Determines that possibilities for placement of the child within the State of origin have been considered				
4 (b)	Determines that inter-country adoption is in the child's_best_interests	□CAN ★CAR □PA □CT			
4 (c); 16(1) c)	Ensures that all involved parties have been	∠CAN ★CAR			

	counselled; consent has been obtained; conse was freely given; and was only given after birth child	
4 d)	Ensures that child has been counselled a consulted when appropriate	nd □CAN ★CAR □PA □CT
8	Takes all appropriate steps to prevent impropriate financial gain	per ★CAN □CAR □PA □CT
9 a); 30	Preserves adoption records and information Ensures availability of information to child what appropriate	en □PA □ CT ★ABN □ABF
9 b)	Facilitates, follows and expedites proceedings was a view to obtaining the adoption	☐ PA ☐ CT ★ABN ★ABF
9 c)	Promotes the development of adoption counselli and post adoption services	□PA □CT ★ABN ★ABF
9 d)	Provides Central Authorities with gene evaluation reports about experiences with int country adoption	er-
9 e)	Replies, in so far as it is permitted by the law their State, to justified requests from other Cent Authorities or public authorities for informati about a particular adoption situation	ral \square PA \square CT
Article	Action	Responsible Party
10; 11	Accredits bodies and ensures that accredited bodies meet the requirements of the Convention and the State	□ PA □CT □IAE
12	Authorises foreign accredited bodies to act in the State	☐ CAN ☐ CAR☐ ☐ CAR☐ ☐ CT
16(1) a)	Prepares report on the child	□CAN ★CAR □PA □CT □ABN □ABF
22(5)	Supervises preparation of report by approved persons	□PA □CT □ABN □ABF
16(1) b)~d)	Determines, after giving due consideration to the child's circumstances and ensuring that consents have been properly obtained, that the envisaged placement is in the best interests of the child	□PA □CT □ABN □ABF □APN □APF
16(2)	Transmits reports and documentation to receiving State	□PA □CT ★ABN □ABF □APN □APF
17 a)	Ensures that the prospective adoptive parent(s) agree to the placement	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT ★ABN □ABF □APN □APF
17 C)	Agrees that the adoption may proceed	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT ★ABN □ABF □APN □APF
18	Takes all necessary steps to obtain permission for the child to leave the State of origin	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT

	<i>★</i> ABN □ABF
	□ APN □ APF
19(2)	Ensures that the transfer of the child takes place in \square CAN \square CAR
	secure and appropriate circumstances
	<i>★</i> ABN □ABF
	\Box APN \Box APF
19(3)	Returns reports if transfer of the child does not take \ \(\subseteq CAN \subseteq CAR \)
	place PA CT A \qq
	★ABN □ABF
	APN APF
20	Provides information on the progress of the CAN CAR
	adoption to the Central Authority of the receiving □PA □CT State ★ABN □ABF
 21	Consults with Central Authority or other body in $\square CAN \square CAR$
2 1	receiving State in the event the placement fails and $\square PA$ $\square CT$
	a new placement is necessary $\bigstar ABN \square ABF$
23	Certifies that the adoption has been made in ★CAN □CAR
Ü	accordance with the Convention (if the adoption is $\square PA \square CT$
	completed_in_State_of origin)
24	Retains authority to refuse adoption if manifestly ★CAN □CAR
	contrary to the public policy of the State $\square PA \square CT$
29	Ensures that no contact takes place between the □CAN ★CAR
	prospective adoptive parent(s) and the child"s $\square PA$ $\square CT$
	parents or any other person who has care of the child
	until the requirements of Articles 4 a) and 5 a) have
	been met in accordance with the law of the State
32	Ensures that no one derives improper financial gain, □CAN ★CAR
	and that service providers do not receive ★PA □CT
	remuneration which is unreasonably high in
	relation_to_services_rendered

Article	Action	Responsible Party
5 a)	Determines the eligibility and suitability of adopters	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT
5 b)	Ensures that prospective adoptive parents have been counselled	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT
5 c)	Determines that the child is or will be authorised to enter or reside permanently in that State	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT
8	Takes all appropriate steps to prevent improper financial gain	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT
9 a); 30	Preserves adoption records and information; Ensures availability of information to child when appropriate	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF
9 b)	Facilitates, follows and expedites proceedings with a view to obtaining the adoption	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF
9 d)	Provides Central Authorities with general evaluation	

	reports about experiences with inter-country adoption	<i>□PA □CT</i> □ABN□ABF
9 e)	Replies, in so far as it is permitted by the law of their State, to justified requests from other Central Authorities or public authorities for information about a particular adoption situation	□PA □CT
10; 11	Accredits bodies and ensures that accredited bodies meet the requirements of the Convention and the State	
12	Authorises foreign accredited bodies to act in the State	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT
14	Accepts adoption applications from prospective adoptive parents	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF
15	Prepares report on prospective adoptive parents and transmits to the State of origin	I I
15(1); 22(5) Supervises preparation of reports by approved persons	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF
15(2)	Transmits report to State of origin	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF □APN□APF
16(2)	Receives report on child, proof of consents and reasons for recommended placement of child with prospective adoptive parents	
17 a) b)	The same and parameter to quite any term of the same and	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF □APN□APF
17 c)	Agrees that the adoption may proceed	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF □APN□APF
18		□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF □APN□APF
19(2)	Ensures that the transfer of the child takes place in secure and appropriate circumstances	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF □APN□APF
19(3)	Returns reports if transfer of the child does not take place	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT □ABN□ABF □APN□APF
20	Provides information on the progress of the adoption to the Central Authority of State of origin	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT

		□ABN□ABF □APN□APF
21	Protects child, finds alternate care, consults with Central Authority or other body in State of origin in the event the placement fails and a new placement_is_necessary	<i>□PA □CT</i>
23	Certifies that the adoption has been made in accordance with the Convention (if the adoption is completed in the receiving State)	
24	Retains authority to refuse adoption if manifestly contrary to the public policy of the State	□CAN □CAR □PA □CT
29	Ensures that no contact takes place between the prospective adoptive parent(s) and the child's parents or any other person who has care of the child until the requirements of Articles 4 a) and 5 a) have been met in accordance with the law of the State	□PA □CT
32	Ensures that no one derives improper financial gain, and that service providers do not receive remuneration which is unreasonably high in relation_to_services_rendered	

Section C: Identification of responsible parties

Please provide the names and contact information for all applicable entities noted below, Separate sheets may be attached as necessary.

Central Authority
Regional Central Authorities
Public Authorities I Courts and Tribunals
Accredited Bodies
Approved Persons

Please provide name and contact information of person I department completing this form.