

Title	Questionnaire on possible topics for discussion at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention
Document	Prel. Doc. No 2 of May 2025
Author	PB
Agenda Item	N/A
Mandate(s)	C&D No 42 and 77 of CGAP 2025
Objective	<p>To obtain the views of HCCH Members and Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention regarding the matters they would like to discuss at the next Special Commission (SC) meeting as well as to provide input regarding its format.</p> <p>Please respond to the online version of this questionnaire via the following link.</p> <p>This PDF version has been uploaded to the HCCH website under the Adoption Section for consultation purposes only.</p>
Action to be Taken	<p>For Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For Approval <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For Action / Completion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For Information <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	N/A

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Questionnaire on possible topics for discussion at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention

Introduction

A. Objectives of the questionnaire

- 1 At its March 2025 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) mandated the Permanent Bureau (PB) to start preparing the next meeting of the Special Commission (SC) on the practical operation of the *Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption* (1993 Adoption Convention).¹ The specific dates of the meeting will be determined in accordance with the full Work Programme of the HCCH and budget implications.
- 2 In order to commence preparations for a future meeting, this questionnaire is being circulated to Members of the HCCH as well as Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention with the objective of obtaining their views on the matters they would like to discuss at the meeting, as well as to provide input regarding its format. The responses received will assist the PB in drawing up the agenda of the meeting.

B. Instructions for completion

- 3 This questionnaire is intended for Central Authorities of Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention as well as for National and Contact Organs of Members of the HCCH. Members and Contracting Parties are invited to conduct consultations with competent authorities, bodies and relevant stakeholders in their respective State in filling out this questionnaire. Central Authorities are asked to coordinate as appropriate with other competent authorities. For Contracting Parties to the Convention, Central Authorities are ultimately responsible for submitting the completed questionnaire to the PB. Members and Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention are kindly requested to send only one (coordinated) response per State.
- 4 Before completing the questionnaire, Members and Contracting Parties are invited to refer to the **“Conclusions and Recommendations from previous meetings of the Special Commission (SC) on the Practical Operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention”** ([Prel. Doc. No 1 of May 2025](#)) for an overview of the topics that were discussed in past SC meetings.
- 5 Members and Central Authorities are kindly requested to submit their responses to this questionnaire via the online version available at the following [link](#) no later than **15 July 2025, 5.00 p.m. CEST**. This PDF version has been uploaded to the HCCH website under the Adoption Section for consultation purposes only.
- 6 The PB will publish a summary of the questionnaire responses on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net), including a compilation of responses. Respondents are therefore requested to clearly indicate if their response (or responses to specific questions) should not be made available on the HCCH website.
- 7 Thank you in advance for responding to the questionnaire which will assist the PB in preparing for the next meeting of the SC on the 1993 Adoption Convention.

¹ CGAP 2025, C&D No 42 and 77.

Questionnaire on possible topics for discussion at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention

Identification for follow-up purposes:

Name of State or territorial unit:

Name of contact person:

Name of Authority / Office:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Date of submission:

I. Topics to be addressed at the Sixth Meeting of the SC on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention

In order to identify the topics to be addressed at the next SC meeting please:

1. First, rate the **specific topics** (numbers 1 to 30 in the table below) by degree of relevance to be discussed at the SC meeting:
 - 1 – no need to discuss this item
 - 2 – low priority
 - 3 – medium priority (may be discussed if time allows)
 - 4 – high priority (important to discuss)
 - 5 – very high priority (should be discussed at all costs)

[Please select a maximum of five topics for priority levels 3 to 5 above.]
2. Then select a maximum of five **overall topics** (which correspond to the broad categories proposed below – letters A to I in the table below) that you consider the **highest priority (category 5)** to discuss at the next meeting of the SC.

Please note the following:

- The SC meeting will in principle last three and a half days (subject to budgetary implications) and as there are over 100 Contracting Parties, the number of topics that can be discussed during the meeting is limited.
- The rating is **not** about the importance of a specific topic on adoption in general terms. Rather, it should only reflect the preferred choice of topics **to be discussed at this upcoming SC meeting**.
- Written comments may be included to indicate specific issues of the topic to be discussed and / or to explain why the topic is a priority for your State.
- In principle, the choice of topics for discussion at the SC meeting will be based on the responses to the specific topics (para. 1 above), while the responses to the overall topics (para. 2 above) may assist in that decision.

No	Interest to discuss SPECIFIC topics in relation to the protection of children and adoption at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention	Priority level				
		1	2	3	4	5
		1 – no need to discuss this item 2 – low priority 3 – medium priority 4 – high priority 5 – very high priority				
A.	Current landscape of intercountry adoption					
1.	Historical background and evolution on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Changes in the current landscape of intercountry adoption (e.g. number of intercountry adoptions, investigations of intercountry adoption practices, impact of suspension of intercountry adoptions) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Challenges and promising practices in the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention today <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.	Principle of subsidiarity (Art. 4 of the 1993 Adoption Convention)					
4.	Recent and new strategies and procedures to implement the principle of subsidiarity as well as ensuring timely decisions in its implementation <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.	Adoptability					
5.	Due consideration of the child's upbringing and ethnic, religious and cultural background (Art. 16(1)(b)) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Adoptability of children whose birth parents have lost their parental responsibility but who nonetheless object to the adoption <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.	Children in need of intercountry adoption today					
7.	Profile of children in need of adoption, categorisation and regulation of special needs <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Strategies to ensure that intercountry adoption meets the current needs of children as a measure of child protection <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.	Cooperation between and within States: strategies and ways forward					
9.	Enhancing understanding of the Convention through exchanges between and within States and ways forward (e.g., through	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	education, training, sharing of promising practices and knowledge) <i>Comments (if any):</i>					
F.	Specific situations of intercountry adoptions					
10.	Adoptions not finalised in the State of origin but in the receiving State <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Adoptions done only through Central Authorities (without the involvement of adoption accredited bodies) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Adoptions between States which do not have a pre-established cooperation mechanism in place (e.g., Country A and Country B have not previously engaged in intercountry adoptions with each other, and are now initiating a few adoptions without having established a working programme between them in advance) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Adoptions by “new” receiving States (States that in the past have not been acting as receiving States) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Adoption by persons who are temporarily living in a State of origin or a receiving State (e.g., expat workers, diplomats and military personnel) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Adoption of children already under the care (informal placement) of prospective adoptive parents: issues related to adoptability, eligibility and suitability of PAPs to adopt and the matching process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Reversal of the flow of the files, i.e., when a State of origin requests a receiving State to identify prospective adoptive parents capable of caring for a child in need of adoption, instead of the matching being done solely in the State of origin <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G.	Financial aspects of intercountry adoption					
17.	Tools developed by the Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption (i.e., revised Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption; revised Table on costs; Roadmap of cooperation between States to achieve separation of contributions, donations and cooperation projects from intercountry adoption; Repository of studies and other sources; revised Fact Sheet 3, “Improper financial and other gain” of the Toolkit for preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18.	Disbursements made for child maintenance <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	Bilateral cooperation between States regarding financial aspects <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H.	Post-adoption matters					
20.	Practices regarding the implementation of post-adoption services (Art. 9(c)), in particular on supporting the child's integration into the adoptive family <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21.	Practices regarding the collection and preservation of information on the child's origin (Art. 9(a)), including the use of DNA databases <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22.	Practices relating to access to information on the child's origin (Art. 30) (e.g., use of DNA technology, search for origins requests linked to illegal adoptions and / or adoptions with illicit practices) <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23.	Disruption and breakdown of adoptions <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24.	Virtual State-led workshops on post-adoption <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I.	Intrafamily adoption					
25.	Adoptions by relatives and step-parent adoptions <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26.	Use of intrafamily adoption to circumvent immigration laws <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27.	Practices to adapt standard procedures to intrafamily adoption <i>Comments (if any):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J.	Other topics					
	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No Interest to discuss OVERALL topics in relation to the protection of children and adoption at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention

Priority level

- 1 – no need to discuss this item
- 2 – low priority
- 3 – medium priority
- 4 – high priority
- 5 – very high priority

		1	2	3	4	5
A.	Current landscape of intercountry adoption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.	Principle of subsidiarity (Art. 4 of the 1993 Adoption Convention)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.	Adoptability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.	Children in need of intercountry adoption today	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.	Cooperation between and within States: strategies and ways forward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F.	Specific situations of intercountry adoptions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G.	Financial aspects of intercountry adoption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H.	Post-adoption matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I.	Intrafamily adoption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J.	Other topics: please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

II. Format of the SC meeting and side meetings

28. In your opinion, would it be useful to organise **roundtable discussions** (i.e., presentations by Central Authorities, competent authorities, experts and / or persons with lived experience) on specific topics during the SC meeting?

- ☐ Yes
☐ Yes, only for the first day of the meeting
☐ Yes, for specific topics only
☐ Yes, only for the first day of the meeting and for specific topics only
☐ No
☐ N/A

Please specify the topics which you think should be discussed in a roundtable format:

Please enter any comments here:

29. In your opinion, and if feasible, would it be useful to organise **breakout sessions** on specific topics during the SC meeting?

- ☐ Yes
☐ Yes, only for the first day of the meeting
☐ Yes, for specific topics only
☐ Yes, only for the first day of the meeting and for specific topics only
☐ No
☐ N/A

Please specify the topics which you think should be discussed during breakout sessions:

Please enter any comments here:

30. **One-day training session on the 1993 Adoption Convention** (mainly for new Contracting Parties and States interested in becoming a Party that seek to gain a better understanding of the 1993 Adoption Convention): Please indicate whether you would be interested in participating in this training session which could be held in the weekend prior to the meeting and / or online some months before the SC meeting. The date, venue and format will be confirmed at a later date, based on interest shown and available budget and resources.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

Please enter any comments here:

31. **Information session about the SC meeting**: the PB will organise an online information session for all participants (in particular those who have never attended a meeting of an SC) in advance of the meeting. Please indicate if you would be interested in participating:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Please enter any comments here:

32. **Informal bilateral / multilateral meetings between Central Authority representatives attending the SC meeting**: if feasible, and if sufficient interest is shown, the PB may facilitate informal meetings at its offices between Central Authority representatives prior to the start of the meeting of the SC. Please indicate if you would be interested in participating:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No, Central Authorities can organise such meetings between themselves
☐ N/A

Please enter any comments here:

33. Please provide **any additional suggestions** you may have on the format of the next meeting of the SC and / or side events.

III. Other comments or suggestions

34. Please provide any other comments or suggestions you may have to assist the PB in preparing for the meeting of the SC.

35. The PB intends to publish a summary of the questionnaire responses on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net), including, a compilation of the responses. Please indicate below whether you agree to your responses being made available on the HCCH website (if you do not respond to this question, it would be understood that you agree that your responses are made available on the HCCH website):

- ☐ Yes, we agree that our responses are made available on HCCH website
- ☐ No, we do not agree for our responses to be made available on HCCH website
- ☐ Yes, we agree that our responses are made available on HCCH website but with some exceptions.

Please specify here which responses you do not want to be made available on the HCCH website:

Thank you very much for your response.