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| Author | PB |
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| Action to be Taken | <div>For Decision <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>For Approval <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> |
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1993 Adoption Convention: Update

I. Introduction

- 1 The Adoption Team within the International Family and Child Protection Law Division at the Permanent Bureau (PB) supports the 1993 Adoption Convention,¹ including by raising awareness of the Convention, assisting with the Convention's implementation and operation, as well as facilitating post-Convention assistance.
- 2 This document reports on work carried out, and progress made, in relation to the 1993 Adoption Convention since CGAP 2025.

II. Status of the 1993 Adoption Convention

- 3 The 1993 Adoption Convention currently has 107 Contracting Parties further to the ratification by the Republic of Korea of the Convention on 17 June 2025, with its entry into force for Korea on 1 October 2025.²

III. Progress on the work of the Adoption Team

A. Sixth Special Commission (SC) meeting on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention

- 4 Following the CGAP 2025 mandate,³ the PB started preparations for a Sixth Meeting of the SC on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention by circulating a questionnaire on the possible topics and format of the meeting.⁴ The report of the outcomes to the questionnaire, as well as proposals for the continued organisation of the meeting, can be found in Preliminary Document (Prel. Doc.) No 7B for CGAP 2026. The next meeting of the SC is tentatively scheduled to take place in 2027; however, exact timing of this SC meeting will be determined in accordance with the full Work Programme of the HCCH.

B. Working Group (WG) on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption

- 5 The PB revised the draft tools on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption to reflect comments made during the last WG meeting and those received in writing thereafter from the WG members, as follows:
 - The *Note on the Financial Aspects* has been updated, including examples of specific practices,⁵ and
 - Fact Sheet No 3 of the *Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption*, the draft *Roadmap of Cooperation Between States to Transition to No Contributions, Donations and Cooperation Projects in the Context of Adoption*, the draft *Tables on the Financial Aspects* and the draft *Repository of Studies and Other Sources on the Risks of the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption* have been updated to ensure consistency with the language used in the draft updated Note on the Financial Aspects.⁶

¹ Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

² The full status of the Convention is available on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net) under "Adoption Section".

³ "Conclusions and Decisions of CGAP 2025 (5-7 March 2025)", C&D No 42 (available on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net) under "Governance" => "Council on General Affairs and Policy" => "Archive (2000-2025)").

⁴ Prel. Doc. No 2 of May 2025, "Questionnaire on possible topics for discussion at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention" (see path indicated in note 2)

⁵ Available on the Secure Portal of the HCCH website (www.hcch.net) under "Working / Experts Group" => "Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption".

⁶ *Ibid.* note 5.

- 6 The draft tools were submitted to WG members for review in October 2025. Any comments received will be addressed by the PB, in consultation with the co-Chairs of the WG. Thereafter, the PB, the co-Chairs and the Friends of the Chairs Group, on the basis of these comments, will determine whether a final online meeting would be needed to resolve any remaining issues. Subsequently, the draft tools will be circulated for comments to all HCCH Members and Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention.

C. State-led virtual workshops on post-adoption services

- 7 A State-led virtual workshop on post-adoption services was held on 10 December 2025, and a report has been prepared by the Steering Committee administrating these workshops.⁷

D. Regional work in Africa and Asia

1. 2025 Regional Workshop on the implementation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in Asia

- 8 A [Regional Workshop on Sharing Experiences on the Effective Implementation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in Asia](#) (2025 Regional Workshop in Asia) was held in Manila (Philippines) from 11 to 13 March 2025. It was attended by 72 participants representing eight Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention, two non-Contracting Parties, one intergovernmental organisation, and one non-governmental organisation, as well as by members of the PB.
- 9 The Regional Workshop provided a forum for States in Asia to discuss good practices in the implementation and operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention and, more broadly, in the international protection of children. Over the course of three days, participants engaged in a series of presentations, round tables, and practical exercises which enabled them to strengthen their knowledge of the Convention as well as to build ties with their counterparts in the region.
- 10 This Workshop was co-organised with the Government of the Philippines – in particular the National Authority for Child Care (NACC) – which provided generous financial and logistical support. The Governments of the Netherlands and Norway also provided generous financial support.
- 11 The PB is currently organising another Regional Workshop for anglophone States in Africa to be held in South Africa in early 2026.

2. Online follow-up meetings to the Regional Workshops

- 12 Following the [2025 Regional Workshop in Asia](#) and the [2024 Regional Workshop on Sharing Experiences on the Effective Implementation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in \(francophone\) Africa](#), the PB has organised online follow-up meetings on a quarterly basis. These online meetings ensure continuity of the work achieved during the workshops and foster continuing collaboration between participants. Participants select topics they want to discuss during these two-hour meetings. Topics that have been discussed include the principle of subsidiarity and the assessment of adoptability, intra-family adoptions, children with special adoptive needs, post-adoption and search of origins, as well as illicit practices. Participants and the Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme (ICATAP) Coordinator make presentations, which are followed by discussions on the topics presented. Discussions may also focus on case studies.
- 13 The online follow-up meeting for francophone States in Africa involved representatives from seven States, and the follow-up meeting for Asia involved representatives from nine States. In each of the six meetings held up to date (three meetings for each of the two regions mentioned), there have

⁷ Prel. Doc. No 7C of February 2026 - 1993 Adoption Convention: Report on the Post-Adoption State-led Workshops.

been an average of 20 to 35 participants, although one meeting for Asia was attended by over 100 participants.

E. Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme (ICATAP)

- 14 Through ICATAP, technical assistance has been provided in Africa (Angola and regional work, see above), Asia (see regional work above) and Latin America (Paraguay).⁸
- 15 The work in Africa and Asia was led by the ICATAP Coordinator, whose contract was funded thanks to a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands to provide technical assistance to States, with a special focus on the principle of subsidiarity of intercountry adoption.
- 16 In the case of Angola, technical assistance was provided following its accession to the 1993 Adoption Convention in July 2024, and with the support of UNICEF Angola. Work was carried online, and it was followed by a mission of the ICATAP Coordinator to Luanda in November 2025. She participated in the conference, “Building Bonds, Creating History”, with members of the National Assembly, judges and other stakeholders. The aim of the conference was to reflect on the current legal and policy framework of adoption and alternative care, and the possible need for revisions to align with international standards. The conference also addressed best practices related to the principle of subsidiarity. While in Luanda, the ICATAP coordinator also participated in a workshop organised with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. This workshop provided more detailed and practical training to representatives from the Juvenile and Family Courts, the Parliament, social welfare services and childcare institutions. The training covered the principle of subsidiarity, assessment of the child and the child’s best interests, assessment of prospective adoptive families, national and international cooperation, post-adoption services, search for origins, prevention of illicit practices, and the role and strengthening of the Central Authority, with the active participation of the different stakeholders. The workshop concluded with the adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations aimed at a working group focused on legislative reform in the areas of adoption and alternative care. Follow-up communication with participants remains ongoing to support the law reform process.
- 17 The work in Latin America was carried online out by two consultants whose contracts were funded through a voluntary contribution from Norway. The consultants assisted the Central Authority of Paraguay to draft the Regulations of the Board of Directors of the Central Authority. They also provided training on international frameworks related to child protection, alternative care, and adoption. This included a focus on the key components of the adoption administrative process, such as adoptability, assessment of prospective adoptive families, preparation, placement, post-adoption follow-up services, and search for origins.

F. Other work

- 18 In addition, the PB is currently working on the development of a template for Country Fact Sheets on available post-adoption services relating to search for origins, based on the CGAP mandate following the 2022 SC meeting.⁹
- 19 The PB has also carried out diverse activities to raise awareness of the Convention and to promote its use, either individually or jointly with other HCCH Conventions, and in different formats, depending on the needs of the stakeholders involved.

⁸ See “Report on Post-Convention Assistance (1 January – 31 December 2025)”, Prel. Doc. No 16 for CGAP 2026 – forthcoming, thanks to a voluntary contribution from Norway.

⁹ “Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention”, C&R No 40, available on the HCCH website (www.hcch.net) under “Adoption Section” => “Special Commission meetings” and “Special Commission of July 2022”.

IV. Proposal for CGAP

20 In light of the above, and subject to CGAP's decisions on the HCCH's overall Work Programme and, in particular, the planning for other SC meetings, the PB proposes the following C&D for CGAP's consideration:

CGAP mandated the PB to continue preparations for a Sixth Meeting of the SC to review the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in accordance with the responses received to the questionnaire on possible topics and format of the SC meeting. The exact timing of this SC meeting will be determined in accordance with the full Work Programme of the HCCH.

CGAP reiterated the importance of in-person participation at the SC meeting and to that end, encouraged Members to consider making a voluntary contribution to support the in-person participation of delegates representing States of origin.

CGAP noted the progress of the work of the WG on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption and mandated the PB to finalise the different tools with the WG, including, if necessary, through holding online meetings in 2026. Following these meetings, the tools will be circulated for comments to all HCCH Members and Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention. Subsequently, the co-Chairs of the WG, together with the PB, will assess whether further work by the WG is required and, if so, will undertake it. If no substantial further work is needed and the tools are finalised well in advance of CGAP 2027, CGAP agreed that the tools would be submitted to Members for final approval through a written procedure. This would involve circulation of the draft tools to Members and, in the absence of any objection within one month, the tools would be taken to be approved.

CGAP noted the report of the Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services under the 1993 Adoption Convention. CGAP supported the holding of one or two additional virtual workshops on post-adoption services, organised by both States of origin and receiving States. The Steering Committee will report to CGAP 2027.

CGAP noted the importance of regional work and technical assistance, in particular through ICATAP and encouraged States to request technical assistance if needed.