



## MALTA V

# Fifth Conference on the HCCH Children's Conventions as Bridges between Civil / Common Law and Islamic Law

24-27 September 2024

Grand Hotel Excelsior (Great Siege Road, Floriana), Valetta, Malta

### AGENDA

Tuesday 24 September 2024	
Time	Item
All day	<b>Arrival</b> Arrival of Participants at Malta International Airport and transfer to the Grand Hotel Excelsior or Grands Suites Hotel Residences & Spa
15:00 – 17:30	<b>Registration</b> Venues: Grand Hotel Excelsior and Grands Suites Hotel Residences & Spa
17:45 – 20:30	<b>Cultural tour</b> Venues: Participants will be collected by bus at 17:45 from the Grand Hotel Excelsior and the Grands Suites Hotel Residences & Spa in Gzira. <b>IMPORTANT NOTE:</b> If you are <u>not staying at any of these hotels</u> , delegates who registered for the tour are to make their own arrangements to the <b>Grand Hotel Excelsior</b> in Valletta. Delegates are to be there by 17:45 latest. After the tour delegates will be dropped off again at the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Valletta and have to make their own arrangements back to their hotels. Kindly note that only delegates residing at the Grand Suites Hotel in Gzira can be picked up from there, any other delegates can only be picked up from the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Valletta.

**Wednesday 25 September 2024**

Time	Item
8:00 – 8:30	<p><b>Registration (cont.)</b> Venue: Grand Hotel Excelsior</p>
8:45 – 9:15	<p><b>Opening Plenary Session</b> Venue: Grand Hotel Excelsior Experts are kindly requested to be seated by 8:40 a.m. The media will be present for the Opening Plenary Session and will leave afterwards</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Michael Falzon</b>, Minister for Social Policy and Children’s Rights, Malta</li> <li>- <b>Dr Jonathan Attard</b>, Minister for Justice and the Reform of the Construction Sector</li> <li>- <b>Dr Christophe Bernasconi</b>, Secretary General, HCCH</li> </ul>
9:15 – 9:30	Group photo
	<p><b>Moderators for Sessions 1 and 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fady Mahdy</b>, Second Secretary - Office of the Deputy Assistant Minister for Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt</li> <li>- <b>Joëlle Schickel-Küng</b>, Co-Head of Private International Law Unit, Federal Office of Justice, Switzerland</li> </ul>
9:30 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 1</b> <b>The Malta Process: Taking stock and looking ahead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Christophe Bernasconi</b>, Secretary General, HCCH</li> </ul> <p><b>Key takeaways from Malta I to IV – Expectations for Malta V and beyond</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ruth Sciberras</b>, CEO, Social Care Standards Authority, and <b>Noel Cutajar</b>, Director for the Central Authority, Malta</li> <li>- <b>Rachid Ouadifi</b>, Director of Civil Affairs and Legal Professions, Ministry of Justice, Morocco</li> <li>- <b>Pierre Beaudoin</b>, Deputy Head of the Legal Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, France</li> <li>- <b>Andrew Moylan</b>, Head of International Family Justice and Hague Network Judge for England and Wales, United Kingdom</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee / tea break

11:15 – 12:45	<p><b>Session 2</b></p> <p><b>How to give effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (e.g., Arts 9, 10, 11, 18, 20, 22, 27(4), 35) in cross-border situations?</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Grace Agcaoili</b>, Child Protection Specialist, Child Protection Section, UNICEF HQ New York</li> <li>- <b>Erica Neiglick</b>, Head of the International Civil Law Group, Department for Consular Affairs and Civil Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden</li> <li>- <b>Chloe Lelievre</b>, Head, Justice &amp; Rule of Law Unit, Public Governance Directorate, OECD</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch break
	<p><b>Moderators for Sessions 3 and 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Michele Bernier-Toth</b>, Special Advisor for Children's Issues, U.S. Department of State, United States of America</li> </ul>
13:45 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 3</b></p> <p><b>Parental responsibility, custody and guardianship under Shari'a law and civil / common law legal traditions, and the principle of the best interests of the child under the 1980 Child Abduction and the 1996 Child Protection Conventions</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Manaan Omar</b>, Focal Person on the 1980 Convention, Ministry of Law and Justice, Pakistan</li> <li>- <b>Emmanuelle Jacques</b>, Counsel, Department of Justice, Canada</li> <li>- <b>Maged Elantably</b>, Chief Justice of courts of appeal, member of International and Cultural Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, Arab Republic of Egypt</li> <li>- <b>Ingrid Stokkeland</b>, Senior Adviser, Department of International Law, The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Norway</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
15:00 – 15:45	<p><b>Session 4</b></p> <p><b>Kafala and the 1996 Child Protection Convention</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rachid Ouadifi</b>, Director of Civil Affairs and Legal Professions, Ministry of Justice, Morocco</li> <li>- <b>Pierre Beaudoin</b>, Deputy Head of the Legal Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, France</li> <li>- <b>Ali Abcha</b>, Family Judge, Court of First Instance of Médenine, and <b>Dalila Khlifi</b>, Family Judge, Court of First Instance of Gabes, Tunisia</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>

15:45 – 16:00	Coffee / tea break
	<p><b>Moderators for Sessions 5 and 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Andrew Moylan</b>, Head of International Family Justice and Hague Network Judge for England and Wales, United Kingdom</li> <li>- <b>Maged Elantably</b>, Chief Justice of courts of appeal, member of International and Cultural Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, Arab Republic of Egypt</li> </ul>
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 5</b></p> <p><b>Key judicial decisions rendered in cross-border child abduction and child protection matters involving civil / common law and Shari’a law States</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Annette Olland</b>, Senior Judge, Family Law Division, District Court of The Hague, Member of the IHNJ, Netherlands</li> <li>- <b>Hiram Puig-Lugo</b>, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Member of the IHNJ, Washington, D.C., United States of America</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
17:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Session 6</b></p> <p><b>Role and benefits of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) in cross-border child abduction and child protection matters</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>António José Fialho</b>, Senior Judge / Magistrate, President of the District Court of Setúbal, District Court of Setúbal, Member of the IHNJ, Portugal</li> <li>- <b>Gwen B. Hatch</b>, Associate Chief Justice, Court of King's Bench of Manitoba (Family Division), Chair of the Judicial Committee on Inter-jurisdictional Child Protection of the Canadian Judicial Council, Canada</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
18:00 – 19:30	<b>Welcome reception hosted by the Government of Malta</b>

Time	Item
	<p><b>Moderators for Sessions 7 and 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Melissa McNichol-Antwine</b>, Head of (Consular) Child Policy Unit, Consular Directorate, Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office. United Kingdom</li> <li>- <b>Yuko Nishitani</b>, Professor of Private Law, Kyoto University</li> </ul>
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 7</b></p> <p><b>Mediation in child abduction cases – Making it work</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mohamed Keshavjee</b>, Senior Research Scholar and specialist in Cross Cultural Mediation and Contemporary Islamic Jurisprudence, Institute of Ismaili Studies London (by video)</li> <li>- <b>Angele Sears-Debono</b>, Legal and Policy Officer, European Commission</li> <li>- <b>Milica Zlatković</b>, Judge, Court of Appeal in Niš, Member of the IHNJ Serbia</li> <li>- <b>Mohamad Al Ayouby</b>, CEO, IHOPE</li> <li>- <b>Alison Shalaby</b>, CEO, reunite International Child Abduction Centre</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
10:30 – 11:15	<p><b>Session 8</b></p> <p><b>Some key resources for mediation: Guide to Good Practice on Mediation, and Practitioners Tool</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome</b>, Head of Advisory Services, Co-CEO, MiKK e.V. International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction</li> <li>- <b>Joëlle Schickel-Küng</b>, Co-Head of Private International Law Unit, Federal Office of Justice, Switzerland</li> <li>- <b>Hanne Declercq</b>, Attaché, Directorate-General for Consular Affairs, FPS Foreign Affairs, Belgium</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee / tea break
	<p><b>Moderators for Sessions 9 and 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Michael Wells-Greco</b>, Lawyer, Charles Russell</li> <li>- <b>El Hadji Ndiogou Diouf</b>, Secretary General, Ministry of Family and National Solidarity, Senegal</li> </ul>

11:30 – 12:15	<p><b>Session 9</b></p> <p><b>Mediation in child abduction cases: the child’s voice (States’ practices)</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Alistair MacDonald</b>, High Court Judge, Royal Courts of Justice, Member of the IHNJ for England and Wales, United Kingdom</li> <li>- <b>Anca Magda Voiculescu</b>, Judge, Bucharest Court of Appeal, Member of the IHNJ, Romania</li> <li>- <b>Nazia Yaqub</b>, Lecturer in Law, University of Leeds</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
12:15 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 10</b></p> <p><b>Mediation: Working Party on Mediation (current status and future) and Central Contact Points</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Griffyn G. Chezenko</b>, Senior Analyst, Socio-Economic and Policy Research, Consular Issues and International Consular Engagement (CPP), Canada</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
	<p><b>Moderators for Sessions 11 and 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Philippe Lortie</b>, First Secretary, HCCH</li> <li>- <b>Laura Martinez-Mora</b>, Secretary, HCCH</li> </ul>
14:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Session 11</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to discussion groups</b></p> <p>Each pre-assigned group will discuss hypothetical cases from two different angles: when the relevant HCCH Convention is applicable, and when it is not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1980 Child Abduction Convention</li> <li>- 1996 Child Protection Convention</li> <li>- 2007 Child Support Convention</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion in break-out groups</b></p>
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee / tea break
16:15 – 17:15	<b>Plenary to share results followed by moderated discussion</b>
17:15 – 17:45	<p><b>Session 12</b></p> <p><b>Main takeaways from the first two days</b></p>
	Free evening

Friday 27 September 2024

Time	Item
	<p><b>Moderators for Session 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ana Shonia</b>, Legal Adviser, Central Authority under 1980, 1996, 2007 Hague Conventions, Ministry of Justice, Georgia</li> <li>- <b>André Veras Guimarães</b>, Director of the Immigration and Legal Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil</li> </ul>
9:00 – 09:45	<p><b>Session 13</b></p> <p><b>Main points to consider when joining and implementing HCCH Children’s Conventions – States’ practices</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mana’an Omar</b>, Focal Person on the 1980 Convention, Ministry of Law and Justice, Pakistan</li> <li>- <b>Giuseppe Vinciguerra</b>, Head of the Central Authority, Ministry of Justice, Italy</li> <li>- <b>Patrizia De Luca</b>, Senior Expert / Team leader external relations and international cooperation, European Commission</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
9:45 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 14</b></p> <p><b>Next Steps in the Malta Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ruth Sciberras</b>, CEO, Social Care Standards Authority, Malta</li> <li>- <b>Angele Sears-Debono</b>, Legal and Policy Officer, European Commission</li> <li>- <b>Mohamed Lemine Guig</b>, Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee / tea break
11:30 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 15</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the Declaration for Malta V</b></p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 16</b></p> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mark Musu’</b>, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Social Policy &amp; Children’s Rights, Malta</li> <li>- <b>Ruth-Rose Sciberras</b>, CEO, Social Care Standards Authority, Malta</li> <li>- <b>Christophe Bernasconi</b>, Secretary General, HCCH</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:30	Departure of participants