

Title	Questionnaire relating to the <i>Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters</i> (Evidence Convention)
Document	Prel. Doc. No 3 of December 2022
Author	PB
Agenda Item	Item TBD
Mandate(s)	C&D No 36 of CGAP 2021 C&D No 32 of CGAP 2022
Objective	To seek information to assist the PB in its ongoing monitoring of the Evidence Convention and define key issues to be addressed at the 2023 meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions
Action to be Taken	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	N/A

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Questionnaire relating to the Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters (Evidence Convention)

I. About this Questionnaire

With a view to preparing for a meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, scheduled to be held in November 2023, the Permanent Bureau (PB) has drawn up the following questionnaire (separate questionnaires have been prepared for the 1965 Service and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions). Responses to this questionnaire will assist the PB in its ongoing monitoring of the practical operation of the Evidence Convention. Importantly, the information and views provided in the responses will also assist in defining the key issues to be addressed at the meeting of the Special Commission. With a view to facilitating discussions at this meeting, the PB will prepare a document collating the responses and summarising the findings.

Respondents are kindly asked to submit their completed questionnaire by Friday 31 March 2023.

II. Instructions for Completion

Authorities should respond to each question by:

- indicating an answer from the options provided (where applicable, more than one option may be selected); and / or
- entering text in the field provided.

Contracting Parties to the Evidence Convention are kindly requested to submit a single response that accounts for all designated Central Authorities, other authorities (if these have been designated) and for additional territories a Contracting Party is responsible for (if the Evidence Convention extends to those territories). This may include different practices among Central Authorities, authorities or among territories.

Please note that some of the questions may require input from the relevant forwarding authorities of your State and from judicial officers, officials or other competent persons (including professionals) involved in the taking of evidence abroad.

Non-Contracting Parties are kindly requested to submit a single response.

At the end of the questionnaire, you will have the option of uploading additional information / supporting documentation to your response (in PDF format only). Please ensure you prepare the relevant files to be uploaded.

Information collected in these responses will be **published** on the Evidence Section of the HCCH website unless the PB is expressly asked not to do so, or the question provides otherwise. Please clearly identify any responses which you do not want to be made publicly available.

Please note:

- You can save your response to this questionnaire at any time by pressing the “resume later” button at the top of your screen. You will be asked to create a name and password which you will then need to re-enter when you wish to resume your response.
- If you wish to return to a previous question when completing this questionnaire, you should press the “previous” button at the bottom of the page and not the back button in your web browser.

Please do not hesitate to address any questions you may have to secretariat@hcch.net.

Questionnaire for non-Contracting Parties / States

This questionnaire is for States that are *not* Party to the Evidence Convention. If your State is a Party to the Evidence Convention, please complete the questionnaire for Contracting Parties.

Contact Information	
Name of your State:	
<i>The following information will not be published as part of the questionnaire response.</i>	
Name of contact person:	
Title of contact person:	
Name of authority / office:	
Telephone number:	
E-mail address:	
Name of additional authorities / offices consulted in completing this questionnaire (if relevant):	
General Information	
<p>The Evidence Convention seeks to overcome complicated differences between legal systems by establishing a uniform framework of cooperation mechanisms to facilitate and streamline the taking of evidence abroad.</p> <p>Globally, there are already 64 Contracting Parties to this Convention.</p> <p>Key features of the Evidence Convention can be found at: Outline of the Evidence Convention .</p>	
1. Is the Evidence Convention and its benefits widely known by relevant authorities in your State?	(a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Unsure.
2. Please provide information regarding why your State is not a Party to the Evidence Convention. <i>More than one answer is possible.</i>	(a) The question of becoming a Party to the Convention has never been examined in detail. (b) Your State sufficiently relies on other mechanisms (e.g., internal law or bilateral arrangements) for the taking of evidence abroad – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer] (c) Your State has not experienced major problems with the taking of evidence abroad. (d) There are legal obstacles in your State’s internal law (e.g., existing legislation) that prevent it from becoming a Party to the Convention – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer] (e) There are operational obstacles (e.g., resources) that prevent your State from becoming a Party to the Convention – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer] (f) There are other specific issues arising out of the Convention that prevent your State

	<p>from becoming a Party to the Convention – <i>please specify.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p> <p>(g) Other – <i>please specify.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p>
<p>3. Is your State currently studying / does your State intend to study the Evidence Convention, with a view to becoming a Party in the future?</p>	<p>(a) Yes, your State is currently studying it – <i>please specify the current status and, if known, a timetable for accession.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p> <p>(b) Yes, your State intends to study it in the future.</p> <p>(c) No.</p>
<p><i>If the answer to Q3 above is “yes”:</i> 3.1. What work could be carried out by the PB to facilitate your State becoming a Party to the Evidence Convention (e.g., in the form of webinars or providing additional information)?</p>	<input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/>
<p>Use of Information Technology</p> <p>The questions below seek information from States on the use of technology in the taking of evidence abroad. The PB is particularly interested to hear about technological advances made in light of operational challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
<p>4. Is your State currently a party to any bilateral, regional, or multilateral agreements that provide for the use of electronic means to assist in the taking of evidence (e.g., video-link)?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p> <p>(b) No.</p>
<p><i>If the answer to Q4 above is “yes”:</i> 4.1. What electronic means or information technology does your State use in the taking of evidence abroad? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government.</p> <p>(b) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider.</p> <p>(c) Video conference.</p> <p>(d) Other – <i>please specify.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p>
<p>5. What challenges have the authorities of your State faced regarding the use of information technology in the taking of evidence abroad? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) None.</p> <p>(b) Internal law limitations.</p> <p>(c) Judicial or administrative structures.</p> <p>(d) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure).</p> <p>(e) Cost.</p> <p>(f) System interoperability / compatibility.</p> <p>(g) Security concerns.</p> <p>(h) Other – <i>please specify.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p>
<p>6. Has your State adopted any new information technology measures in the taking of evidence abroad, particularly in responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> <input type="text" value="[insert answer]"/></p> <p>(b) No.</p>

2023 Meeting of the Special Commission & Monitoring	
<p>The 2023 meeting of the Special Commission provides a unique opportunity for non-Contracting Parties to attend, observe discussions and learn about the practical operation of the Evidence Convention.</p>	
<p>7. If your State is not a Member of the HCCH, would it be interested in attending the 2023 Special Commission meeting as an Observer?</p> <p><i>Members will automatically receive an invitation to attend the meeting of the Special Commission.</i></p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Not applicable - <i>your State is a Member of the HCCH and will be invited to attend.</i></p>
<p>8. Are there any specific topics or practical issues related to the Evidence Convention that your State would like discussed at the 2023 meeting of the Special Commission?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>8.1. If the answer to Q8 above is “yes”, please indicate whether the information provided may be published.</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
<p>9. Is your State aware of the Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention and the Guide to Good Practice - The Use of Video-Link publications prepared by the HCCH?</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (a) No.</p>
<p>10. The PB is in the process of revising and consolidating the Practical Handbook and the Guide to Good Practice - the Use of Video-Link into a single publication. Are there any specific topics, suggestions for presentation or formatting, or any other proposals your State would recommend for inclusion?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>10.1. If the answer to Q10 above is “yes”, please indicate whether the information provided may be published.</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>

Additional Information & Supporting Documents

Additional Documents	
<p>Please provide links to and / or any additional information or documentation to support your response. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ feasibility studies considering the Evidence Convention; ⇒ books, articles, or other published work, case law; ⇒ information about practices in existing Contracting Parties that would assist your State in considering the Evidence Convention. 	<p><i>Please include links.</i> <i>Please upload documents.</i></p>

Publication of responses

<p>Please confirm whether your responses to this questionnaire can be published on the HCCH website.</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
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User experience

<p>The format for this questionnaire has changed from the usual MS Word fillable form to an online form. The PB is keen to hear about your experience completing the online form.</p>	<p>(a) The online form was easy to use. (b) I had challenges using the online form – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] Please provide any additional comments you have on the form so that the PB can improve the user experience.</p>
<p>If you have previously completed an MS Word fillable form questionnaire from the PB, we would be interested to hear whether the online form is an improvement.</p>	<p>(a) I prefer the MS Word fillable form used in earlier questionnaires. (b) I prefer the online form used in this questionnaire. (c) I have no comment.</p>
<p>Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.</p>	

Questionnaire for Contracting Parties

This questionnaire is for States that are Party to the Evidence Convention. If your State is *not* a Party to the Evidence Convention, please complete the questionnaire for non-Contracting Parties.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) directly correlate to information provided in the Practical Information Chart available on the Evidence Section of the HCCH website. Please note, any answers provided to these questions will be updated on the HCCH website.

Contact Information	
Name of Contracting Party:	
<i>The following contact information will not be published as part of the questionnaire response.</i>	
Name of contact person:	
Title of contact person:	
Name of authority / office:	
Telephone number:	
E-mail address:	
Names of additional authorities / offices consulted in completing this questionnaire (if relevant):	
General Feedback	
1. How does your State rate the general operation of the Evidence Convention?	(a) Excellent. (b) Good. (c) Satisfactory. (d) Requires improvement – <i>please explain</i> . [insert answer]
2. How does your State rate the useability of the HCCH publications developed to assist users of the Evidence Convention (the Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention (Evidence Handbook) and Guide to Good Practice – The Use of Video-Link)?	(a) Excellent. (b) Good. (c) Satisfactory. (d) Requires improvement – <i>please explain</i> . <i>Please note that Q50 of this questionnaire also invites input on the revision of the Evidence Handbook and the Guide to Good Practice – The Use of Video-Link.</i> [insert answer]
3. What work could be carried out by the PB to facilitate the acceptance of accessions to the Evidence Convention (e.g., providing additional information or facilitating direct communication between your Central Authority and new Contracting Parties)?	[insert answer]
4. Does your State’s Central Authority have a manual or electronic case management register or system that is used to track incoming requests under the Evidence Convention?	(a) Yes – electronic for incoming only. (b) Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing. (c) Yes – manual for incoming only. (d) Yes – manual for incoming and outgoing. (e) No. (f) Other – <i>please explain</i> . [insert answer]

<p>5. If your State’s Central Authority has oversight for outgoing requests, please indicate if there is a system used to track the progress of these.</p>	<p>(a) Yes – electronic. (b) Yes – manual. (c) No. (d) Other – <i>please explain</i>. [insert answer]</p>
<p>Scope of the Convention</p>	
<p>6. In the previous five years*, has your State experienced any difficulties in interpreting the scope of the Evidence Convention? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p> <p>*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.</p>	<p>(a) Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – <i>please explain</i>. [insert answer] (b) Yes, regarding the interpretation of “commenced or contemplated” (Art. 1) – <i>please explain</i>. [insert answer] (c) Yes, other – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] (d) No.</p>
<p>7. Does your State consider the Evidence Convention mandatory or non-mandatory? (For the explanation of the “mandatory or non-mandatory nature” of the Convention, please see the Evidence Handbook, Section A.4.1 - A.4.2.)</p>	<p>(a) Mandatory. (b) Non-mandatory.</p>
<p>8. Has your State adopted “blocking statutes” or laws which are known by any other description, which prevent evidence being taken in the territory of your State for use in foreign proceedings other than under the Evidence Convention (or other international instrument)? * (For the explanation of the use of “blocking statutes”, please see the Evidence Handbook, Section A.4.3.)</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify</i>: (i) The provisions or implementing legislation, and the date of entry into force. (ii) A link to the relevant provisions or implementing legislation. (iii) Whether, and if so, how the “blocking statutes” have been applied by the courts of your State. (iv) Other comments. [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>9. Has your State received or submitted requests for the taking of evidence in connection with arbitration proceedings?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify how the authorities of your State deal with such requests</i>. [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>10. Have any decisions relating to the use of the Evidence Convention in arbitration proceedings been rendered by the judicial authorities of your State?</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>

Operation of the Convention	
<p>Chapter I – Preparing, transmitting and progressing Letters of Request</p> <p>Requesting State refers to the State from which a Letter of Request is, or will be, issued.</p> <p>Requested State refers to the State to which a Letter of Request is, or will be, addressed.</p>	
<p>11. As the requesting State, how are Letters of Request transmitted? *</p>	<p>(a) Directly from a judicial authority to the Central Authority of the requested State.</p> <p>(b) Via the Central Authority to the Central Authority of the requested State.</p> <p>(c) Via another authority to the Central Authority of the requested State – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer]</p> <p>(d) Other – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer]</p>
<p>12. As the requesting State, do the authorities of your State use the recommended Model Form?</p>	<p>(a) Yes, always.</p> <p>(b) Yes, sometimes.</p> <p>(c) No – <i>please specify the reasons.</i> [insert answer]</p> <p>(d) Unknown.</p>
<p>13. Does your State consider further work on the Model Form would be beneficial? For example, a review of the Model Form with a view to including video-link and the preparation of guidelines outlining how to complete the Model Form.</p>	<p>(a) Yes – please provide suggestions. [insert answer]</p> <p>(b) Revision is not required.</p>
<p>14. As the requested State, do the authorities of your State send an acknowledgement of receipt for a Letter of Request?</p>	<p>(a) Yes.</p> <p>(b) No.</p>
<p>15. During the past five years*, as the requested State, has your State received a Letter of Request that is non-compliant?</p> <p>*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.</p>	<p>(a) Yes.</p> <p>(b) No.</p> <p>(c) Unknown.</p>

<p>15.1. If the answer to Q15 above is “yes”, why was the request non-compliant? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) The matter was not “civil or commercial”. (b) The request was not issued by a judicial authority. (c) The request did not relate to judicial proceedings. (d) The matter to which it related was not “commenced or contemplated”. (e) The request related to a judicial act that is excluded from scope. (f) The request did not comply with the content requirements under Article 3. (g) The request did not comply with the translation requirements under Article 4. (h) Other – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer]</p>
<p>16. As the requested State, does your State provide advance assistance to foreign judicial authorities to prepare a Letter of Request to be sent under the Evidence Convention?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No. (c) Unknown.</p>
<p>17. As the requested State, does your State provide advance assistance to legal representatives to prepare a Letter of Request to be sent under the Evidence Convention?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No. (c) Unknown.</p>
<p>18. Once your State has received a Letter of Request, do your State’s judicial authorities rephrase, restructure, and / or strike out objectionable questions or offensive wording in order to execute a Letter of Request (also known as “blue-pencilling”)? *</p>	<p>(d) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (e) No. (f) Unknown.</p>
<p>19. As the requested State, can the execution of a Letter of Request that has been received be challenged?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No. (c) Unknown.</p>
<p>19.1. If the answer to Q19 above is “yes”, is the requesting authority or the interested party permitted to respond to the challenge?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No. (c) Unknown.</p>
<p>20. As the requesting State, can the sending of a Letter of Request abroad be challenged?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>21. As the requested State, which authority is generally responsible for informing the requesting authority of the time and place of the execution of a Letter of Request (Art. 7)? *</p>	<p>(a) Central Authority. (b) Judicial authority competent to execute the request. (c) Private representative. (d) Other – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer]</p>

<p>22. During the past five years*, as the requested State, has your State received a request specifying a particular method or procedure for taking of evidence (e.g., how witnesses are to be examined)? (Art. 9(2))</p> <p>*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer]</p> <p>(b) No.</p> <p>(c) Unknown.</p>
<p>23. As the requested State, does your State require the requesting State to reimburse costs?</p>	<p>(a) Yes, always.</p> <p>(b) Yes, sometimes.</p> <p>(c) No.</p>
<p>23.1. If the answer to Q23 above is “yes”, please indicate circumstances where reimbursement is sought. <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) Fees paid to experts and interpreters (Art. 14(2))</p> <p>(b) Costs occasioned by the use of a special procedure (Art. 14(2))</p> <p>(c) Fees paid for translation (Art. 4(3))</p> <p>(d) Costs incurred by employing an examiner (Art. 14(3))</p> <p>(e) Fees and costs due to constitutional limitations (Art. 26)</p> <p>(f) Other – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer]</p>
<p>24. As the requested State, who may make a request for a Letter of Request to be withdrawn? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) Requesting authority.</p> <p>(b) Representative of the parties.</p> <p>(c) Parties.</p> <p>(d) Other – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer]</p>
<p>25. As the requested State, does your State reject a Letter of Request seeking discovery if it is too broad?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify what would be defined as too broad</i>. [insert answer]</p> <p>(b) No.</p> <p>(c) Not applicable, Article 23 declaration.</p>
<p>Chapter I – Execution of a Letter or Request – Witness Examination</p> <p>All questions directed towards the Contracting Party operating as the requested State.</p>	
<p>26. As the requested State, how is a hearing conducted for Chapter I requests? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) Before a Judge, Magistrate, Special Master, or other court official.</p> <p>(b) By a judicial officer.</p> <p>(c) By a private examiner.</p> <p>(d) By a notary.</p> <p>(e) Other – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer]</p>
<p>27. Does your State require the Letter of Request to include specific questions to be used during the taking of evidence? *</p>	<p>(a) Yes.</p> <p>(b) No.</p>

<p>28. In your State, are hearings public or private?*</p>	<p>(a) Public, unless otherwise ordered by a judge. (b) Private. (c) Other – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer]</p>
<p>29. In your State, is a witness provided with a copy of questions / matters contained in the Letter of Request in advance of a hearing?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes, always. (b) Yes, sometimes – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] (c) No.</p>
<p>30. In your State, what are the requirements for documents that are to be presented to a witness? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) Any document presented to a witness must be attached to the Letter of Request. (b) Any document presented to a witness must be approved by the authority taking evidence. (c) Other – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] (d) No requirements.</p>
<p>31. In your State, are documents produced by the witness during the taking of evidence authenticated by the court or authority?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
<p>32. In your State, can representatives of the parties who attend the taking of evidence ask additional questions and / or cross examine the witness?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify conditions</i>. [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>33. In your State, is an oath or affirmation administered to the witness before the taking of evidence?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
<p>34. In your State, can the witness be subject to further examination?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
<p>34.1. If the answer to Q34 above is “yes”, is a second Letter of Request required?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No, the first Request may be re-invoked.</p>
<p>35. Does your State have sanctions for the non-appearance of a witness?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>36. During the past five years*, as the requested State, is your State aware of a person requested to give evidence invoking privilege? *If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.</p>	<p>(c) Yes, under your State laws (Art. 11(a)) – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] (d) Yes, under the law of the State of origin (Art. 11(b)) – <i>please specify</i>. [insert answer] (e) No. (f) Unknown.</p>
<p>37. Does your State require interpreters in the taking of evidence to be certified?*</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>

38. In your State, how is witness testimony transcribed?*	(a) Verbatim recording through audio. (b) Verbatim recording through written. (c) Summary minutes. (d) Written and signed testimony. (e) Other – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer]
<p>Use of Information Technology</p> <p>In 2019, the PB circulated a questionnaire on the use of information technology in relation to the operation of the Evidence Convention. That survey was concluded prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The questions below seek information from Contracting Parties on the use of technology and in light of the pandemic.</p>	
39. Does your State’s Central Authority accept Letters of Request to be transmitted electronically?	(a) Yes. (b) No.
40. Does your State allow the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter I?	(a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Unknown.
41. Does your State allow the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II?	(a) Yes. (b) No. (c) Unknown. (d) Not applicable.
42. Does your State use the Model Form for video-link evidence?	(a) Yes. (b) No.
43. What challenges has your State faced regarding the use of information technology under the Evidence Convention? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i>	(a) None. (b) Internal law limitations. (c) Judicial or administrative structures. (d) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure). (e) Cost. (f) System interoperability / compatibility. (g) Security concerns. (h) Other – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer]
44. Has your State adopted any new information technology measures to facilitate the operation of the Evidence Convention, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	(a) Yes – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer] (b) No.
45. In your State’s opinion, what topics could the PB explore further (e.g., for the purposes of training, seminars, or conferences) in relation to the use of information technology under the Evidence Convention?	[insert answer]
46. In your State’s opinion, what further work could the PB do on the use of information technology under the Evidence Convention?	(a) None. (b) Other – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer]
47. In addition to the Evidence Convention, is your State party to any bilateral, regional, or multilateral agreements that provide rules for the taking of evidence abroad? *	(a) Yes – <i>please specify</i> . [insert answer] (b) No.

<p><i>For Parties that answered yes to Q47 above:</i> 47.1. Do any of these agreements provide for the use of electronic means to assist in the taking of evidence (e.g., video-link)?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p><i>For Parties that answered yes to Q47 above:</i> 47.2. If yes, what electronic means or information technology does your State use in the taking of evidence? <i>More than one answer is possible.</i></p>	<p>(a) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government. (b) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider. (c) Video conference. (d) Other – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer]</p>
<p>2023 Meeting of the Special Commission & Monitoring</p>	
<p>48. Does your State have any suggestions that could assist in the promotion, implementation or operation of the Evidence Convention?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>48.1. If the answer to Q48 above is “yes”, please indicate whether the information provided may be published.</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
<p>49. What are the three key topics or practical issues related to the Evidence Convention that your State would like discussed at the 2023 meeting of the Special Commission?</p>	<p>1. [insert answer] 2. [insert answer] 3. [insert answer]</p>
<p>49.1. Please indicate whether the information provided in Q49 above may be published.</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>
<p>50. The PB is in the process of revising the Evidence Handbook and the Guide to Good Practice – The Use of Video Link, with a view to consolidating these publications. Are there any specific topics, suggestions for presentation or formatting, or any other proposals you recommend for inclusion?</p>	<p>(a) Yes – <i>please specify.</i> [insert answer] (b) No.</p>
<p>50.1. If the answer to Q50 above is “yes”, please indicate whether the information provided may be published.</p>	<p>(a) Yes. (b) No.</p>

Data & Statistics for Contracting Parties

Statistics under Chapter I						
Incoming Requests						
1. How many incoming Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State receive under Chapter I in each of the following years?	2017	Insert answer.				
	2018	Insert answer.				
	2019	Insert answer.				
	2020	Insert answer.				
	2021	Insert answer.				
	2022	Insert answer - if data available.				
	Unknown - <i>please explain.</i>					
2. Which three States made the most requests?	Requesting State		Number			
	Insert answer.		Insert answer.			
	Insert answer.		Insert answer.			
	Insert answer.		Insert answer.			
3. What is the average time taken (in months) to execute a Letter of Request in your State? *	<i>Please specify.</i>					
4. If possible, please provide a breakdown of how long (in months) it took to execute incoming requests.		< 1	1-3	3-6	6-12	> 12
	2017					
	2018					
	2019					
	2020					
	2021					
	2022 (if data available)					
Unknown - <i>please explain.</i>						
5. How many incoming Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State receive via electronic transmission under Chapter I in each of the following years?	2017	Insert answer.				
	2018	Insert answer.				
	2019	Insert answer.				
	2020	Insert answer.				
	2021	Insert answer.				
	2022	Insert answer - if data available.				
	Unknown - <i>please explain.</i>					

Outgoing Requests		
6. How many outgoing Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State make under Chapter I in each of the following years?	2017	Insert answer.
	2018	Insert answer.
	2019	Insert answer.
	2020	Insert answer.
	2021	Insert answer.
	2022	Insert answer – if data available.
	Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
7. Which States were the subject of the most requests?	Requested State	Number
	Insert answer.	Insert answer.
	Insert answer.	Insert answer.
	Insert answer.	Insert answer.
8. How many outgoing requests for the taking of evidence did your State make via electronic transmission under Chapter I in each of the following years?	2017	Insert answer.
	2018	Insert answer.
	2019	Insert answer.
	2020	Insert answer.
	2021	Insert answer.
	2022	Insert answer – if data available.
	Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
Video-Link		
9. How many incoming Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State execute under Chapter I in each of the following years?	2017	Insert answer.
	2018	Insert answer.
	2019	Insert answer.
	2020	Insert answer.
	2021	Insert answer.
	2022	Insert answer – if data available.
	Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
10. How many incoming requests for the taking of evidence did your State execute under Chapter II in each of the following years?	2017	Insert answer.
	2018	Insert answer.
	2019	Insert answer.
	2020	Insert answer.
	2021	Insert answer.
	2022	Insert answer – if data available.
	Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	

Case Law, Additional Information & Supporting Documents

Case Law	
Please list all your State’s judicial decisions that have considered the Evidence Convention since 2014, and provide a link to, or upload, the decision (in PDF format only).	<i>Please list judicial decisions, including links. Please upload documents.</i>
Additional Documents	
Please provide links to and / or any additional information or documentation to support your response (in PDF format only). This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ resources for the general public or guidelines for Central or other authorities’ staff; ⇒ implementation legislation, recent legislative developments; or ⇒ books, articles, or other published work. 	<i>Please list judicial decisions, including links. Please upload documents.</i>

Publication of responses

Please confirm whether your responses to this questionnaire can be published on the HCCH website.	(a) Yes. (b) No.
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User experience

The format for this questionnaire has changed from the usual MS Word fillable form to an online form. The PB is keen to hear about your experience completing the online form.	(a) The online form was easy to use. (b) I had challenges using the online form – <i>please specify.</i> <i>[insert answer]</i> Please provide any additional comments you have on the form so that the PB can improve the user experience.
If you have previously completed an MS Word fillable form questionnaire from the PB, we would be interested to hear whether the online form is an improvement.	(a) I prefer the MS Word fillable form used in earlier questionnaires. (b) I prefer the online form used in this questionnaire. (c) I have no comment.
Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.	