

**Note No. HAGUE-315**

The Embassy of Canada to the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Secretary General of The Hague Conference on Private International Law and has the honour to note the following:

In reference to the Diplomatic Note L.c. ON No 57(16) Financial Regulations - monetary voluntary contribution by a non-Member dated December 9, 2016 detailing a proposed contribution from Mr. Stephen J Cullen of Miles & Stockbridge P.C., Washington, USA to assist with modernising and improving the INCADAT Database, Canada has no objection to the acceptance of this contribution by the Permanent Bureau and hopes it will contribute to the successful development and use of INCADAT.

Canada wishes to note, however, that some of the statements made in the Diplomatic Note are either premature or incorrect in light of the Financial Regulations of the Conference. The acceptance of contributions is governed by the application of the Regulations and, where a consultation with the Standing Committee is required, in light of any objection from Member States to the acceptance of the contribution. Canada further notes that paragraph 17(2) covers contributions actually received. In accordance with past practice, Canada expects all contributions to be reported as part of the financial information made available at year's end.

Canada looks forward to a constructive discussion on budgetary matters at the meeting of the Council of Diplomatic Representatives and during meetings of its Standing Committee. Transparency in the sources and the amounts of additional funding received by the Conference is an important element of this discussion.

The Embassy of Canada avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of The Hague Conference on Private International Law the assurance of its highest consideration.

THE HAGUE, January 3, 2017

