

Título	Análisis de las respuestas al cuestionario de 2025 sobre los temas que podrían tratarse en la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993
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Objetivo	Resumir las respuestas recibidas de los Miembros y las Partes contratantes del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 al cuestionario de 2025 sobre los temas que podrían tratarse en la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico de dicho Convenio
Acción requerida	Decisión ☒ Aprobación ☐ Discusión ☐ Acción/finalización ☐ A título informativo ☒
Anexos	<i>Annex I: Overview of responses to the 2025 Questionnaire</i> <i>Annex II: Summary of the comments to the responses</i>
Documentos relacionados	- Doc. Prel. N.º 1 de mayo de 2025 – Conclusiones y Recomendaciones de las reuniones anteriores de la Comisión Especial (CE) sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 - Doc. Prel. N.º 2 de mayo de 2025 – Cuestionario sobre los temas que podrían tratarse en la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993

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Análisis de las respuestas al cuestionario de 2025 sobre los temas que podrían tratarse en la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993

I. Introducción

- 1 En marzo de 2025, el Consejo de Asuntos Generales y Política (CAGP) encargó a la Oficina Permanente (OP) comenzar “a preparar la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 distribuyendo un cuestionario sobre los posibles temas y el formato de la reunión. La OP informará sobre los resultados de este cuestionario a los Miembros y a las Partes contratantes y comenzará los demás preparativos en función de las respuestas que reciba”.¹
- 2 En mayo de 2025, la OP distribuyó el *Cuestionario sobre los temas que podrían tratarse en la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993* (cuestionario de 2025).² En este documento se analizan las respuestas recibidas a dicho cuestionario y, en función de ellas, se presentan algunas sugerencias para la preparación de la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial. Además, en el anexo I se recopilan las respuestas recibidas, mientras que en el anexo II se resumen los comentarios formulados y se indica por qué los encuestados consideraron que un tema debería tratarse o no, así como otras observaciones.
- 3 Los temas incluidos en el cuestionario de 2025 se basaron en comentarios recibidos de las Partes contratantes en varias reuniones (p. ej., reuniones de grupos de trabajo, talleres, conferencias, seminarios, misiones de asistencia técnica), en el trabajo que está realizando la HCCH y en sugerencias presentadas a la OP por diferentes autoridades y partes interesadas desde la última reunión de la Comisión Especial en 2022.
- 4 En el cuestionario de 2025 se pidió a los Miembros y a las Partes contratantes que calificaran **temas específicos** (del 1 al 27) según qué tan importante consideran que es tratarlos en la reunión de la Comisión Especial, así como que seleccionaran un máximo de cinco temas generales (de A a I) que consideran de máxima prioridad para la reunión. El resumen de las respuestas que figura a continuación hace referencia a estos números y categorías.
- 5 Los resultados de la calificación dada por los Estados se presentan principalmente en formato estadístico,³ así como en forma resumida según el caso (para más detalles, véanse los anexos). Cabe recordar que la calificación no se refiere a la **importancia de un tema específico** en términos generales, sino que solo indica los **temas que se desean tratar en la próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial**.
- 6 La próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial está prevista provisionalmente para 2027; sin embargo, la fecha exacta se determinará de acuerdo con el programa de trabajo completo de la HCCH. Las propuestas que figuran en el presente documento tienen en cuenta el gran número de

¹ “Conclusiones y Decisiones del CAGP de 2025 (5-7 de marzo de 2025)”, CyD N.º 42, disponible en el sitio web de la HCCH (www.hcch.net), en “Gobernanza” => “Consejo de Asuntos Generales y Política” => “Archivo (2000-2025)”.

² Doc. Prel. N.º 2 de mayo de 2025 “Cuestionario sobre los temas que podrían tratarse en la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993” (disponible en el sitio web de la HCCH (www.hcch.net) en “Sección Adopción” => “Reuniones de la Comisión Especial” => “Comisión Especial de 2027 (fecha por confirmar)”).

³ Para facilitar la lectura, las estadísticas se han redondeado. Sin embargo, esto hace que no todos los totales suman el 100 %. Cabe señalar también que 18 Estados solicitaron que sus respuestas no se publicaran en el sitio web de la HCCH. Por lo tanto, los gráficos de las secciones III y IV que figuran a continuación incluyen datos de todos los Estados que respondieron, mientras que el anexo I no incluye los datos de los Estados que solicitaron que sus respuestas no se publicaran en el sitio web de la HCCH. Por su parte, el anexo II incluye datos de todos los Estados que respondieron, pero no menciona los nombres de los Estados que solicitaron que sus respuestas no se publicaran en el sitio web de la HCCH.

Partes contratantes del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 (actualmente, 107 Partes contratantes y dos Estados signatarios),⁴ así como consideraciones presupuestarias y logísticas. Por consiguiente, por el momento, la duración total de dicha reunión sería de tres días y medio (desde el martes por la mañana hasta el viernes a la hora del almuerzo).

II. Resumen de las respuestas y comentarios al cuestionario de 2025

7 La OP desea expresar su agradecimiento a las 74 Partes contratantes del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 y a los tres Observadores que respondieron al cuestionario de 2025. Se pueden presentar de la siguiente manera:

- 58 Miembros de la HCCH. Entre ellos:
 - ⇒ 28 Partes contratantes se identifican⁵ como Estados de origen: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaiyán, Brasil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China (continental),⁶ Costa Rica, Chipre, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eslovaquia, Eslovenia, Filipinas, Honduras, Hungría, India, Lituania, Macedonia del Norte, , República de Corea, República de Moldavia, Rumanía, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Tailandia, Uruguay y Vietnam.
 - ⇒ 20 Partes contratantes se identifican como Estado de recepción: Alemania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bélgica, Canadá, Dinamarca, España, Finlandia, Francia, Irlanda, Israel, Italia, Malta, Nueva Zelanda, Noruega, Países Bajos, Reino Unido (Inglaterra), Suecia y Suiza.
 - ⇒ 10 Partes contratantes se identifican tanto como Estados de origen y de recepción: Croacia, Estados Unidos de América, Mauricio, México, República Checa, República Dominicana, Panamá, Portugal, Türkiye y Venezuela.
- 16 Partes contratantes que no son Estados miembros de la HCCH y se identifican como Estados de origen: Belice, Benín, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Congo, Costa de Marfil, Cuba, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Madagascar, San Marino, Senegal y Togo.
- 3 Observadores Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF), Child Identity Protection (CHIP), Servicio Social Internacional (SSI).⁷

8 Este documento se centra principalmente en las respuestas presentadas por los Miembros y las Partes contratantes del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993. Las respuestas de los Observadores se han incluido en el resumen de respuestas (anexo I) y en el resumen de comentarios (anexo II). Sin embargo, de conformidad con el Reglamento Interno de la HCCH, que establece que “[l]os Observadores no participan en el proceso de toma de decisiones” (art. J.5), sus respuestas no se han contabilizado en los análisis estadísticos y porcentuales que se presentan a continuación.

A. Temas para la próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial

9 Las respuestas muestran que los Estados están en general de acuerdo con los principales temas propuestos en el cuestionario de 2025, ya que todos ellos recibieron una mayoría de respuestas afirmativas (si bien el grado de prioridad varía de un tema a otro). Fueron relativamente pocos los

⁴ Desde la última reunión de la Comisión Especial en 2022, el Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 ha sido ratificado por un Miembro de la HCCH (la República de Corea) y se han adherido a él dos países que no son Miembros de la HCCH (Angola y Botswana).

⁵ La clasificación de los Estados en Estados de origen, Estados de recepción o ambos se basa en las respuestas facilitadas por cada Estado a los [Perfiles de País](#) para el Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993.

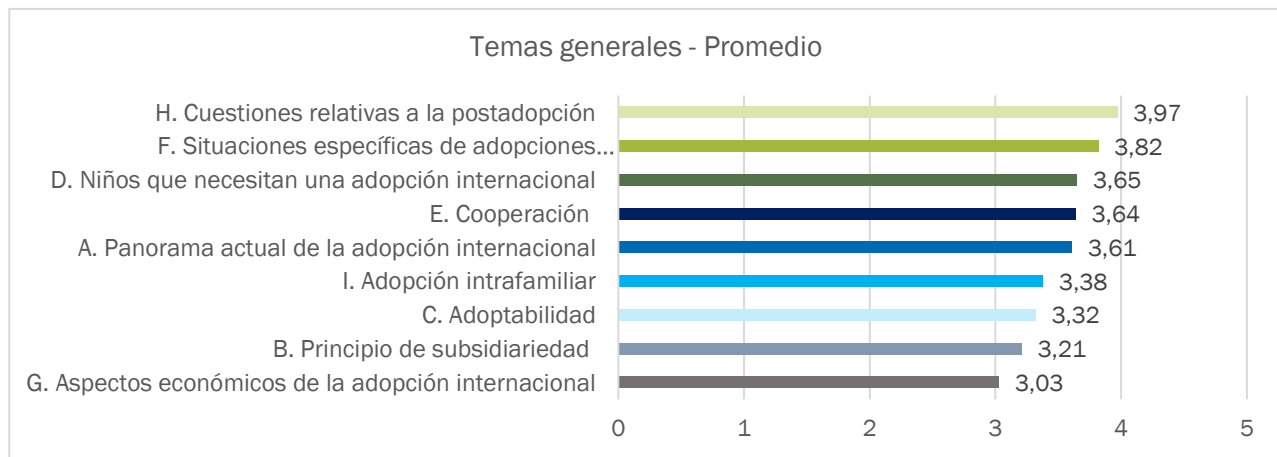
⁶ Según las respuestas a los Perfiles de País, China (continental) aparece solo como Estado de origen, mientras que China (RAE de Hong Kong) y China (RAE de Macao) aparecen como Estados de origen y Estados de recepción. A efectos del cómputo de las respuestas por Estado, China se ha contabilizado una sola vez, en la categoría de Estados de origen.

⁷ De conformidad con el Reglamento Interno de la HCCH, que establece que “[l]os Observadores no participan en el proceso de toma de decisiones” (art. J.5), las respuestas de los Observadores no se han tenido cuenta para determinar los temas que se tratarán en la reunión de la Comisión Especial (es decir, para calificar los diferentes temas). No obstante, en los anexos se puede consultar un resumen de sus comentarios y sugerencias.

temas que recibieron calificaciones muy bajas o que no suscitaron ninguna respuesta por parte de los Estados.

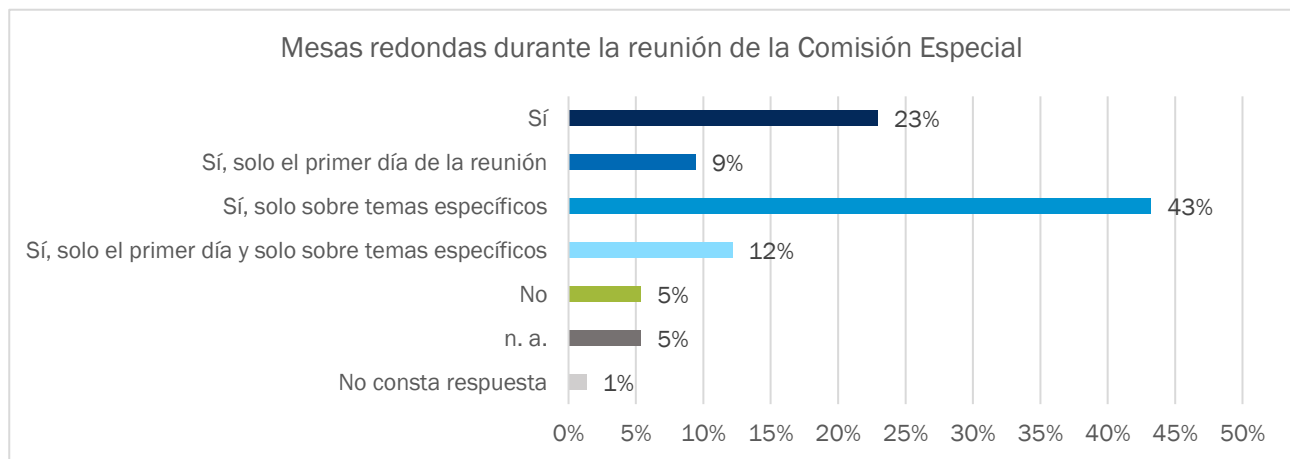
- 10 Teniendo en cuenta que se trata de la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993 y que el tiempo para la reunión es limitado, se sugiere centrarse solo en algunos temas específicos. Si bien esto puede significar que algunos temas y/o áreas no se traten, debería permitir debates más profundos. Si los Estados desean debatir temas que no se traten en la reunión de la Comisión Especial, pueden recurrir a otras vías (p. ej., talleres, seminarios, capacitaciones).
- 11 Para determinar qué temas podrían debatirse en la próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial, la OP examinó, para cada tema, tanto la calificación individual (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 o sin respuesta) como la calificación promedio, así como los comentarios de los Estados. Procedió así tanto para los temas específicos como para los generales. A continuación se presentan en los gráficos las calificaciones individuales de los temas específicos, así como las calificaciones promedio de los temas específicos y generales.





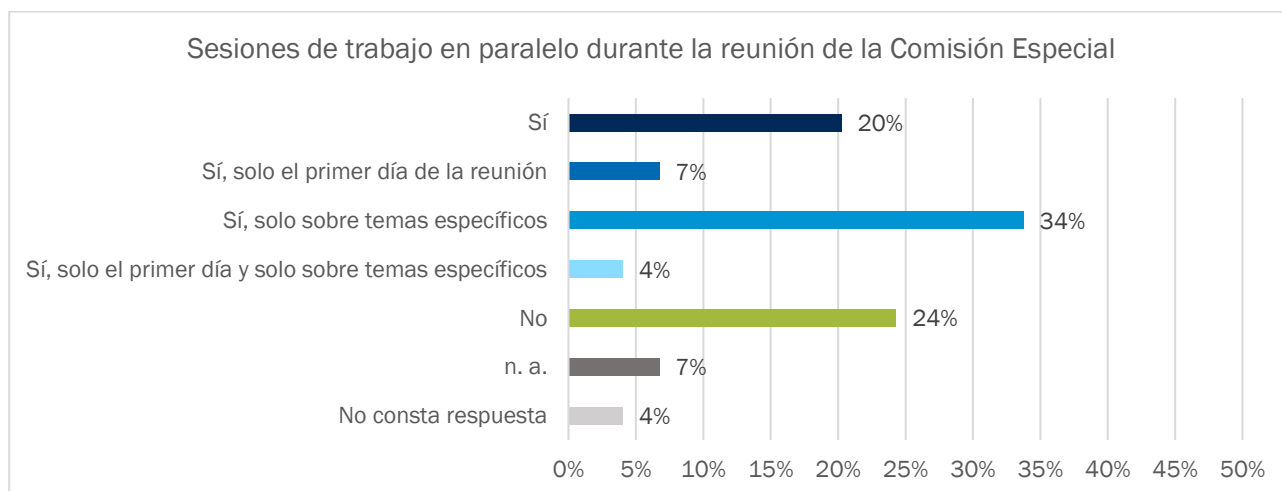
B. Formato la próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial

1. Mesas redondas



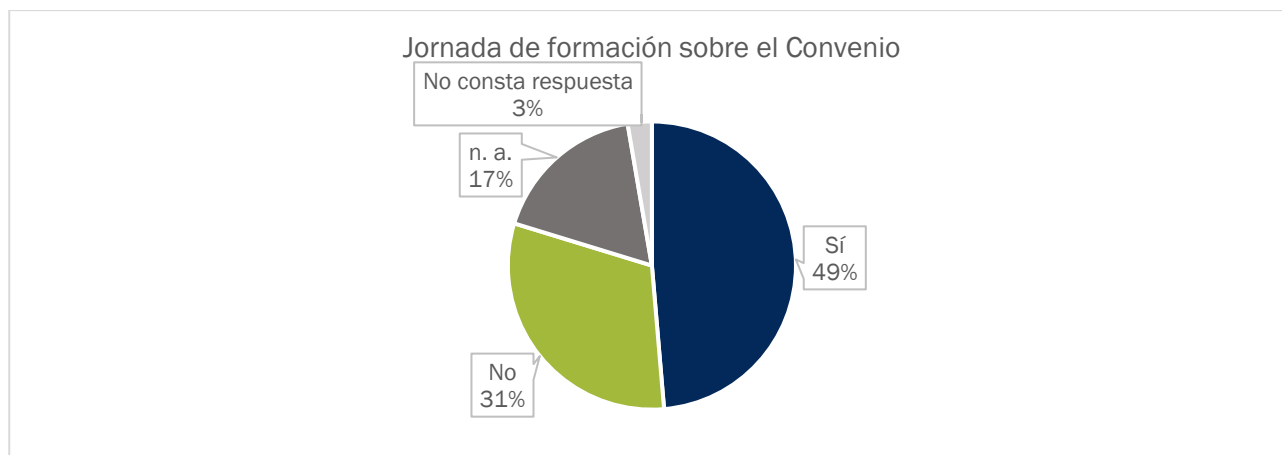
- 12 Aproximadamente el 87 % de las respuestas fueron a favor de celebrar mesas redondas, pero se indicó claramente que deberían centrarse en temas específicos y celebrarse únicamente durante el primer día de la reunión.
- 13 Según las respuestas y los comentarios recibidos sobre esta cuestión, los temas que podrían debatirse en las mesas redondas podrían ser las experiencias personales y el panorama actual de la adopción internacional.

2. Sesiones de trabajo en paralelo



- 14 Aproximadamente el 65 % de las respuestas fueron favorables a la celebración de sesiones de trabajo en paralelo, pero, al igual que en el caso de las mesas redondas, dichas sesiones deberían centrarse en temas específicos y celebrarse solo durante algunas partes de la reunión.
- 15 Según las respuestas, podrían debatirse temas relacionados con situaciones específicas de la adopción internacional. Si bien un gran número de Estados expresaron interés en debatir situaciones específicas, sus intereses varían en cuanto a qué situaciones concretas deberían debatirse. Por lo tanto, los Estados interesados podrían debatir las cuestiones más relevantes para ellos.

3. Jornada de formación sobre el Convenio



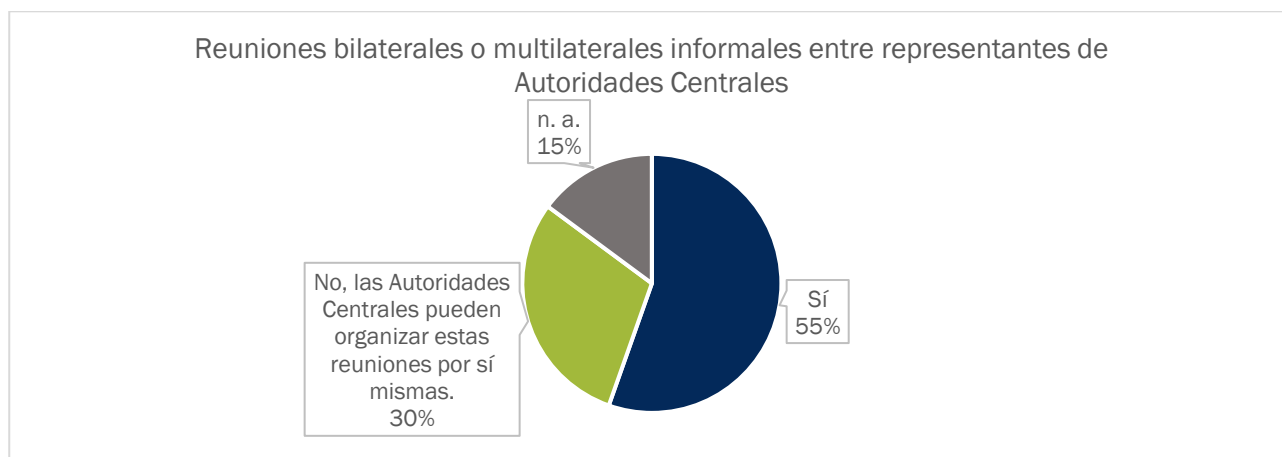
- 16 Algunos Estados señalaron la especial relevancia de una jornada de formación para las nuevas Partes contratantes. Una formación de este tipo tuvo lugar, de forma presencial, en 2015, antes de la cuarta reunión de la Comisión Especial. Su objetivo fue que el personal de las nuevas Partes contratantes y de algunos Estados de origen pudiera sacar mayor provecho de su participación en la reunión. Asimismo, en 2022, antes de la quinta reunión de la Comisión Especial, se organizó una formación similar, aunque esta solo duró medio día y, debido a la pandemia de COVID-19, se celebró íntegramente en línea.

4. Sesión informativa sobre la Comisión Especial



- 17 Una clara mayoría de las respuestas fue favorable a la celebración de una sesión informativa sobre la reunión de la Comisión Especial, en particular para los participantes que no asistieron nunca antes a una reunión de la Comisión Especial. En 2022 se celebró una sesión de este tipo en línea antes de la quinta reunión de la Comisión Especial.

5. Reuniones bilaterales o multilaterales informales entre representantes de las Autoridades Centrales que asisten a la reunión de la Comisión Especial



- 18 Se observó un claro interés por celebrar reuniones bilaterales o multilaterales informales entre los representantes de las Autoridades Centrales durante la reunión de la Comisión Especial. Muchos Estados (55 %) expresaron interés en que la OP facilite la celebración de dichas reuniones en su sede, mientras que otros (30 %) consideraron que las Autoridades Centrales podrían organizar las reuniones por sí mismas.

III. Temas y formato propuestos para la próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial

A. Temas propuestos

- 19 Teniendo en cuenta el apretado programa de la reunión de la Comisión Especial (tres días y medio), solo se podrán abordar unos pocos temas. Hace falta medio día para debatir y aprobar las Conclusiones y Recomendaciones (CyR) de la reunión, por lo que solo quedan tres días para los debates (con cuatro sesiones por día, tenemos un total de 12 sesiones).
- 20 Según las respuestas recibidas, podrían debatirse los siguientes temas:

- **Cuestiones relativas a la postadopción (H.),** incluidos todos los temas específicos de esta categoría:
 - ⇒ Prácticas relativas a la implementación de servicios postadoptivos (art. 9(c)), en particular para favorecer la integración del niño en la familia adoptiva (H.20);
 - ⇒ Prácticas relativas a la recopilación y conservación de información sobre el origen del niño (art. 9(a)), en particular el uso de bases de datos de ADN (H.21);
 - ⇒ Prácticas relativas al acceso a la información sobre el origen del niño (art. 30) (p. ej.: tecnología relativa al ADN, solicitudes de búsqueda de orígenes vinculadas a adopciones ilegales y/o adopciones con prácticas ilícitas) (H.22);
 - ⇒ Ruptura y fracaso de la adopción (H.23);
 - ⇒ Talleres virtuales dirigidos por Estados sobre servicios postadoptivos (H.24).
- **El panorama actual de la adopción internacional (A.),** incluidos los siguientes temas específicos de esta categoría:
 - ⇒ Cambios en el panorama actual de la adopción internacional (p. ej.: número de adopciones internacionales, investigaciones sobre prácticas de adopción internacional, impacto de la suspensión de las adopciones internacionales) (A.2);
 - ⇒ Desafíos actuales para el funcionamiento del Convenio y prácticas prometedoras (A.3).
- **Niños que necesitan una adopción internacional (D.),** incluidos los dos temas específicos de esta categoría:
 - ⇒ Perfil de los niños que necesitan ser adoptados, categorización y regulación de las necesidades especiales (D.7);
 - ⇒ Estrategias para que la adopción internacional, como medida de protección de la infancia, responda a las necesidades actuales de los niños (D.8).
- **Situaciones específicas de adopciones internacionales (F.),** y podrían tratarse los siguientes temas específicos de esta categoría:
 - ⇒ Inversión en el orden de la tramitación de los expedientes (F.16);
 - ⇒ Adopciones entre Estados que no tienen un mecanismo de cooperación preestablecido (F.12);
 - ⇒ Adopción por personas que viven temporalmente en un Estado de origen o en un Estado de recepción (F.14);
 - ⇒ Adopción de niños que ya están al cuidado (acogimiento informal) de futuros padres adoptivos (FPA) (F.15);
 - ⇒ Adopciones por Estados de recepción “nuevos” (F.13). Cabe señalar que si bien este tema no obtuvo una calificación alta, varios Estados lo sugirieron en la sección “otros temas”.
- **Cooperación entre Estados (E.),** en particular para mejorar el conocimiento del Convenio (E.9).
- **Experiencias personales:** este tema fue sugerido por varios Estados en los comentarios.

21 El tema general de las adopciones intrafamiliares recibió una calificación relativamente baja, aunque algunos de los temas específicos de esa categoría obtuvieron una calificación más alta. No obstante, varios Estados mencionaron que, dado que este tema ya se había debatido en la última reunión de la Comisión Especial celebrada en 2022, no era necesario volver a tratarlo. Sin embargo, estos temas podrían abordarse durante los debates sobre el panorama actual de la adopción internacional.

B. Formato propuesto

22 Se propone que la reunión se celebre de **forma presencial**, con la posibilidad de participar en línea.

- 23 Aproximadamente un mes antes de la reunión podría celebrarse una **sesión informativa** de preparación **en línea**. Además, en función de los espacios disponibles, el día anterior a la reunión podría celebrarse una **jornada presencial de formación** para las nuevas Partes contratantes y el nuevo personal de las Autoridades Centrales, en la sede de la OP (es decir, con una participación limitada). Otra posibilidad sería celebrar esta formación en línea un mes antes de la reunión.
- 24 El primer día de la reunión se podría organizar una mesa redonda sobre experiencias personales. Durante la reunión también se podría organizar una **sesión de trabajo en paralelo** y un debate plenario sobre situaciones específicas de adopción internacional.
- 25 Por último, los Estados podrían organizar **reuniones bilaterales o multilaterales informales** entre los representantes de las Autoridades Centrales que asistan a la reunión de la Comisión Especial en la sede de la OP (cabe señalar que la OP no participará en la organización de dichas reuniones). Estas reuniones podrían celebrarse el domingo anterior a la reunión, así como el viernes por la tarde o el sábado por la mañana después de la reunión.

IV. Próximos pasos

- 26 En función de los temas propuestos para el debate en la reunión, la OP distribuirá un cuestionario sobre el funcionamiento práctico del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993, teniendo en cuenta toda la información ya recopilada en los Perfiles de País y otros documentos.
- 27 Se recuerda a las Partes contratantes que actualicen los **Perfiles de País**, las **estadísticas**, las **tablas de costes** y los **datos de contacto** de sus Autoridades Centrales, autoridades competentes y organismos acreditados, según proceda. En particular, se recuerda a las Partes contratantes la importancia de que las direcciones de correo electrónico de las Autoridades Centrales estén actualizadas para que puedan recibir toda la información relativa a los preparativos de la sexta reunión de la Comisión Especial.

V. Propuesta para el CAGP

- 28 Sobre la base de lo expuesto, la OP invita al CAGP a considerar la siguiente CyD:
- El CAGP acoge con satisfacción el informe de la OP sobre los temas y el formato de la próxima reunión de la Comisión Especial del Convenio sobre Adopción de 1993, elaborado a partir de las respuestas a un cuestionario. Asimismo, el CAGP toma nota de los demás preparativos en curso para la reunión de la Comisión Especial, de conformidad con las respuestas recibidas al cuestionario.

ANEXOS

Annex I

Overview of responses

The numbering and lettering below correspond to those used in the [Questionnaire on possible topics for discussion at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention](#) (Prel. Doc. No 2 of May 2025 for the SC).⁸

Specific topics

States	A.01	A.02	A.03	B.04	C.05	C.06	D.07	D.08	E.09	F.10	F.11	F.12	F.13	F.14
Albania	4	5	5	5	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5
Andorra	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	2
Armenia	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	5
Australia	2	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	4	1	1	4
Austria	1	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	5	3	2	4	4	3
Azerbaijan	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Belgium	1	5	4	5	1	3	5	3	5	1	1	1	1	3
Belize	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	5	3	4	4
Benin		3		3	2		4		4		5			
Brazil	1	3	4	3	2	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	3	5
Burkina Faso	2	4	4	1	3	3	4	5	5	1	3	5	1	5
Burundi	3	5	5	5	1	5	1	3	5	1	5	5	5	
Cabo Verde	2	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	4
Canada	5	5	5	4	3	2	4	5	5	4	2	3	2	5
Chile	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	5	2
China (Hong Kong SAR)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2
China (Macao SAR)	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	5	4	2	4	2	4
Colombia	1	1	1	4	1	3	5	5	1	1	1	5	1	3
Congo	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	4	2
Costa Rica	2	3	5	2	3	2	5	5	5	2	5	2	2	5
Côte D'Ivoire	3	4	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	1	1	1	3	5
Cyprus	3	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	4
Cuba	1	3	4	3	2	2	3	3	5	2	3	2	2	2
Czech Republic	1	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Denmark	2	2	4	4	4	3	5	5	2	2	4	4	2	2
Dominican Republic	3	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	3	4
Ecuador	2	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4
Finland	4	5	5	5	1	1	1	2	2	5	5	5	2	5

⁸ See, *supra* note 3.

Germany	2	2	2	5	5	5	5	5	4	1	1	1	1	2
Ghana	2	4	3	5	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	5	5
Guatemala	2	4	3	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5
Guinea	3	5	3	3	5	2	2	3	5	2	3	3	2	3
Guyana	1	1	3	2	1	3	5	4	5	3	5	5	5	5
Honduras	2	5	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	2
Hungary	1	3	4	3	3	4	5	5	3	1	2	1	3	5
India	1	2	2	2	2	5	4	3	5	3	1	1	1	5
Ireland	1	5	3	5	3	3	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	3
Italy	3	5	5	4	3	3	5	3	5	5	3	4	3	3
Lithuania	2	5	3	2	3	4	5	4	1	2	5	3	2	2
Malta	1	4	4	3	2	2	2	4	4	3	4	5	2	2
Mauritius	2	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mexico	3	3	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5
Netherlands	1	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4
New Zealand	2	4	5	5	5	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	3
Norway	1	4	5	4	3	3	2	3	4	3	5	4	1	3
Philippines	1	5	5	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
Portugal	2	5	2	2	1	1	3	5	3	2	1	5	1	2
Republic of Moldova	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	3	2	3
Romania	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	3	3
San Marino	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	5	3	4	5	5	2	2
Serbia	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4			4
Slovakia	1	3	4		2	1	5	5	1	5	1	5	1	2
Slovenia	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	3	4	2	4
Sri Lanka	2	2	4	5	2	2		4	5	2	2	3	2	3
Switzerland		5	3	5	3	5	5	3	3	4	5	4		3
Togo		5							5					
United States of America	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	5	2	2	3	2
Uruguay	2	2	5	2	4	5	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	4
UNICEF	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	3	5	4	3	3
CHIP	1	4	3	4	5	3	3	3	5	2	2	2	2	2
ISS	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	3	2	2	4

States	F.15	F.16	G.17	G.18	G.19	H.20	H.21	H.22	H.23	H.24	I.25	I.26	I.27
Albania	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	5
Andorra	4	4	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	3
Armenia	4	3	5	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3
Australia	2	3	2	3	4	3	3	4	3	2	2	4	2
Austria	3	3	5	5	4	2	3	4	3	5	4	3	4
Azerbaijan	5	3	1	2	2	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	3
Belgium	1	5	1	4	1	2	5	5	1	1	3	3	4
Belize	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	2	5	3	5
Benin			2			3	2	3	3	4	3	3	4
Brazil	4	4	3	3	3	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	3
Burkina Faso	3	2	5	1	2	2	4	4	4	3	1	4	1
Burundi	4	5	2	3	5	4	2	3	5	5	5	1	3
Cabo Verde	5	5	3	1	3	3	3	3	5	2	4	4	5
Canada	3	4	5			2	2	3	4		4	5	4
Chile	5	4	2	2	2	4	5	5	3	5	3	3	3
China (Hong Kong SAR)	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
China (Macao SAR)	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	5	3
Colombia	4	5	5	5	5	2	5	1	5	1	5	5	5
Congo	3	4	5	5	4	5	5	5			4	4	4
Costa Rica	2	5	2	2	2	2	5	3	4	3	5	2	5
Côte D'Ivoire	5	5	3	3	5	5	3	4	5	4	4	5	5
Cyprus	5	5	4	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Cuba	3	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	4	5	4	3	5
Czech Republic	4	4	3	2	2	4	5	5	4	2	4	4	4
Denmark	2	2	3	3	2	5	5	5	3	3	2	2	2
Dominican Republic	5	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ecuador	5	4	3	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	3	5	4
Finland	5	2	4	3	3	2	5	5	4	3	5	5	5
Germany	1	1	2	1	1	5	5	5	5	4	2	2	2
Ghana	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	5	5	4	4
Guatemala	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Guinea	3	3					5	3		3			5
Guyana	5	5	4	5	5	5	1	1	5	5	1	5	5
Honduras	5	1	3	4	2	5	4	5	5	3	5	5	5
Hungary	1	5	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	2

India	3	3	1	1	1	5	3	1	5	5	5	1	5
Ireland	3	3	2	1	1	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Italy	3	4	5	5	3	5	4	5	5	4	3	3	3
Lithuania	4	5	1	1	2	3	4	4	3	2	4	1	1
Malta	3	2	4			4	4	4	4	2	2	3	3
Mauritius	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	5	5	4	5	5	5
Mexico	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Netherlands	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
New Zealand	4	3	2	2	3	2	4	4	2	3	5	5	5
Norway	2	2	4	1	3	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	2
Philippines	5	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
Portugal	1	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	3	2	1	2
Republic of Moldova	5	2	2	3	1	5	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Romania	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	2	2	1	2
San Marino	5	4	2	2	2	4	4	4	3	3	1	1	1
Serbia		5	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	5			5
Slovakia	3	4	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	3	4	4	4
Slovenia	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2
Sri Lanka	5	2	4	2	3	4	2	5	4	2	2	2	5
Switzerland	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Togo			5			5		5				5	
United States of America	2	2	3	4		2	2	2	5	2	1	2	3
Uruguay	4	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	5	2	2	2	2
UNICEF	2	4	3	4	2	3	4	5	5	1	2	2	2
CHIP	2	2	4	2	2	5	5	5	4	4	5	3	3
ISS	2	5	5	2	2	3	5	5	3	4	4	4	4

Overall topics

States	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	I.
Albania	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	5
Andorra	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	3
Armenia	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3
Australia	2	4	3	3	2	3	2	4	3
Austria	2	2	3	1	4	3	5	3	2
Azerbaijan	3	3	4	2	2	3	2	5	4
Belgium	2	4	2	5	4	5	4	5	5
Belize	5	4	5	4	3	3	3	5	5
Benin	2	3	2	4	4	4	3	3	
Brazil	5			5	5			5	5
Burkina Faso	5	1	2	3	4	3	1	4	4
Burundi		4		5	5				
Cabo Verde	3	5	5		2	3	3	3	5
Canada	5	4	3	4	5	2	5	4	5
Chile	4	3	3	4	4		3	4	2
China (Hong Kong SAR)	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2
China (Macao SAR)	3	2	2	2	5	4	2	3	4
Colombia	1	3	4	4	1	5	4	2	5
Congo	4	4	4	3	4	4		4	
Costa Rica	5	3	3	3	5	3	2	5	5
Côte D'Ivoire	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	4
Cyprus	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	4
Cuba	5			4	5	3	1	4	5
Czech Republic	2	2	2	4	4	5	2	4	1
Denmark	2	5	4	5	3	2	3	5	2
Dominican Republic	4	4	3	3	5	5		5	3
Ecuador	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	5
Finland	5	5	2	1	2	5	2	5	5
Germany	2	5	5	5	4	1	2	5	2
Ghana	3	5	4	4	4	3	3	5	4
Guatemala		5		5		5		5	5
Guinea	5		5		5			5	5
Guyana					5	5		5	5
Honduras	5	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	5

Hungary	2	2	2	4	2	5	2	2	2
India	2	1	5	3	5	5	1	5	2
Ireland	4	5	4		4	5	1	3	5
Italy	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	5	3
Lithuania	3	2	4	5	4	2	1	3	1
Malta	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	4	2
Mauritius	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mexico	4	5	5	4	5	5	3	4	5
Netherlands	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3
New Zealand	5	5	5	5	5	2	3	2	3
Norway	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	3	1
Philippines			5	5	5	5	5		
Portugal	5	2	1	5	3	5	1	5	2
Republic of Moldova	5	5					5		5
Romania	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	3	2
San Marino	5	4	5	5	4	3	2	5	1
Serbia	5			5		5	5	5	
Slovakia	3	2	3	5	4	5	4	5	3
Slovenia	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	4	2
Sri Lanka	2	4	2	4	5	4	2	4	5
Switzerland	5	5	4	4	2	5	3	5	5
Togo	5				5		5	5	5
United States of America	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2
Uruguay	5	2	5	4	3	3	2	4	2
UNICEF	2	2	2	3	1	4	4	5	2
CHIP	2	4	2	2	5	2	2	5	4
ISS	5	2	2	5	4	4	5	5	4

Annex II

Summary of the comments to the responses⁹

A. Current landscape of intercountry adoption

- 1 States' responses revealed a strong interest in discussing the *changes in the current landscape of intercountry adoption* (topic A.2 – score 3.47/5) and the *challenges and promising practices in the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention today* (topic A.3 – score 3.54/5):
 - On the current landscape, States showed an interest in discussing recent investigations into historical intercountry adoption practices, including processes, outcomes, responses to illicit practices, support to victims, stakeholders involved, community messaging, and implications for the future of intercountry adoption (e.g., Australia, Finland, New Zealand, CHIP).
 - Many States also emphasised understanding the impact of suspensions and programme closures, including how they are managed and their implications for the future of intercountry adoption, particularly amid declining engagement by some States (e.g., Australia, Burundi, Finland, Honduras).
 - Several States stressed the need for clearer data, such as numbers of intercountry adoptions, reasons for variations in the number of adoptions, as well as the main current States of origin and receiving States (Austria, Guatemala, Honduras).
 - On current challenges and promising practices, one State highlighted the importance of promoting adoption of children with special needs, while noting that domestic adoptions of children with special needs are already increasing (Costa Rica). States also noted the convergence of challenges experienced between both domestic and intercountry adoptions. Many States also stressed the relevance of identifying the current challenges, sharing effective models to strengthen (horizontal) cooperation, prevent illicit practices, and replicate promising practices (Cuba, Honduras, Mauritius, New Zealand, Sri Lanka).
- 2 However, the responses indicated that States showed little interest in discussing the *historical background and evolution on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption* (topic A.1 – score 1.98/5). One State saw this topic as valuable only for new States Parties (Italy), and another as being less relevant compared with forward-looking discussions (Honduras).

B. Principle of subsidiarity

- 3 States showed some interest in discussing *recent and new strategies and procedures to implement the principle of subsidiarity as well as ensuring timely decisions in its implementation* (topic B.4 – score 3.39/5), although one State reported not having encountered challenges in this area (Costa Rica):
 - One State expressed interest in improving how the principle of subsidiarity is implemented and documented in the different States, noting frequent gaps in child reports, which often lack sufficient information to demonstrate that domestic alternatives were given due consideration, leading to requests from receiving States for additional details (Australia).
 - Some States highlighted challenges around the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity in intrafamily adoptions (Australia, Switzerland), especially where such adoptions

⁹ See *supra* note 3.

Regarding Observers: While Section II.A of this document only includes the responses from States and not those from Observers (see para. 8 of the document), Annex II summarises the comments of both States and Observers. Please note that to facilitate the reading of the summaries, references are made to States in general when summarising the comment received, including the name of the concerned State(s) in parenthesis, and if applicable, the name of the Observer as well.

Regarding States that requested that their responses not be posted on the HCCH website: While Annex II includes data from all responding States, the name of States that requested that their responses not be posted on the HCCH website does not appear. Instead, reference is made to "one State" or the abbreviation "e.g." is added.

are arranged privately (Australia), as well as for older children who are rarely adopted domestically (Burundi).

- One State emphasised that the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity should not be presumed but be clearly verified (Belgium). Many States called for clearer mechanisms, factors, strategies, procedures, and safeguards to implement the principle of subsidiarity (Belgium, Guatemala, Honduras, New Zealand), including providing support to birth families (ICAV), ensuring that it is applied in the best interests of the child (e.g., Cote D'Ivoire, Guatemala), while taking into account differing cultural practices and beliefs (New Zealand) and finding a balance with the need to ensure timely decision-making (Honduras).

C. Adoptability

- 4 States' responses showed less interest in discussing *due consideration of the child's upbringing and ethnic, religious and cultural background* (Art. 16(1)(b)) (topic C.5 – score 2.9/5) and the *adoptability of children whose birth parents have lost their parental responsibility but who nonetheless object to the adoption* (topic C.6 – score 3.1/5).
- 5 Nevertheless, even where it was rated as being of less interest, and that one State did not see a need to discuss this topic as they considered that solutions already exist (Sri Lanka), several States viewed, in their comments, the latter topic (C.6) of adoptability where the birth parent(s) object(s) as relevant (Australia, Burundi, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras):
 - One State noted the complexity of these situations (Honduras). In some States, it was considered that these parents do not properly fulfil their parental role (Burundi) and that these children are therefore considered neglected (Sri Lanka), while others took the view that the decision for adoption should remain a personal and individual right of the birth parents (Austria).
 - States noted that the birth parents' objections can cause undue delays and lead to institutionalisation (Honduras), as well as instability for the child and legal disputes (Guatemala).
 - It was stressed that notwithstanding the situation (*i.e.*, with or without the consent), documents were key, both for the recognition of the adoption and for any possible future search for origins (Germany) as well as being a key aspect of children's rights to identity (CHIP).
 - States that had an interest in discussing these topics suggested the following possible avenues, such as:
 - ⇒ reflecting on the consequences of such objections (one State),
 - ⇒ how to define a child adoptable in such cases (Colombia), balancing parental procedural rights with the child's need for a definitive and stable solution (Honduras), consideration of the best interests of the child (Guatemala), and
 - ⇒ developing common guidance on how to resolve these situations (Honduras), possibly through existing case studies (Mauritius).
- 6 Regarding the topic of giving due consideration of the child's upbringing and ethnic, religious and cultural background (topic C.5):
 - One State noted that giving due consideration of the child's upbringing and ethnic, religious and cultural background is important for the child to build their identity (Honduras).
 - Two States stressed the importance of including this information in detail in the child's report (Costa Rica), as such information is often incomplete (New Zealand), as well as considering this information as part of the matching process and addressing these aspects in the training and preparation of the prospective adoptive parents (Costa Rica).

- To that effect, two States noted the relevance of determining which information is needed to give the agreement that the adoption may proceed (Art. 17(c)) (New Zealand) and harmonising the criteria to consider these aspects effectively (Honduras).
- For two States, ensuring these elements are meaningfully considered in matching decisions, and harmonising related criteria, was viewed as essential for safeguarding identity and long-term well-being (Costa Rica, Honduras).
- In that respect, one State also highlighted the need for timely adoptability decisions, noting that delays could prevent children from being placed promptly with suitable adoptive families (Colombia).

D. Children in need of intercountry adoption today

- 7 States showed the greatest interest in discussing *strategies to ensure that intercountry adoption meets the current needs of children as a measure of protection* (topic D.8 – score 3.79/5) and some interest in discussing the *profile of children in need of adoption, categorisation and regulation of special needs* (topic D.7 – score 3.33/5).
- 8 Responses showed that States consider understanding children's profiles to be key for strategic planning and for ensuring ethical placements in the best interests of the child (Honduras) and that this topic should be discussed (Moldova, in response to J):
 - States reported an evolution in children's profiles and a growing diversity of the specific needs of children (Belgium), with around 70% of children adopted intercountry having special needs in some States (Italy).
 - Responses showed that States are of the opinion that it is important to understand how States identify and categorise such children (Belgium, Guatemala, New Zealand), to promote more uniform criteria, to avoid ambiguities or discriminatory practices (Honduras, ICAV), and to prevent removing children from their families because of a lack of resources (ICAV).
 - States viewed that it is also important to exchange experiences on how States manage these adoptions (Philippines) so as to ensure that an intercountry adoption is in the best interests of the child (New Zealand, ICAV). This could include, for example, not assuming that receiving States and / or adoptive families have the appropriate means and the financial ability to take care of the adoptable children's needs (ICAV).
 - States were also interested in discussing adoption of children with temporary special needs (India), and how best to support children with special needs (Italy).
- 9 Regarding strategies to ensure that intercountry adoption meets the current needs of children, the following was noted:
 - Detailed reports on the child and the prospective adoptive parents, which clearly include the needs of the child (one State), help match children with appropriate prospective adoptive parents (Czech Republic).
 - Adequate preparation of adoptive families is essential (Honduras).
 - Concerns exist around compliance with the 1993 Adoption Convention when intrafamily adoptions are arranged privately (Australia).
 - Sharing and adapting best practices (Costa Rica, Guatemala) which are comprehensive and child-centred, as well as strengthening psychosocial, educational and health supports before and after adoption (Honduras), is important.
 - Consideration of the key features of child protection measures, noting that adoption is unique in requiring (potential) carers to almost always make payments to provide that protection (UNICEF).
 - While some States see this topic as being highly relevant (Honduras), others believe that this issue has already been discussed (Costa Rica) and is linked with the *current landscape of intercountry adoption* (topic A) (Canada).

E. Cooperation between and within States: strategies and ways forward

10 States showed great interest in discussing how to *enhance the understanding of the Convention through exchanges between and within States and ways forward* (topic E.9 – score 3.47/5), although one State noted that this topic would be more relevant for new Contracting States, smaller States and / or States that have recently changed the authority responsible for granting adoptions (Australia):

- States noted that Central Authorities learn a lot from sharing experiences (Burundi) and that cooperation should foster a better and more consistent understanding of the Convention (Sri Lanka). Training and sharing of practices could include standardised regular online training (Austria), with receiving States supporting States of origin on how to improve cooperation (Italy).
- Cooperation is seen as important and necessary (Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala), central to the Convention (Canada, New Zealand), and essential for the Convention's effective application and for the protection of children (Honduras).
- Discussions should address cooperation in a broader sense (Canada), ways to enhance it (New Zealand), and how to guarantee compliance with the provisions of the Convention (including challenges such as poor communication, inadequate information in files) (UNICEF).
- It was noted that cooperation should also be addressed in the context of post-adoption (CHIP).

F. Specific situations of intercountry adoptions

11 States expressed varying levels of interest in discussing the specific situations of intercountry adoptions:

- *Adoptions not finalised in the State of origin but in the receiving State* (topic F.10 – score 3.14/5):
 - ⇒ These situations occur in practice (Italy) and are relevant for discussion (Guatemala, Honduras), although some States have shifted the finalisation of the adoption from taking place in the receiving State to taking place in the State of origin (Philippines).
 - ⇒ There was an interest to discuss measures to secure the legal status of the adopted child and the relationship between the child and the prospective adoptive parents during the socialisation period, the challenges that may arise in these situations and how States cope with those challenges (Finland).
- *Adoptions done only through Central Authorities (without the involvement of adoption accredited bodies)* (topic F.11 – score 3.07/5):
 - ⇒ This type of adoption is a current and evolving practice in some States (Burundi, Honduras) and relevant for discussion (Guatemala, Honduras), although they are not possible in all States (Italy).
 - ⇒ This model offers benefits, including reducing risks of illicit practices (Australia), ensuring high standards, and simplifying processes and costs (Honduras).
 - ⇒ Key considerations include identifying working models, good practices, whether such adoptions involve adoption fees (Finland), and defining clear criteria for when the involvement of an adoption accredited body can be dispensed with (Honduras).
- *Adoptions between States which do not have a pre-established cooperation mechanism in place* (topic F.12 – score 3.29/5):
 - ⇒ While some States showed an interest in discussing these situations (Guatemala), especially in intrafamily adoption cases (Colombia), other States considered the topic only relevant for those States which allow these situations (Australia) and some had no interest in discussing it, given the lower numbers of children in need of intercountry

- adoptions and how demanding it is to establish cooperation with new States (Czech Republic).
- ⇒ Challenges include potential hindrance to the effective application of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Honduras).
 - ⇒ Possible ways forward involve establishing practical guidelines to ensure compliance with the 1993 Adoption Convention (Honduras), initiating one or two pilot cases to monitor implementation (Italy), and guaranteeing legality and transparency of the adoption process, including for possible future searches for origins (Portugal).
 - ⇒ It was suggested to discuss if cooperation in an adoption case requires mechanisms beyond those set out in the Convention (UNICEF).
- *Adoptions by “new” receiving States (States that in the past have not been acting as receiving States) (topic F.13 – score 2.38/5):*
 - ⇒ These situations are relevant and currently taking place (Honduras, Colombia in response to J).
 - ⇒ Challenges include adapting the practices they had before they were a receiving State, preparation, assessing the prospective adoptive parents’ suitability, and establishing post-adoption monitoring (Honduras).
 - ⇒ Recommendations to these “new” receiving States should focus on creating control systems, cooperating with the Central Authorities of the States of origin, and implementing mechanisms for family preparation and support (Honduras).
 - *Adoption by persons who are temporarily living in a State of origin or a receiving State (e.g., expat workers, diplomats and military personnel) (topic F.14 – score 3.14/5):*
 - ⇒ One State rated these situations as being relevant for discussion (Guatemala), whereas for another State with few such cases, this was not considered of interest (Honduras).
 - ⇒ These situations include some risks, such as negatively affecting the continuity of the adoption process (e.g., withdrawal from the process), which can in turn negatively impact on the child (Honduras), and should thus be communicated (Australia).
 - ⇒ One State noted that it would be useful to share experiences on how to adequately assess the habitual residence, foreseeable permanence of the prospective adoptive parents, and their ability to assume parental responsibility with stability in a context of high mobility (Honduras), while another State noted that they would simply follow the standard adoption procedure, even in these specific situations (India).
 - *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 (topic F.15 – score 3.05/5):*
 - ⇒ Some States considered that these situations are relevant to discuss (Guatemala, Honduras), especially in intrafamily adoption cases (Colombia), since there are many of these situations taking place, both domestically and intercountry (Honduras).
 - ⇒ One State was of the view that for some States, where most cases involve prospective adoptive parents fostering children before they are formally declared adoptable, this topic would be of interest for discussion. In these States, authorities may face undue pressure to convert such placements into adoptions by the carers, and recommendations on how to deal with these situations would thus be welcome, including the possible prohibition of such predetermined placements.
 - *Reversal of the flow of the files (topic F.16 – score 3.33/5):*
 - ⇒ Some States noted that this practice takes place in certain States, mainly for children with special needs (Australia) and / or older children (Burundi). Some States noted that this practice is relevant (Burundi), especially in intrafamily adoption cases (Colombia),

and that they would like to make use of it more often (Belgium). One State mentioned that they do not allow this practice (Honduras).

- ⇒ While this practice is considered promising, it lacks information on its concrete implementation (ISS) and may contradict some practices of the Convention (Belgium). It is thus necessary to share more promising practices, for all children, beyond only those with special needs (ISS).

G. Financial aspects of intercountry adoption

12 States showed little interest in discussing the *tools developed by the Working Group* (topic G.17 – score 3.12/5), the *disbursements made for child maintenance* (topic G.18 – score 2.68/5) and the *bilateral cooperation between States regarding financial aspects* (topic G.19 – score 2.5/5). The latter two topics were considered unclear for some States (e.g., USA) and already included within the discussion of the first topic for some other States (Canada):

- One State considered that the tools had been sufficiently discussed (Australia). Others felt that discussion could be limited to presenting and discussing the tools in practice (Finland) and to promoting their use (Honduras). One Observer cautioned that, if more work on this topic is needed, it would be best to be done by the Working Group due to the limited time at the Special Commission meeting (UNICEF).
- Disbursements for child maintenance were viewed as relevant, particularly for children with special needs (Italy). Concerns were expressed about, on the one hand, tension between financial considerations and on the other the need to protect children in need of adoption (Belgium). States highlighted the need to analyse expenses incurred for the care of the child and to establish criteria distinguishing legitimate costs from illicit practices (Honduras), as well as to share the safeguards applied (New Zealand).
- Although regarded as a low priority (Honduras), keeping the dialogue open on bilateral cooperation between States remains useful (Honduras), including the sharing of safeguards applied by States (New Zealand). The relevance of discussing financial aspects in the post-adoption context was also raised (ICAV).

H. Post-adoption matters

13 States showed the most interest in discussing the *practices regarding the implementation of post-adoption services (Art. 9(c)), in particular on supporting the child's integration into the adoptive family* (topic H.20 – score 3.57/5), the *practices regarding the collection and preservation of information on the child's origin (Art. 9(a)), including the use of DNA databases* (topic H.21 – score 3.52/5), the *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)* (topic H.22 – score 3.67/5) and *disruption and breakdown of adoptions* (topic H.23 – score 3.79/5). One State also noted that they would very much value hearing from individuals with lived experiences whose placements were both successful and challenging (Philippines).

14 Discussions on practices related to post-adoption services under Article 9(c) were considered highly relevant (Honduras, Portugal):

- Regarding post-adoption support, it was noted that adequate and comprehensive support is essential to consolidate emotional bonds and address emotional needs (Honduras, Italy, ICAV). Possible conflicts of interest were raised, where post-adoption support is provided by parties which were involved in the facilitation of adoptions with illicit practices (ICAV).
- Possible discussions could include recommendations on minimum standards for follow-up and psychosocial support, strengthening the shared responsibility between both States of origin and receiving States, guided by the best interests of the child (Honduras). One suggestion made was that Central Authorities could also provide a website with all relevant information on the post-adoption support they offer (ICAV).

- Regarding post-adoption reports specifically, some States noted how crucial it was to have timely post-adoption reporting (one State) and the cooperation of adoptive parents in the preparation of such reports (Italy).
- 15 Discussions on the collection and preservation of information on the child's origin under Article 9(a) were seen as very relevant given their fundamental importance for the child's identity and future searches for origins (Honduras):
- Regarding DNA databases, it was highlighted that experience in this area was limited due to technical and budgetary constraints (Honduras) and that it was therefore relevant for States using them to share their experience (New Zealand). Discussions could include developing recommendations on their use, including their applicability, limitations, sustainability and rules on privacy (Honduras).
 - Ensuring the preservation of records, and that there are active deterrents for entities which destroy adoptee records and files, was considered important (ICAV).
- 16 Access to information on the child's origins under Article 30 was seen as very relevant, since it is an essential component of the child's right to identity (Honduras), and relevant in cases of illicit practices (ICAV, ISS):
- Some States noted that discussions could include the sharing of experiences on the use of DNA technology, such as cooperation with the police for DNA-based searches for origins for adoptees above 18 years of age (Brazil).
 - Other States noted that access to information can be challenging (Australia), especially when the adoption is not adequately documented (Honduras), but also in terms of which States are responsible to provide such access (Germany).
 - Some States suggested that ways forward could include providing guidance on searches for origins in cases of illicit practices (Belgium), the drafting of a possible Toolkit or Guide to Good Practice (Denmark, CHIP), and recommendations on standards for access to origins, including data protection (Honduras).
- 17 A State suggested that discussions under Articles 9(a) and 30 could be addressed under a separate heading as Article 9(a) is not per se a post-adoption matter (Canada).
- 18 For some States the disruption and breakdown of adoptions is relevant for discussion (Burundi, Honduras), especially considering the limited studies available on this issue (Italy):
- Several States raised the relevance of this topic also in the context of Article 21 of the 1993 Adoption Convention (where breakdowns can occur during the socialisation period in the receiving State) (Canada, Honduras), especially for children who do not want to return to the State of origin (Philippines, in response to J).
 - Ways forward suggested included:
 - ⇒ ensuring collection of data (ICAV), as well as conducting and / or sharing qualitative and quantitative studies (Italy);
 - ⇒ strengthening post-adoption follow-ups and the assessment of the suitability and preparation of the prospective adoptive parents (Honduras);
 - ⇒ providing for clear guidance in case of breakdown and determining the responsibility of the States involved (Honduras);
 - ⇒ identifying risk factors and defining early warning indicators (Honduras);
 - ⇒ sharing experiences as to how States address cases of disruption and breakdown of adoptions (Honduras);
 - ⇒ discussing reasons for, or the consequences of, the breakdown of adoptions (e.g., suicide, sexual abuse, deportation) (ICAV); as well as
 - ⇒ discussing the provision of support resources for adoptees (ICAV).

- A query was also raised as to which States provide for the revocation of intercountry adoptions (one State).

19 Regarding the *Virtual State-led workshops on post-adoption* (topic H.24 – score 3.10/5), it was proposed that the Steering Committee¹⁰ report on its activities during the meeting of the SC (Canada). States also highlighted that these workshops are useful tools (Italy), especially if they are practical and accessible to a wide range of professionals (Honduras). It was noted that States should be encouraged to facilitate future workshops (Australia) which should be complemented with written materials (Denmark, Honduras) accessible in different languages. Furthermore, the written materials and the recordings of the workshops should be downloadable afterwards (Honduras).

I. Intrafamily adoption

20 States showed some interest in discussing *adoptions by relatives and step-parent adoptions* (topic I.25 – score 3.37/5), the *use of intrafamily adoption to circumvent immigration laws* (topic I.26 – score 3.17/5) and the *practices to adapt standard procedures to intrafamily adoption* (topic I.27 – score 3.40/5). However, some States noted that these topics had already been discussed at the last meeting of the SC (e.g., USA).

21 Discussions on adoptions by relatives and step-parents were considered relevant (Costa Rica, Honduras):

- The responses showed that these practices are increasing in some States (India), with several intrafamily adoptions annually (New Zealand), but with fewer step-parent adoption cases (New Zealand).
- Challenges include situations where the consent of one of the birth parents is not required (Australia), cultural practices of “gifting” children (Australia), and the application of the 1993 Adoption Convention to these adoptions (Honduras). Some States noted that they do not consider step-parent adoptions as intrafamily adoptions (one State).
- Suggested ways forward included clarifying how the provisions of the 1993 Adoption Convention should be applied in these cases (Honduras), which criteria States apply to approve or decline a relative adoption (New Zealand) and the sharing of experiences (Honduras).

22 The use of intrafamily adoption to circumvent immigration laws is an actual and relevant concern (Australia, Costa Rica, Honduras), although no evidence has yet been identified in some States (Honduras):

- Challenges include dual nationals completing domestic intrafamily adoptions abroad outside the 1993 Adoption Convention framework (Australia), as well as compromising the legality, ethics and protective purpose of intercountry adoptions (Honduras).
- Suggested recommendations were to focus on enabling States to identify risks, strengthening Central Authority controls, and verifying the true purpose of the adoption (Honduras).

23 Adapting standard procedures to intrafamily adoption was also viewed as relevant (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras), including the avoidance of unnecessary requirements (Honduras):

- One State cautioned against any adaptation which would undermine the safeguards of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Honduras).
- Possible suggested ways forward included drafting a note to clarify these procedures (Colombia) and exchanging good practices to ensure adequate support (Honduras).

¹⁰ The steering Committee is composed of representatives of States of origin and receiving States and was set up to facilitate the organisation of these workshops. See also Prel. Doc. No 7C of February 2026 - 1993 Adoption Convention: Report on the Post-Adoption State-led Workshops.

- Queries were raised about the methods used by States to verify the parentage link between the adopted child and the birth parents (Belgium).

J. Other topics

- 24 States listed other topics that they would like to discuss but one specific recurring topic was illicit practices (Australia, Moldova, Norway, ICAV), including:
- Adoptions not channelled through the Central Authority of the receiving State (Honduras), including private and independent adoptions and other ways to get children into receiving States via immigration routes (ICAV);
 - Management of cases, support offered to adoptees and cooperation between receiving States and States of origin in cases of confirmed or suspected illicit practices (Australia);
 - Mechanisms for reviewing, annulling or challenging completed intercountry adoptions in case of illicit practices (Honduras);
 - The importance of carrying out an Article 17(c) agreement for both States (Norway).
 - The establishment of an agreed legal definition for illegal adoption in intercountry adoption cases (ICAV).
- 25 Some States considered relevant the discussion of the possible creation of software or a platform, such as:
- Software to manage intercountry adoptions, including the centralisation of information on each Contracting Party and a database containing details of children in need of intercountry adoption (Brazil); and
 - A platform which would enable Central Authorities to exchange official information (e.g., file status, declaration of eligibility and suitability, Article 23 certificate of conformity, post-adoption follow-up, communication of incidents) (Honduras).
- 26 Finally, other topics mentioned as relevant for discussion include:
- Specific consent of the child (Guyana);
 - Contact between the prospective adoptive parents and the child prior to an Article 17(c) agreement (Guyana);
 - Granting of a residence permit by the receiving State prior to the placement of the child in intercountry adoption (one State);
 - Intercountry adoptions incorrectly treated as domestic adoptions (Canada);
 - Rights of a child in need of adoption to be adopted with their sibling(s) (Moldova);
 - Cooperation addressed in a broad manner rather than in accordance with specific topics (e.g., purpose, best methods, advantages for children and families) (Canada);
 - Official correspondence and communication methods between Central Authorities (one State);
 - Standardisation of services offered (pre- and post-adoption) (Austria);
 - Automatic acquisition of the nationality of the prospective adoptive parents by the adoptee (ICAV);
 - Learning from persons with positive lived experiences (Italy); and
 - Adoptions of children born following a surrogacy arrangement (Guatemala).