



HCCH

Connecter Protéger Coopérer Depuis 1893
Connecting Protecting Cooperating Since 1893

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report

2020

Foreword



Each year, the publication of the Annual Report offers me a moment to pause and reflect on the work of the HCCH over the preceding 12 months. It is safe to say that 2020 was a year like no other, and the challenges and accomplishments of the year were equally unique.

With a characteristically busy start to the year, filled with meetings and missions, our CGAP meeting in the first week of March 2020 was the last in-person event before the pandemic disrupted our plans. COVID-19 has undoubtedly affected our lives in ways we never expected, and it will have a lasting impact on our lives in the future. Fortunately, the HCCH Permanent Bureau adjusted quickly to the changes which allowed day-to-day business to continue largely uninterrupted. I recorded an official video address and the Permanent Bureau compiled resources to assist in navigating this new reality in a special COVID-19 Toolkit, which was later complemented by a targeted Toolkit on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention. I am very proud of the staff's reaction to these unprecedented challenges and wish to thank my colleagues for their continuing support and flexibility.

The challenges of the pandemic have highlighted the importance and relevance of private international law and, by extension, the work of the HCCH. We have witnessed a greater need for electronic authentication and recognition of public documents under the 1961 Apostille Convention, the publication and use of our Guide on the use of video-link under the 1970 Evidence Convention, as well as the 1980 Child Abduction Convention becoming a centre of the international family law discussions in times of COVID-19. These Conventions, among others, have provided valuable assistance in navigating the new reality.

Indeed, there are still many things to celebrate. We welcomed three new Members in 2020 and witnessed 13 new treaty actions with respect to HCCH Conventions.

We built on the momentum of the finalisation of the 2019 Judgments Convention with the publication of the Explanatory Report on the Convention, another step towards effective global access to justice.

We successfully transitioned to videoconferencing for many of our international meetings. Throughout the year, we held the Council of Diplomatic Representatives, as well as three Experts' Groups and two Working Groups, entirely online, and we continue our efforts to make best use of the IT infrastructure as we make plans for 2021. I hope that we can carry these experiences with us into future years. While these alternatives may never truly replace in-person meetings, in particular for discussions on delicate policy issues, we have been able to have meaningful engagement with a wider group as online communication has become the norm.

While movement may be restricted, legal questions continue to arise, and it is vital to have effective mechanisms to address these questions. The events of this year have demonstrated the benefits of international cooperation in the face of adversity. We will continue our work in fulfilment of our unique, global mandate, with a view to finding ways to harness the power of technology as we continue to promote effective access to justice for all and encourage cross-border trade and commerce.

In 2020 we also bid farewell to a friend and colleague, Mr Frank Poon, who completed his tenure as the HCCH Representative for Asia and the Pacific. Over the past three years, Frank greatly contributed to raising the visibility and profile of the HCCH and its work in the Asia Pacific region, and I am grateful for the many fond memories I have of shared missions across the region. We wish Frank the best of luck in his retirement, and welcome Professor Yun Zhao who began his role in August 2020 with much enthusiasm.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Members for their understanding and support, embracing the new means by which we conduct our important work. We do not know if 2021 will welcome the return of at least some in-person events, but we shall all continue to work together on achieving new goals and furthering the important mission of the HCCH. In the meantime, I hope that our colleagues, friends, and loved ones across the world stay safe and well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by 'B' and a horizontal line.

Dr Christophe Bernasconi
Secretary General

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A stylized, abstract graphic of a leaf or plant, rendered in a lighter shade of blue than the background. It is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the 'Highlights' text.

Highlights



**February
18-21**

Third Meeting of
the Experts' Group
on Jurisdiction

The Hague



**March
3-6**

Meeting of
the Council on
General Affairs
and Policy
(CGAP)

The Hague



**May
27**

Meeting of
the Council of
Diplomatic
Representatives
(CDR)

Online



**July
8-10**

Meeting of
the Working Group
on Preventing and
Addressing
Illicit Practices in
Intercountry Adoption

Online



**October
6-9**

Third Meeting of
the Experts' Group
on the
Tourists and Visitors
(ODR) Project

Online



**October
12-16**

Seventh meeting of
the Experts' Group
on the
Parentage/Surrogacy
Project

Online



**November
16-19**

Fourth meeting of
the Experts' Group
on Jurisdiction

Online



**December
2**

HCCH a|Bridged
Edition 2020
Golden Anniversary
of the
1970 Evidence
Convention

Online




**December
14-17**

Meeting of
the Administrative
Cooperation Working
Group on the
2007 Child Support
Convention

Online





Facts & Figures



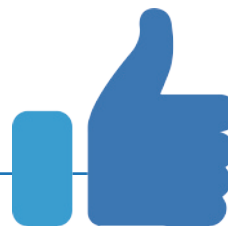
3 New
HCCH Members



7 New Accessions,
4 Ratifications and
2 Signatures to HCCH Conventions



€ 369,479.21 in
voluntary contributions received



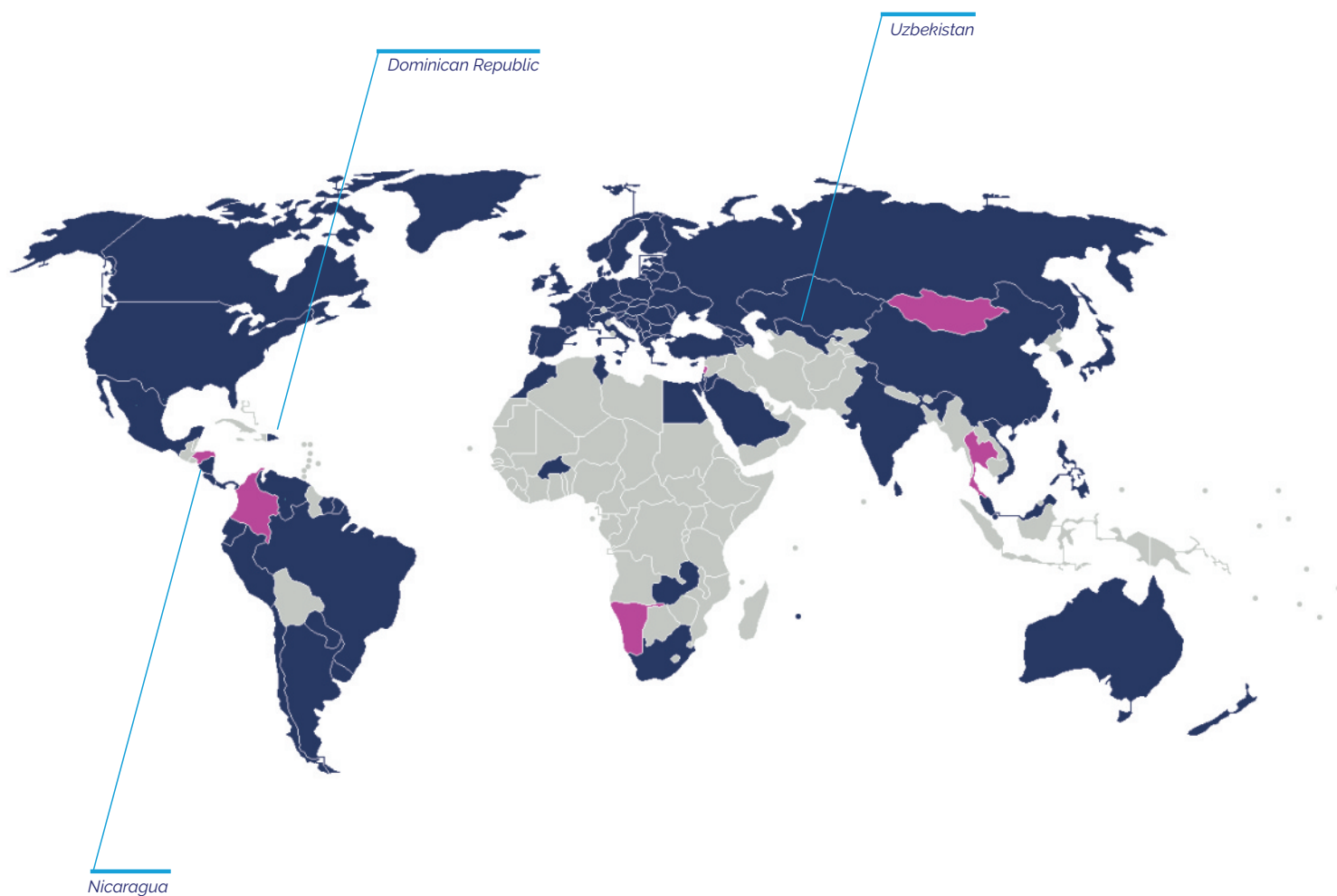
25.5% average increase of followers across
our social media platforms





Members

By the end of 2020, the HCCH had 86 Members (85 Member States and the European Union) representing regions across the globe. Members determine the Work Programme of the Organisation and play an active role in the normative, non-normative and governance work. The HCCH Membership has almost doubled in the last two decades and this growth looks set to continue, with several States currently in the process of joining.



Members



Admitted States

(the membership of Colombia, Honduras, Lebanon, Mongolia, Thailand and Namibia is currently subject to their acceptance of the Statute)

New Members:

Dominican Republic (March 2020)

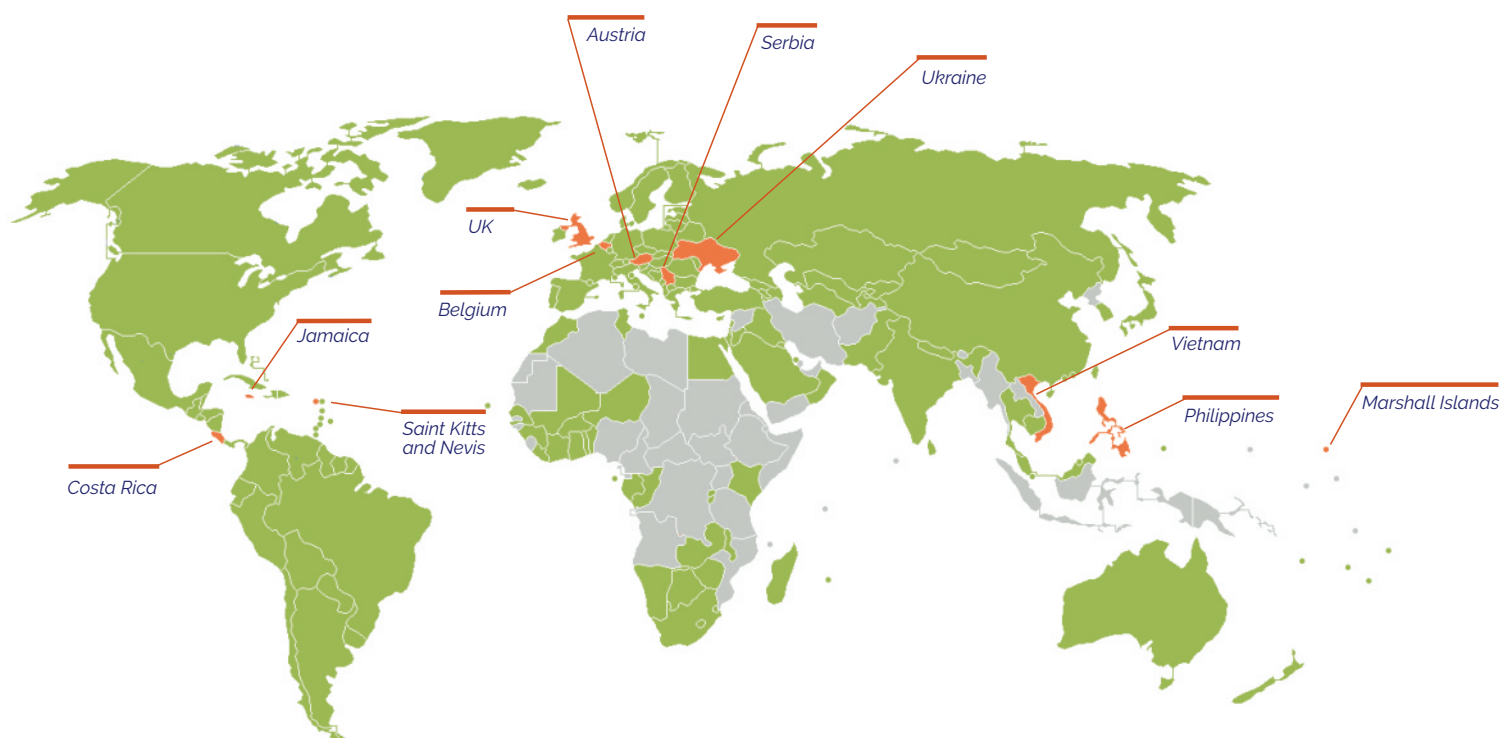
Uzbekistan (March 2020)

Nicaragua (October 2020)

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Treaty Actions

Contracting Parties to the HCCH Conventions benefit from an extensive legal cooperation network and uniform international standards. The Conventions are open to Members of the Organisation, but also to non-Members, of which many have either signed or become Contracting Parties to one or more HCCH Conventions. This means that there are a total of over 150 States connected to the work of the Organisation worldwide.



Signatures, Ratifications & Accessions to HCCH Conventions in 2020



*Signatures (S), Ratifications (R)
& Accessions (A) in 2020*

1961 Apostille Convention

Jamaica (A)**

2000 Protection of Adults Convention

Belgium (R)**



Other Connected Parties

1965 Service Convention

Austria (R)*
Marshall Islands (A)**
Philippines (A)*

2005 Choice of Court Convention

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland (A)*¹

* EIF: Entry into force in 2020

** EIF: Entry into force in 2021

1970 Evidence Convention

Vietnam (A)*

2007 Child Support Convention

Serbia (S & R)**
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland (R)*¹

1993 Adoption Convention

Saint Kitts and Nevis (A)**

2019 Judgments Convention

Ukraine (S)

1996 Child Protection Convention

Costa Rica (A)**

¹ Convention previously applied to the United Kingdom by virtue of its former membership of the European Union.



Normative Work

As part of its mandate working toward the progressive unification of the rules of private international law, conducting legislative work is a core function of the HCCH. In 2020, the Organisation continued this normative work, exploring areas which may benefit from the development of an international instrument, in the context of some of the projects listed in this section.

Jurisdiction



*Third Meeting of the Experts' Group on Jurisdiction
(18-21 February 2020, The Hague)*

Following the successful conclusion of the 2019 Judgments Convention, the Experts' Group on Jurisdiction resumed its work in 2020, with meetings in February in The Hague and in November by videoconference, chaired by Professor Keisuke Takeshita of Japan.

The Group continued its exploratory discussions with a view to developing a new instrument to help determine the basis upon which a State's courts can assume jurisdiction in a specific civil or commercial matter. The basic elements of a possible future instrument were discussed, both in the context of direct jurisdiction and parallel proceedings, as well as the inclusion of cooperation / coordination mechanisms.

Policy considerations on the necessity, desirability, and feasibility of a new instrument will be the subject of the Group's next meeting in early 2021, the outcomes of which will be submitted to CGAP at its March 2021 meeting.



Parentage/Surrogacy



*Seventh Meeting of the Experts' Group on Parentage/Surrogacy
(12-16 October 2020, online)*

The Experts' Group on Parentage/Surrogacy continued its work this year, meeting in October 2020 by videoconference with Ms Joëlle Schickel-Küng of Switzerland as Chair.

The focus of the Group's work is the development of potential provisions for a possible future Convention on the recognition of foreign judicial decisions on legal parentage generally, as well as a separate protocol on the recognition of foreign judicial decisions on legal parentage rendered as a result of an international surrogacy arrangement.

In relation to the former, the Group discussed potential rules on applicable law and the acceptance of legal parentage recorded in a public document. It noted a number of matters for further consideration, including the effects of legal parentage when established by operation of law or by an act (such as nationality), and whether to include legal parentage established as a result of domestic adoptions in any future Convention. With respect to the possible protocol, the discussions of the Group centred around scope, safeguards, and various approaches to ensure compliance with such safeguards.

Pursuant to its mandate, the Group will continue its work throughout 2021 and present a full report to CGAP at its 2022 meeting.

Tourists and Visitors (Online Dispute Resolution)



*Third Meeting of the Experts' Group on the Tourists and Visitors (ODR) Project
(6-9 October 2020, online)*

In October 2020, the Experts' Group on the Tourists and Visitors (ODR) Project met by videoconference, with Mr André Stemmet of South Africa as Chair.

Pursuant to the Group's mandate, this meeting centred around consideration of the necessity, desirability, and feasibility of a soft law instrument concerning online dispute resolution of claims by international tourists and visitors. While the Group was unable to reach a consensus in this regard, it concluded that the development of a guide may provide useful assistance to tourists and visitors in pursuing claims.

Such a guide would seek to emphasise the relevance of existing HCCH Conventions and instruments to the resolution of claims by international tourists and visitors, with appropriate references to other instruments. It would enumerate the ODR platforms at the disposal of international tourists and visitors, providing objective guidance to assist tourists and visitors in assessing the platforms that best suit their needs.

The Group's recommendation in relation to a guide will be presented for decision to CGAP at its March 2021 meeting.



A stylized, light blue graphic on the left side of the page depicts a person with their arms raised in a celebratory or triumphant gesture. The figure is composed of simple geometric shapes, including a circle for the head and curved lines for the arms and torso.

Non-Normative Work

Over 40 Conventions and other legal instruments have been adopted under the auspices of the HCCH. Ensuring the effective implementation and operation of these Conventions is essential and benefits all Contracting Parties. This is facilitated by the provision of post-Convention services, as part of the “non-normative work” of the Organisation. The major developments in the HCCH’s non-normative work from 2020 are assembled in this section.

1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions

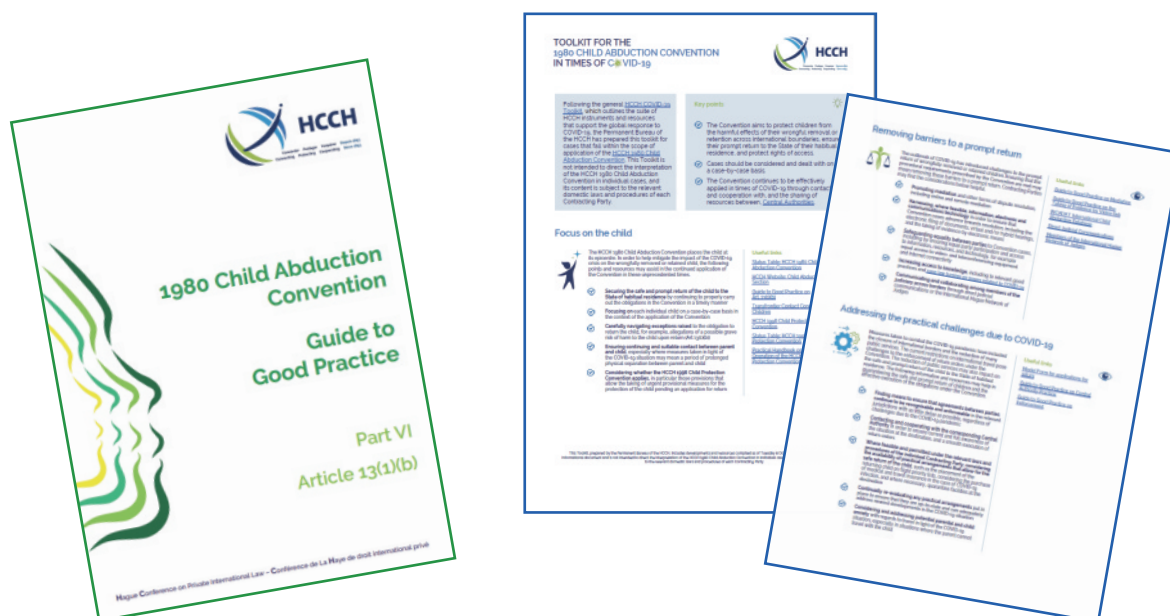


Following the success of the Edition 2019 of *HCCH aBridged*, which centred around the *Service Convention in the Era of Electronic and Information Technology*, the post-event publication was released in November 2020. The publication builds on the discussions from the inaugural edition, with contributions from its speakers illustrating how the use of information technology can further enhance the operation of the Service Convention.

With the Evidence Convention celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020, it was a natural candidate for the focus of Edition 2020 of *HCCH aBridged*. Organised together with the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Edition 2020 appropriately celebrated the “Golden Anniversary”. The event was held entirely online and livestreamed to over 200 participants from all over the world. Like its predecessor, Edition 2020 brought together international experts from government, the judiciary, academia, and private practice, exchanging views and experiences on the operation of the Convention. The participants discussed practical challenges relating to the cross-border taking of evidence and explored possible solutions. The outcomes of the event will inform the work of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the Service, Evidence and Access to Justice Conventions.

The HCCH also marked the anniversary of the Evidence Convention with two important publications. The *Guide to Good Practice on the Use of Video-Link under the Evidence Convention* was published in April 2020. Its publication was extremely timely, with the increased use of videoconferencing tools and information technology in judicial operations brought about by the pandemic. The Guide presents the ways in which video-link can be used in the taking of evidence under both Chapters of the Evidence Convention and outlines good practices to be followed, with appropriate references to internal law and other international agreements. It complements the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention*, of which the 4th edition was released in December 2020. This special 50th anniversary edition incorporates recent developments in domestic and international legal instruments and case law.

1980 Child Abduction Convention



The Child Abduction Convention celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2020. Several important events highlighted the continuing relevance of the Convention, which has been reaffirmed by the year's unprecedented circumstances.

First, in March 2020, the *Guide to Good Practice under the 1980 Child Abduction Convention: Part VI – Article 13(1)(b)* was published, following its approval in late 2019. The Guide seeks to promote the consistent application of Article 13(1)(b), under which the return of a child can be refused, in exceptional cases, if there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation. In recent years, the increasing use of this defence in child abduction cases has raised concern among the expert community over its possible misapplication. Through this Guide, authorities will be better positioned to make an informed and prompt decision in relation to the return of the child, strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

Secondly, in July 2020, the PB published a *Toolkit for the Convention in Times of COVID-19*, presenting key aspects and specific HCCH resources relevant to addressing the challenges in the operation of the Convention arising from the pandemic. ROLAC also organised two meetings of Central Authorities to discuss and exchange experiences on the operation of the Convention in the COVID-19 context.

Throughout the year, the PB participated in several online events to celebrate the anniversary of the Convention, including webinars organised by the International Child Abduction Lawyers Italy (ICALI) and the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL), a workshop for the Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament, and an international seminar jointly organised by the HCCH, the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ), and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. These events were in addition to a number of trainings to ensure the effective operation of the Convention, including with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the Iberoamerican Network of Judicial Schools (RIAEJ), as well as specific sessions with both Panama and Argentina.

1993 Adoption Convention



*Visit of the Vice President of the Republic of Ecuador,
Her Excellency Ms María Alejandra Muñoz Seminario
(November 2020, The Hague)*

The Working Group on Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption met via videoconference in July 2020, with Ms Carine Rosalia of the United States of America as Chair. The Working Group continued with the development of a draft Toolkit, containing fact sheets on different illicit practices and enabling factors, a model procedure to respond to suspected and actual cases of illicit practices, as well as coordination and cooperation guidelines on preventing and responding to patterns of illicit practices. The Group agreed to include a checklist to assist decision-making by Central Authorities in light of existing risks of illicit activity. The draft Toolkit will be circulated to all HCCH Members, Contracting Parties to the Convention, and relevant international organisations ahead of the next meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the Convention.

As part of its intercountry adoption technical assistance programme (ICATAP), the PB provided post-convention assistance via videoconference to Honduras and Ecuador (both as part of a second phase of technical assistance) to strengthen their child protection systems, including with respect to adoption, in accordance with the Convention. In the case of Ecuador, the technical assistance work also contributed to the development of the *Handbook on National and Intercountry Adoption Management Procedures*, published by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and celebrated with a visit of the Vice President of the Republic of Ecuador, Her Excellency Ms María Alejandra Muñoz Seminario, to the PB in November 2020. In addition, the unprecedented circumstances of the year led ROLAC to initiate a virtual meeting of Latin American Central Authorities, to discuss and exchange experiences on the operation of the Convention in the COVID-19 context.

2007 Child Support Convention

The Administrative Cooperation Working Group under the Child Support Convention met via videoconference in December 2020, with Mr Philip Ashmore of the United States of America and Ms Floor de Jongh Bekkali of Norway as co-Chairs. This meeting was convened ahead of the first meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the Child Support Convention and Protocol, originally scheduled in 2020 but which was unfortunately postponed due to the pandemic. The Group discussed a possible statistical report under the Convention and the use of the iSupport case management system, as well as other topics of administrative cooperation including potential multilingual model forms to facilitate exchanges between Central Authorities.

In relation to iSupport, 2020 saw the end of the iSupport Promotion and Maintenance Project coordinated by the PB and funded by a grant from the European Union (EU), together with voluntary contributions from HCCH Members. The project has enabled a number of improvements, including the encryption of data and the availability of the interface in additional languages. A new project, iSupport ISD, commenced in September 2020, once again funded by the EU and voluntary contributions from HCCH Members. Planned developments include a modernised interface and the statistical report mentioned above.

2015 Choice of Law Principles

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Principles, the PB surveyed arbitration centres from around the globe to gather information about which have either already incorporated the Principles into their institutional rules or are otherwise promoting and facilitating their use. The findings were compiled in a status table and will be updated annually.

In 2020, CGAP and the governing bodies of the HCCH's sister organisations UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT approved the *Legal Guide to Uniform Legal Instruments in the Area of International Commercial Contracts (with a focus on Sales)*, which was developed by the secretariats of the three organisations, with the assistance of designated experts. The Guide will be published in 2021. Against this background, the three organisations co-organised a conference in September 2020 to discuss their work in the area of law of international sales.

2019 Judgments Convention



The Judgments Convention marked its first anniversary in 2020, following its adoption at the Twenty-Second Session on 2 July 2019. One of the major developments in 2020 concerning the Convention was the finalisation of the Explanatory Report, prepared by co-Rapporteurs Professor Francisco Garcimartin of Spain and Professor Geneviève Saumier of Canada. The Explanatory Report was approved on 22 September 2020, with the official publication being launched in October. The Report reflects the discussions and consensus-based negotiations leading to the adoption of the Convention, and although non-binding in nature, it is the authoritative resource on the implementation, operation, and interpretation of the Convention. The swift approval of the Explanatory Report is testament to the importance of the Convention to the Membership. The publication of the Explanatory Report follows the March 2020 approval of the Recommended Form, designed to facilitate the process of recognition and enforcement under the Convention for judges, officials, and parties.

Ahead of the entry into force of the Convention, the PB engaged in a number of activities throughout 2020 aimed at promoting the Convention, its proper implementation, and effective operation. This included a pre-conference virtual roundtable organised with the University of Bonn, an international conference co-organised by ROLAC and the *Asociación Americana de Derecho Internacional Privado* (ASADIP) and engagement with the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) and its Open Regional Fund for South East Europe-Legal Reform (ORF-LR) on the "Cross-border enforcement of judgments" financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In addition, the Judgments Convention was presented, together with other HCCH Conventions, as part of the 2020 International Commercial Litigation Conference of the Judicial Policy Research Institute (JPRI) of the Republic of Korea. Staff from the PB headquarters and ROAP participated in the event, co-organised by the HCCH with the JPRI, UNCITRAL and UNIDROIT.

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Governance & Cooperation

As an intergovernmental organisation, good governance is central to the operation of the HCCH. Its unique global mandate also requires international cooperation, both within the Organisation and externally. In 2020, the HCCH continued to work on strengthening its governance frameworks and fostering international partnerships, as outlined in this section.

Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP)



The annual meeting of CGAP was held from 3 to 6 March 2020 in The Hague, chaired by Mr Andrew Walter of Australia. Delegations representing 68 HCCH Members, including one Member organisation, participated in the meeting, together with observers from seven non-Member States, four intergovernmental organisations and nine non-governmental organisations. For the first time, a small number of delegations participated via videoconference, due to the difficulties caused by COVID-19.

CGAP witnessed both the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan become Members of the HCCH, as well as the proposals of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to admit the Republic of Nicaragua and Kingdom of Thailand as Members. As noted above, Nicaragua has since become a Member of the Organisation, in October 2020. CGAP also witnessed the accession of the Republic of the Philippines to the Service Convention of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Evidence Convention, and Ukraine signing the Judgments Convention.

As is customary, CGAP received updates on a wide range of issues relating to the HCCH's normative, non-normative and governance agenda and set the Work Programme for the year, as outlined in the Conclusions & Decisions (C&Ds). Many of the highlights are outlined in the preceding sections of this report.



Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR)

The annual meeting of the CDR took place on 27 May 2020, held for the first time in an entirely online format, chaired by Ms Pascale Grotenhuis of the Netherlands.

Highlights of the meeting included Members approving the HCCH Budget for the Financial Year 2020-2021, with a total Budget of € 4,277,994.00, approving amendments to the HCCH Staff Rules, and electing Mr Luiz Otávio Ortigão de Sampaio of Brazil as Chair of the CDR Standing Committee.

Rules of Procedure

New Rules of Procedure for the HCCH were approved by CGAP 2020 and entered into force on 6 March 2020. The Rules were developed by a Working Group chaired by His Excellency Marcin Czepelak, Ambassador of Poland to the Netherlands.

The Rules govern matters concerning HCCH meetings, including the organisation and conduct of meetings, the election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as well as the participation of observers.

Framework for the Establishment of Regional Offices

At its 2020 meeting, CGAP approved the adoption of a new Framework for the Establishment of Regional Offices. The Framework was developed by a Working Group chaired by Her Excellency Maria Teresa Infante Caffi, in her former capacity as Ambassador of Chile to the Netherlands.

The Framework provides a set of criteria and outlines the procedures to be followed for the establishment of Regional Offices. It applies exclusively to new Regional Offices and therefore does not affect the operation of the existing Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC).

Institutional Cooperation

Throughout 2020, the HCCH continued to develop its engagement and cooperation with other institutions. The circumstances of the pandemic enabled the PB to participate remotely in a number of promotional events, including webinars organised by governmental authorities and academic institutions showcasing the work of the Organisation.



Cooperation agreement with Tashkent State University of Law



Cooperation agreement with the University of Belgrade

In addition, the HCCH signed two new cooperation agreements, the first in March 2020 with Tashkent State University of Law in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the second in July 2020 with the University of Belgrade in the Republic of Serbia. These cooperation agreements will enable exchanges between the HCCH and the faculty and students of these universities, with a view to progressing research and other projects relevant to the work of the HCCH.



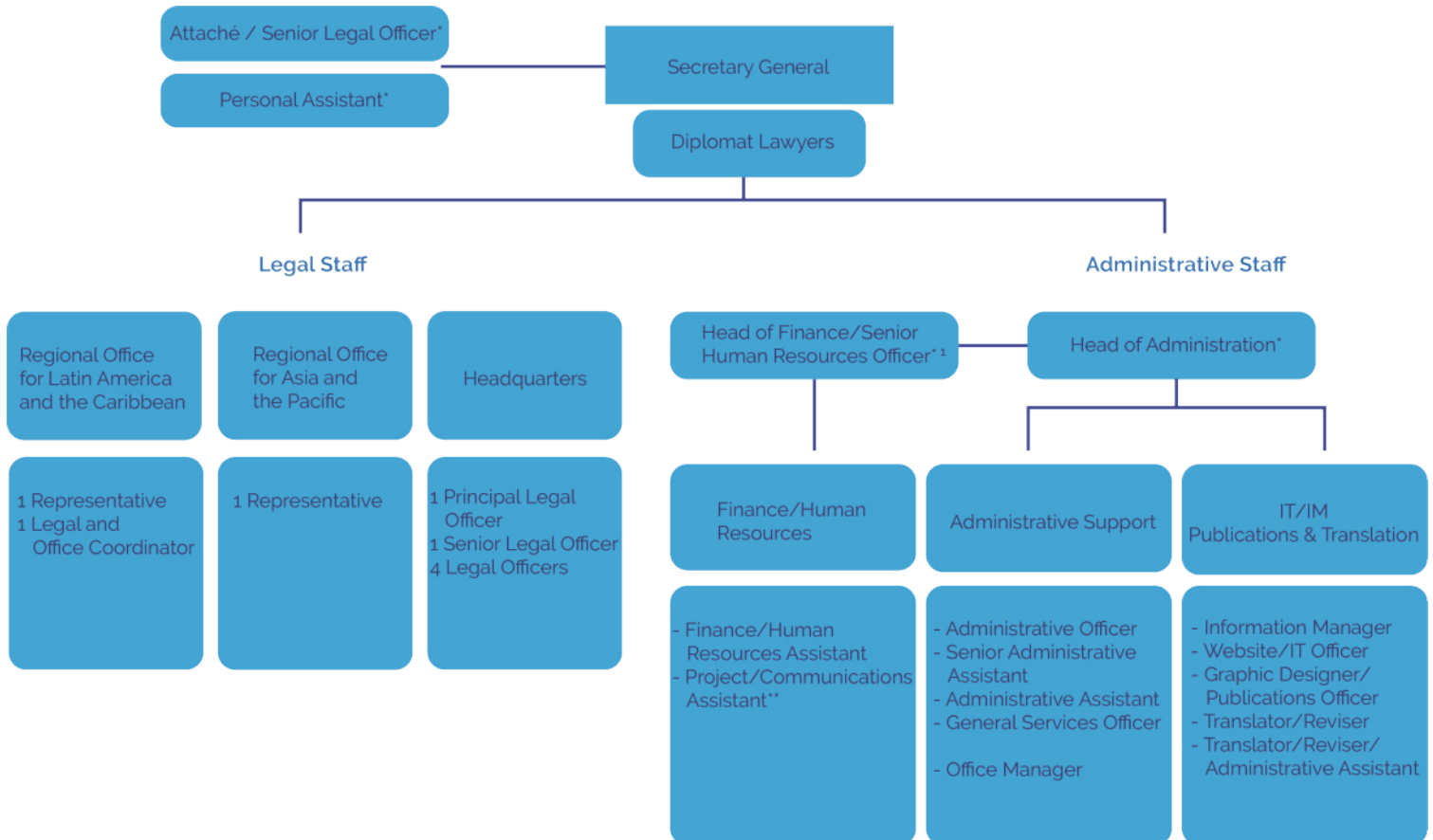
Memorandum of understanding with the Hong Kong SAR

In December 2020, the HCCH also concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The purpose of the memorandum is to facilitate the secondment of legal professionals to the Permanent Bureau, either at its Head Office or Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

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Our People

Organisational Chart



* Member of the Secretary General's Office

** This position jointly reports to the Head of Finance / Senior Human Resources Officer and to the Attaché / Senior Legal Officer

¹ This position also reports directly to the Secretary General for all finance matters

The Staff

(per 31 December 2020)

Ms Maryze BERKHOUT
Head of Finance / Senior Human Resources Officer

Dr Christophe BERNASCONI
Secretary General

Ms Sandrine BRARD
Administrative Assistant

Mr Frédéric BREGER
Legal Officer (until May 2020)

Ms Florencia CASTRO
Legal and Office Co-ordinator (ROLAC)

Ms Marie-Charlotte DARBAS
Information Manager

Ms Lydie DE LOOF
Graphic Designer / Publications Officer

Ms Eugenia GENTILE
Finance / Human Resources Assistant

Dr Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR
First Secretary

Mr Ignacio GOICOECHEA
Representative (ROLAC)

Ms Maja GROFF
Principal Legal Officer

Mr Stuart HAWKINS
Website / IT Officer

Mr Thomas JOHN
Attaché to the Secretary General / Principal Legal Officer (until January 2020)

Ms Anna KOELEWIJN
Head of Administration

Mr Philippe LORTIE
First Secretary

Mr Thomas MACHUELLE
Translator / Reviser

Ms Laura MARTÍNEZ-MORA
Secretary

Ms Laura MOLENAAR
Administrative Officer

Ms Alix NG
Office Manager (ROAP)

Ms Capucine PAGE
Legal Officer

Ms Sophie PINEAU
Personal Assistant to the Secretary General

Mr Frank POON
Representative (ROAP) (until July 2020)

Ms Mathilde PRÉNAS
Senior Administrative Assistant

Dr João RIBEIRO-BIDAUI
First Secretary

Ms Raquel SALINAS PEIXOTO
Legal Officer

Ms Nicole SIMS
Legal Officer

Ms Giulia VALENTINI
Project / Communications Assistant

Mr Willem VAN DER ENDT
General Services Officer

Ms Livia VAN DER GRAAF
Project Officer (until June 2020)

Mr Brody WARREN
Attaché to the Secretary General / Senior Legal Officer

Ms Ana ZANETTIN
Translator / Reviser / Administrative Assistant

Dr Ning ZHAO
Senior Legal Officer

Prof. Yun ZHAO
Representative (ROAP)

Ms Elizabeth ZORRILLA
Legal Officer

Consultants to the HCCH

Consultants supporting Normative Work

Ms Hannah BAKER
Parentage / Surrogacy Project

Mr Asher Gabriel EMANUEL
Judgments Project

Dr Nino SIEVI
Tourism Project

Ms Victoria STEPHENS
INCADAT Project

Dr Michael WELLS-GRECO
Parentage / Surrogacy Project

Consultants supporting Governance & Operations

Ms Helene GUERIN
Publications

Mr Willem-Paul HERBER
Accountant

Ms Natalie MUSOMBA
Library Assistant

Secondments to the Permanent Bureau

Ms Soojin CHO (*Judge, seconded to the Permanent Bureau (The Hague) from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea*)

Mr Song (Levi) GAO (*Lawyer, seconded to the Permanent Bureau (ROAP) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China*)

Ms Myriam de HEMPTINNE (*Judge, seconded to the Permanent Bureau (The Hague) from the Ministry of Justice, Belgium*)

iSupport

Mr Jean-Marc PELLET (*iSupport Co-ordinator*)

Interns

In 2020, the Permanent Bureau had the pleasure of welcoming 33 interns from over 15 different States at its headquarters in The Hague, at one of its Regional Offices, or for the first time, online.

Head Office The Hague, The Netherlands

Ms Natália BUTTIGNOL SEGALA (Italian / Brazilian)
Ms Luisa CASSAR PULLICINO (Maltese)
Ms Natalie CHAN (Chinese)
Mr Yuxuan CHEN (Chinese)
Mr Lucas CLOVER ALCOLEA (British / Spanish)
Mr Edwin COLEMAN (Ghanaian)
Ms Laura-Theresa GODAU (German)
Ms Saskia GOLDMINC (French)
Ms Zilin HAO (Chinese)
Ms Mari HIRAISHI (Japanese)
Ms Nietta KEANE (Irish / Cypriot)
Ms Sayaka MATSUMOTO (Japanese)
Ms Morgane MAURICE (French)
Ms Chandler MICHAELS (American)
Ms Clara PAUL (French)
Ms Nicole SIMS (Australian)
Ms Lise THEUNISSEN (Belgian)
Ms Jessica VALENTINE (Australian / British)
Ms Olivia WEST (British)

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ms María Luz ALBORNOZ (Argentinian)
Ms Lola CARRO (Argentinian)
Ms Magali FELMAN (Argentinian)
Ms Abril FLOS URIARTE (Argentinian)
Ms Carolina GUIMAREY (Argentinian)
Ms María Paula KIM (Argentinian)
Mr Facundo PIVETTI (Argentinian)
Ms Lucila RONCO (Argentinian)
Ms Constanza VELAZQUEZ (Argentinian)

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Ms Jin HUIXIANG (Chinese)
Mr Jin SHANGKUN (Chinese)
Ms Wu QINGXUAN (Chinese)
Mr Wu WEISI (Chinese)
Ms Zhang XINCHEN (Chinese)



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