

**REPORT ON POST-CONVENTION ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES
(1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015)**

drawn up by the Permanent Bureau

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**RAPPORT SUR LES ACTIVITES D'ASSISTANCE POST-CONVENTIONNELLES
(DU PREMIER JANVIER AU 31 DECEMBRE 2015)**

établi par le Bureau Permanent

(DISPONIBLE EN ANGLAIS UNIQUEMENT)

*Information Document No 4 of February 2016 for the attention
of the Council of March 2016 on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference*

*Document d'information No 4 de février 2016 à l'attention
du Conseil de mars 2016 sur les affaires générales et la politique de la Conférence*

1. The *Report on post-Convention Assistance* (Report) provides the Council on General Affairs and Policy with an overview of post-Convention Assistance projects (projects) undertaken by the Permanent Bureau in 2015. The projects are listed chronologically.
2. Part 1 of the Report comprises all *post-Convention Assistance* projects provided:
 - independent of other projects or programmes, and
 - as a component of broader post-Convention services.
3. Part 1 describes each project and its outcomes, and chronicles the selection criteria and the prioritisation criteria that were applied.¹ Part 1 also identifies who supported the projects and whether support was provided in the form of funds or otherwise.
4. Part 2 of the Report lists projects that fall broadly within the category of post-Convention services, and which featured an element of technical assistance. Like Part 1, Part 2 describes each project and its outcomes, and identifies the donor(s) who supported the project. Because these projects are not post-Convention assistance projects, the Report does not include section and prioritisation criteria.
5. The Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law takes this opportunity to thank all those who supported post-Convention Assistance projects, allowing the Permanent Bureau to produce timely outcomes of the highest order and quality.

¹ Chapter V of the Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance, as adopted by Members during the 2015 meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy.

1. Post-Convention Assistance (“Technical Assistance”)

Activity	Hague Instrument(s)	Description	Objective	Outcomes	Selection Criteria	Prioritisation	Donors and project support
Post-Convention assistance: The 1993 Inter-country Adoption Convention	1993 Inter-country Adoption	Post-Convention assistance to Haiti project on the 1993 Inter-country Adoption Convention (multi-year assistance).	<p>General objective: To assist with the reinforcement of the legal and institutional child protection framework in Haiti.</p> <p>Specific objective: To reinforce the Haitian inter-country adoption system and the related procedures in order to facilitate implementation of the Inter-country Adoption Convention and compliance with its principles and to ensure that adoptions are carried out in the best interests of the child.</p>	<p>The Permanent Bureau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> circulated three reports of the consultancy missions undertaken in 2013 and 2014. <p>Haiti:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> joined the 1993 Inter-country Adoption Convention on 16 December 2013 (entry into force on 1 April 2014); introduced a draft organic law (<i>Loi-cadre</i>) relating to the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (<i>Institute du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches</i>) which heads the Haitian Central Authority (“CA”) for the Inter-country Adoption Convention; drafted an administrative order relating to the structure of the Haitian CA; commenced preparation of a manual of procedure and the matching method; and commenced drafting several other tools, including a guide for information and awareness of birth families and the reviewed psychosocial report for the child. <p>The Haitian Central Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> published and disseminated an Informative Note relating to the management of the transitional phase of adoption; published and disseminated the Table of costs for the country; published the list of the authorised adoption accredited bodies after selection (2014 to 2016). organised two workshops (115 participants) aiming at raising awareness of the new Act reforming adoption in Haiti; developed, and presented to the technical and financial partners, an Action Plan for the protection of children separated from their families or at risk of separation (2014 to 2016); completed the 2014 Country Profile for States of origin and the two Questionnaires on the Practical Operation of the Inter-country Adoption Convention; and participated in the 2015 Special Commission, during which a specific meeting related to the evolution of the reform and the Activities Programme of the State (2015 to 2016) was held. <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcomes: Follow-up on the post-Convention Assistance provided for the reform of Haiti’s inter-country adoption system in order to support the implementation of the activities set out in the Action Plan and the Activities Programme.</p>	<p>i) An official request has been received from the State concerned; ii) the requesting State has expressed a commitment to fully cooperate with the PB; iii) he requested assistance is likely to achieve the intended objectives in light of the relevant social, political and economic factors; iv) The requested assistance is reasonably expected to produce measurable benefits; v) the requested assistance falls within the specific area of expertise of the PB; vi) The PB is the only or best-placed entity to provide or coordinate the requested assistance; vii) Where relevant, conditions in the requesting State are conducive to effective provision of post-Convention assistance; viii a.) Where relevant, the requesting State expresses a commitment to actively cooperate with the PB or other relevant experts in the establishment and the realisation of an action plan for the provision of post-Convention assistance, and; viii b) Where relevant, the requesting State expresses a commitment to move forward to achieving set milestones with a reasonable timeframe established in consultation with the PB.</p>	<p>i) The requesting State is a Member of the Hague Conference or is actively pursuing Membership; ii) The requesting State is in the process of preparing to join as, or is already a, Contracting State to the relevant Hague Convention; iii) The urgency of the request; iv) The offer of financial or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States; v) The requesting State is already receiving, or is likely to receive, additional relevant support or assistance from other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities; vi) The request reflects the diversity of the regions in which Hague Conference operates; viii) The pCA will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way; ix) The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</p>	<p>-The Government of France -Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands -UNICEF</p>
Training on the 1996 Child Protection Convention for the different teams of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington DC, USA.	1980 Child Abduction; 1993 Inter-country Adoption; 1996 Child Protection; 2007 Maintenance	Training sessions on / meetings concerning the 1980 Child Abduction, Inter-country Adoption, 1996 Child Protection and 2007 Maintenance Conventions.	<p>To run training sessions/meetings on the Hague Children Conventions with the different teams at the OAS Human Rights Commission.</p> <p>To explore further co-operation between both institutions.</p>	<p>Delivered training for the different teams of the Human Rights Commission on the 1980 Child Abduction, 1993 Inter-country Adoption, 1996 Child Protection and 2007 Maintenance Conventions.</p> <p>It was agreed to continue cooperation between both institutions in two lines; one related with specific cases, where the HCCH can provide information on the relevant Conventions, and the other with the public policy and monitoring sections of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to help the HCCH promote the Conventions as a means to facilitate the implementation of tools that would improve the standard of protection of the respective subject matter in the given countries.</p>	<p>i) An official request has been received from the State concerned; iv) The requested assistance is reasonably expected to produce measurable benefits.</p>	<p>i) The requesting State is a Member of the Hague Conference or is actively pursuing Membership.</p>	<p>Latam fund (U.S.A.)</p>

2. Post-Convention services that feature an element of post-Convention assistance

Activity	Hague Instrument(s)	Description	Objective	Outcomes	Donors and project support
Training on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in Lima, Peru	1980 Child Abduction	The Representative for Latin America presented on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in a training held in Lima, Peru.	To ensure the proper functioning of the Child Abduction Convention in Peru.	Improved implementation of the Convention in Peru.	Latam fund (U.S.A)
Legal advice to Cambodia	1993 Intercountry Adoption	Provide comments on the country profile of Cambodia.	Improve country profile and update information for other States parties to the Convention.	Clearer Country profile and updated information for other States parties to the Convention	France and Monaco (contributions to the ICATAP Coordinator position)
Assisting with the implementation of the e-APP in Uzbekistan	1961 Apostille	Assistance to Uzbekistan on Apostille	To ensure the proper functioning of the e-APP in Uzbekistan	Successful implementation of the 1961 Apostille Convention in the whole country.	Germany
Preparatory training: 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention, The Hague	1993 Intercountry Adoption	Preparatory training for the 2015 Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention	<p>General objective: To facilitate the active participation of new States Parties to the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention and States seriously considering ratification of, or accession to, this Convention.</p> <p>Specific objective: To provide these States with an improved understanding of the basic operational elements of the Convention.</p>	<p>-Delivered two one-day workshops on the Intercountry Adoption Convention, its challenges and good practices, and the steps towards its ratification or accession. -17 participant States in two workshops aiming at facilitating their active participation in the June 2015 Special Commission.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcome: • Follow-up on official requests for technical assistance that might be submitted by these States to the Permanent Bureau.</p>	Australia, Belgium, France, Switzerland UNICEF
Assistance to Mauritius: 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention	1993 Intercountry Adoption	Training for the Mauritian delegation on the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention in the Hague, Netherlands.	<p>General objective: To assist with the reinforcement of the legal and institutional child protection framework in Mauritius.</p> <p>Specific objectives: • To present specific aspects of the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention and its good practices and respond to the concerns of the State regarding these aspects. • To build the capacities of the authorities involved in the adoption process in Mauritius.</p>	<p>-Delivered a two half-day workshop on the Intercountry Adoption Convention and its application to two representatives of the Mauritian Prime Minister's Office. Commented and gave recommendations on the mission report prepared by the Mauritian delegation after its visit in the Hague, and the current adoption procedure in the country.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcome: • Follow-up on the official request for technical assistance made by the Mauritian authorities to support the drafting of a new bill, and build the capacities of the staff of the Central Authority and other competent authorities.</p>	The Government of Mauritius
Training on the Child Abduction Convention Training on the 1996 Child Protection Conventions for the team of lawyers of the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)	1980 Child Abduction	Presentation on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention for CEJIL at their Buenos Aires office (with competence on the Southern cone and Bolivia).	To train CEJIL's lawyers on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, especially on procedural aspects and the role of Central Authorities.	CEJIL lawyers, who present claims before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have an improved knowledge of the Convention. The representatives from both institutions agreed to explore future cooperation.	Latam fund (U.S.A.)

Activity	Hague Instrument(s)	Description	Objective	Outcomes	Donors and project support
Training on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in Bariloche, Argentina	1980 Child Abduction	Presentation on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention at a training held in Bariloche, Argentina (in conjunction with the Argentine Network Judge, the Central Authority and Academics from Rio Negro and Buenos Aires).	To ensure the proper functioning of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in the Province of Rio Negro, Argentina. The training is part of a National Plan of trainings lead by the Hague Network Judge and the Argentine CA to train operators, especially Judges of the 24 Argentine Provinces.	Better implementation of the Convention in Rio Negro, Argentina.	Rio Negro Judiciary (travel costs)
Training on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in Cordoba, Argentina	1980 Child Abduction	Presentation on the Child Abduction Convention in a training held in Cordoba, Argentina (together with the Argentine Network Judge, the Central Authority and Academics from Cordoba and Buenos Aires).	As part of a National Plan of Training led by the Hague Network Judge and the Argentine CA, to train actors , especially Judges of the 24 Argentine Provinces, in the proper functioning of the 1980 Child abduction Convention in the Province of Cordoba, Argentina.	Improved implementation of the Convention in Córdoba.	Cordoba Judiciary (travel costs)