

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE 1993 ADOPTION CONVENTION  
Prel. Doc. 3 of February 2020 for the Special Commission meeting in 2021

<b>Name of State:</b>	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
<b>Information for follow-up purposes</b>	
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**1. POST-ADOPTION MATTERS**

**1.1. Preservation of, and access to, information**

Both States of origin and receiving States

**1.1.1. Preservation of information and use of data**

1.	<p>Has your State <b>centralised</b>, in a public facility, information concerning the child's origins and the adoption of the child?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify where the information is centralised: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify where the information is stored: Under domestic law, all information about the adoption procedure is confidential. The original adoption file must be kept in the archive of the corresponding Protection Court, and a certified copy of it must be sent to the Adoption Office, all in accordance with the provisions of article 429 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p>
2.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where personal data obtained during the intercountry adoption process has been <b>misused</b> (see Art. 31 of the Convention)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide details of the types of situations your State encountered and the action(s) taken in response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

**1.1.2. Search for origins**

3.	<p>Is there a <b>specialised programme</b> or <b>section</b> in the <b>Central Authority</b> which deals with the search for the origins of an adoptee?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide its name and explain the services provided: An advisory service and access to the file is provided. In the cases in which the adoptees wish to know about their origins, the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in article 429 provides that from the age of 12 they can directly request access to the information found in the adoption file. And before reaching 12 years old, it can be done through their legal representative. In both cases, they must be previously advised by the multidisciplinary team of the Court for the Protection of Children and Adolescents or the corresponding Adoption Office</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify how the search for the origins is handled:</p>
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4.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that <b>Recommendation No 21</b><sup>1</sup> of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard:</p> <p>At the time of carrying out the bio-psychosocial evaluation, the future adoptive parents are given appropriate advice so that the child is informed about their origins. Likewise, if the child has a suitable emotional age, their opinion or consent is taken, as appropriate, for which the child must be duly aware of the adoption procedure, within the framework of the provisions of articles 414 and 415 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p> <p>Likewise, they are informed that in accordance with the provisions of article 429 of the aforementioned law, the adoptee from the age of 12 can directly request access to the information found in the adoption file. Before reaching the age of 12, it can be done through their legal representative. In both cases, they must be previously advised by the multidisciplinary team of the Court for the Protection of Children and Adolescents or the corresponding Adoption Office.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons:</p>
5.	<p>If your State allows for the use of <b>DNA testing</b> to search for origins, please specify:</p> <p>(a) <b>which body</b> is in charge of the DNA testing (<i>e.g.</i>, government, private companies, NGOs);</p> <p>These cases have not occurred yet.</p> <p>In the event that the application of DNA analysis is appropriate, they must be requested before the Protection Court in matters of adoption. The entity in charge is the National Government through the Corps of Scientific, Criminal and Criminal Investigations (C.I.C.P.C.) and the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Investigations (I.V.I.C.).</p> <p>(b) where the <b>data</b> is stored, and whether it is stored by a public or private entity;</p> <p>These cases have not occurred yet.</p> <p>In cases where DNA analysis is carried out, they must rest in the adoption file that is submitted to the Court for the Protection of Children and Adolescents that has required said analysis, with reservation of the file except for the adopted</p> <p>(c) the average <b>cost</b> of a DNA test in your State and whether any subsidy is available;</p> <p>These cases have not occurred yet.</p> <p>It is relevant to point out that the Venezuelan State has laboratories to carry out these scientific analyzes, through the Corps of Scientific, Criminal and Criminal Investigations (C.I.C.P.C.) and the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Investigations (I.V.I.C.).</p> <p>(d) details of any <b>challenges</b> and / or <b>good practices</b> your State may have developed with respect to the issues identified in this question and DNA testing in general.</p> <p>One of the great challenges that we face is constituted by the economic blockade that the Venezuelan State suffers, which has prevented the acquisition of the necessary reagents, to carry out the required DNA tests and other filiation processes.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [“Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Hague Inter-country Adoption Convention \(8-12 June 2015\)”](#), C&R No 21 (hereinafter, “C&R of the 2015 SC”):

“The SC recommended that the possibility of a child searching for his or her origins be **included** in the **counselling and preparation** of the prospective adoptive parents. When an adopted child or an adult adoptee undertakes such a search, **professional support** at all stages is recommended” [emphasis added].

6.	<p>What is your State's practice when the background information of an adoption is <b>incomplete or non-existent</b>? How does your State support adoptees in such situations?</p> <p>All possible support is made, officiating at the corresponding institutions; in the case of documents, to the security forces in order to carry out the investigations, or to the protection council to activate the location plan.</p>
7.	<p>What is the procedure in your State when <b>illicit practices</b> are discovered during a search for origins? Please provide details of any challenges and / or good practices.</p> <p>These cases have not occurred yet.</p>
8.	<p>If <b>statistics</b> are available in your State regarding the number of adoptees who are searching / have searched for their origins, please specify:</p> <p>(a) how many of these searches were <b>successful</b>(<i>e.g.</i>, the adoptee found his birth family);  Yes, there have been three (3) cases of national adoptions, with positive results thanks to the support of the respective authorities.</p> <p>(b) how many were <b>not successful</b> and what were the reasons.  None. All gave positive results</p>
9.	<p>Has your State encountered any challenges with regard to access to information due to the <b>confidentiality</b> of the <b>identity of the birth parents</b>?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the challenges and how your State addressed them:  Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
10.	<p>Does your State make a distinction between the disclosure of <b>identifying</b> versus <b>non-identifying</b> information?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response:  Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response:  Under domestic law, all information about the adoption procedure is confidential, except for the adoptee.</p>
11.	<p>What is the procedure in your State for processing requests from the <b>birthfamily</b> to receive information concerning the adoption of their child? Does your State have a specific programme / database to handle such requests?</p> <p>In the adoption procedure, the location of the biological parents must be exhausted to provide due advice on the scope of the adoption, so that they can freely express their consent or not on the adoption. Noting that in the adoption procedure the legal link with the family of origin is lost. Consequently, the only ones who can have access to the adoption file are the applicants for adoption, the child and adolescent subject to the adoption, the prosecutor of the Public Ministry, all in application of the principle of confidentiality provided in article 429 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p>

### 1.1.3. Guidelines and good practices

12.	<p>Has your State developed any <b>guidelines</b> (<i>e.g.</i>, procedures, manuals) and / or <b>good practices</b> regarding preservation of information and search for origins?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide a link or attach a copy with your response:</p>
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The Venezuelan State has developed as a common practice in the three (3) cases referred to above, supported by available means, the search for information on the family of origin. Such practice has not been documented in a regulatory instrument.

No.

## 1.2. Post-adoption services<sup>2</sup>

### Both States of origin and receiving States

13.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that <b>Recommendation No 18<sup>3</sup></b> of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons: We appreciate the recommendation, it seems pertinent; However, in none of the cases have there been any drawbacks. The implementation of said practice and the development of the instrument in this regard are being considered.</p>
14.	<p>If your State provides <b>specialised</b> post-adoption services, please specify:</p> <p>(a) the <b>type</b> of services provided and <b>to whom</b> they are provided (e.g., child and adult adoptees, birth families, adoptive families); The service refers to advice and information on the adoption process and its origins when the adoptee requires it.</p> <p>(b) <b>who</b> provides the services (e.g., social welfare administration, school, health personnel); The Judicial Circuit of the Protection Courts, and the interdisciplinary team of the Adoption Office, of the Autonomous Institute- National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (IDENNA) made up of a social worker, lawyer, psychologist and a doctor.</p> <p>(c) whether the <b>professionals</b> involved in the post-adoption services are the same as those involved in the preparation of the prospective adoptive parents (PAPs); Yes, the interdisciplinary team of the Adoption Office, made up of the Social Worker, Lawyer, Psychologist and doctor, is available to give the appropriate advice to the adoptee when he / she requires information about the adoption procedure and its origins. The Post-adoption service is limited only to advice and information on the adoption process and its origins when the adoptee requires it.</p> <p>(d) how, if there are different services, these various services are <b>coordinated</b>; The Post-adoption service is limited only to advice and information on the adoption process and its origins when the adoptee requires it.</p> <p>(e) how the post-adoption services are <b>financed</b> (e.g., the government funds its own services, the government funds Adoption Accredited Bodies (AAB) services, adoptees and their families pay for the services themselves, other); The government finances its own services</p> <p>(f) the <b>length of time</b> this support is available.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Post-adoption services may be provided to adoptees, birth families and adoptive families.

<sup>3</sup> C&R No 18 of the 2015 SC:

“The SC recognised that post-adoption services are essential and should take into account the **lifelong nature** of adoption. States are encouraged to develop **specialised post-adoption services**, in addition to the general services already in place”[emphasis added].

	No time limit has been set
15.	<p>Please provide details of any <b>good practices</b> in your State which ensure that adoptees, adoptive families and birth families are adequately <b>informed</b> about, and can easily <b>access</b>, post-adoption services.</p> <p>At the time of carrying out the bio-psychosocial evaluation, the future adoptive parents are given appropriate advice so that the child is informed about their origins. Likewise, future adoptive parents are given workshops prior to the adoption process.</p> <p>On the other hand, if the child has a suitable emotional age, their opinion or consent is taken, as appropriate, for which the child must be duly aware of the adoption procedure, within the framework of the provisions of articles 414 and 415 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p> <p>Also, they are informed that in accordance with the provisions of article 429 of the aforementioned law, the adoptee from the age of 12 can directly request access to the information found in the adoption file. Before reaching the age of 12, it can be done through their legal representative. In both cases, they must be previously advised by the multidisciplinary team of the Court for the Protection of Children and Adolescents or the corresponding Adoption Office.</p> <p>In this context, the adoption procedure must exhaust the location of the biological parents in order to provide due advice on the scope of the adoption, so that they can freely express their consent or not on the adoption. Noting that in the adoption procedure the legal link with the family of origin is lost. Consequently, the only ones who can have access to the adoption file are the applicants for adoption, the child and adolescent subject to the adoption, the prosecutor of the Public Ministry, all in application of the principle of confidentiality provided in article 429 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p>
16.	<p>In setting up post-adoption services in your State, were the <b>voices of adoptees</b> considered?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify in what way their voices were considered: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
17.	<p>Has <b>research</b> been carried out in your State in the past five years assessing post-adoption services?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide a link or attach a copy with your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

#### Receiving States only

18.	<p>Please specify any <b>challenges</b> your State encounters in ensuring that <b>adequate support</b> is in place for adoptees and the adoptive family following an intercountry adoption, including where parents have adopted a child with <b>special needs</b>. Please also share any <b>good practices</b> your State has developed to overcome such challenges.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Does not apply. These cases have not occurred</p>
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### 1.3. Post-adoption reports

<sup>4</sup> If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 17 of "[Prel. Doc. No 2 of October 2014 - Questionnaire No 2 on the practical operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention](#)" (hereinafter "[2014 Questionnaire](#)").

Receiving States only

19.	<p>Does the <b>preparation</b> of PAPs in your State include the provision of information on post-adoption report <b>requirements</b> of the State where the PAPs (would like to) adopt?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">The future adoptive parents are given prior workshops and during the adoption process through the Autonomous Institute National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (IDENNA). In the same way, they are given due guidance on the requirements established in the National Law and the provisions of the Hague Convention.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify when and how PAPs are otherwise informed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><a href="#">Please insert text here</a></p>
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Both States of origin and receiving States

20.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where the <b>adopted child refused or objected to</b> the obligation to comply with the post-adoption report requirements?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the types of situations and what action your State has taken to address this type of situation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><a href="#">Please insert text here</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
21.	<p>What has been your State's recent <b>experience</b> regarding post-adoption reports? Please provide details of any challenges and / or good practices in this regard.</p> <p><a href="#">Please insert text here</a></p>

**1.4. Adoption breakdowns**Both States of origin and receiving States

22.	<p>If your State has had any experience regarding <b>intercountry adoptions which have broken down</b>, please specify:<sup>5</sup></p> <p>(a) what have been the main <b>causes</b> of the breakdowns;<sup>6</sup></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">N/A</p> <p>(b) how your State <b>has addressed</b> these situations and whether your State has any good practices to share in this regard;<sup>7</sup></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">N/A</p> <p>(c) what <b>support</b> is available for the adoptee and the adoptive family to prevent and / or respond to the breakdown of intercountry adoptions;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">NA</p> <p>(d) whether your State has developed any good practices to ensure that <b>Recommendation No 19</b><sup>8</sup> of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented:</p>
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<sup>5</sup> If the Central Authority in your State is not informed about this information because it relates to a child protection measure which is a different department / institution than the Central Authority, we would be grateful if you could request this information from the relevant authorities in your State.

<sup>6</sup> If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 18(a) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

<sup>7</sup> If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 18(b) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

<sup>8</sup> C&R No 19 of the 2015 SC:

Yes. Please specify any good practices developed in this regard:

The Venezuelan State reformed in 2007 the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, creating a special procedure that is divided into an administrative phase, where IDENNA intervenes, as the management entity of the governing system through the interdisciplinary team Those who act directly with the PAPs and after making the adoptability and suitability report, which is prepared by the administrative body, refer these actions to the Protection Court, beginning the judicial phase, where IDENNA's attorneys act exclusively (no the intervention of private attorneys is accepted) with the respective adoption request recorded, to verify compliance with the legal and sub-legal extremes applicable in each specific case, exhausting the impossibility of family reintegration (in the family of origin or extended).

Subsequently, in the reform of the Law of 2015, the implementation of these phases (administrative and judicial) is ratified, giving effect to the consolidation of good legislative practice.

No. Please specify any reasons:

(e) whether your State has experienced breakdown cases in which it was determined that it was in the child's best interests to **return** to the State of origin, and if so, what the situations were and how they were handled;

N/A

(f) **how many** cases of breakdown in intercountry adoptions have been reported in your State between 2015 and the present date;

N/A

(g) how many of these cases included a **new placement** (e.g., foster care, new adoption) for the child;

N/A

(h) how many cases of breakdowns were intercountry adoptions done (a) under the **1993 Adoption Convention**; and (b) outside of the Convention (i.e., prior to the entry into force of the Convention in your State or with non-State Party);

N/A

(i) in line with **Recommendation No 20<sup>9</sup>** of the 2015 Special Commission, whether your State has applied the **1996 Child Protection Convention** to enhance cooperation between States of origin and receiving States in cases of breakdown, and if so, please explain.

N/A. Our Country is not part of the 1996 Child Protection Convention.

#### Receiving States only

"The SC recognised that appropriate evaluations, preparation, reports, matching and post-adoption support, in relation to both the child and prospective adoptive parents, will reduce the risk of the breakdown of intercountry adoptions."

<sup>9</sup> C&R No 20 of the 2015 SC:

"The SC encouraged States to consider ratification of, or accession to, the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (hereinafter, "the 1996 Hague Convention") in view of its relevance in enhancing cooperation to protect children in many different situations, including following the breakdown of intercountry adoptions."

23.	<p>Is your State's <b>Central Authority</b> informed and involved / consulted when an intercountry adoption breaks down?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response:  We have no experience. However; The Venezuelan Central Authority, represented by the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs, is the competent authority accredited for compliance with the Agreement. In this sense, it should always be informed and inform of all the existing procedures related to international adoption.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify whether the staff of the child protection services include workers specialised in adoption:</p>
24.	<p>Do your State's authorities <b>consult</b> with the Central Authority of the child's <b>State of origin</b>:</p> <p>(a) if an adoption breaks down?  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation:  We have no experience in this regard. However; it is contained in good practices.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>(b) before determining a new placement for the child?  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation:  The return of the child or adolescent is the last thing that is intended. First, other routes and options must be studied or exhausted with the Central Authority of the State of Origin, which guarantee the best interests of the child or adolescent.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

States of origin only

25.	<p>Is your State's <b>Central Authority</b> (or other competent authority) informed or involved / consulted by the competent authorities of the child's receiving State:</p> <p>(a) if an adoption breaks down?  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation:  We have no experience in this regard. However; it should be contained in the good practices of the States parties.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>(b) before determining a new placement for the child?  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please describe the type of cooperation:  We have no experience in this regard. However; the return of the child or adolescent is the last thing that is intended. First, other routes and options must be studied or exhausted with the Central Authority of the State of Origin that do not affect the child or adolescent.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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**1.5. Other post-adoption matters**

States of origin only

26.	<p>Are adoptees, who did not retain the <b>nationality</b> of their State of origin, permitted to <b>regain</b> it at a later stage?</p>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the conditions to regain nationality: <p style="color: blue;">The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela guarantees the human right to preserve its nationalized origin.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: <p style="color: blue;">Please insert text here</p>
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Both States of origin and receiving States

27.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where adoptees have sought to regain the <b>nationality</b> of their State of origin?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the situations and how they were handled: <p style="color: blue;">Please insert text here</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
28.	<p>Please give the reasons, if any, why your State would or would not support the development of a <b>Guide to Good Practice</b> on post-adoption.</p> <p style="color: blue;">The Venezuelan State would support a Guide to Good Practice, because it would be a friendly instrument that would allow all the states parties to the Hague Convention of 1993 to use the standard mechanisms according to the recommendations established in the Special Commissions.</p>

## 2. PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING ILLICIT PRACTICES

Both States of origin and receiving States

29.	<p>Have <b>illicit practices</b> in intercountry adoption be <b>discovered</b> since 2015 in your State?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the <b>type</b> of illicit practices which were discovered;  <p style="color: blue;">N/A</p> </li> <li>(b) <b>when</b> the illicit practices were discovered (<i>i.e.</i>, during or after the adoption procedure);  <p style="color: blue;">N/A</p> </li> <li>(c) whether the illicit practices were done under or outside the <b>scope</b> of the 1993 Adoption Convention;  <p style="color: blue;">N/A</p> </li> <li>(d) how your State <b>handled</b> these situations;  <p style="color: blue;">N/A.</p> </li> </ul> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
30.	<p>Please specify any <b>good practices</b> of your State to prevent and address illicit practices.</p> <p style="color: blue;">The adoption process in Venezuela is completely free.</p> <p style="color: blue;">There are two phases in the process, which are independent of each other, the administrative and the judicial.</p> <p style="color: blue;">The Venezuelan Central Authority, represented by the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs, is kept informed and attentive to the fulfillment of the Agreement.</p>
31.	<p>Is it possible in your State to <b>annul</b> an intercountry adoption?</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:

(a) the **authority** which has jurisdiction to do so;

The Venezuelan State, by determination of the Full Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, concentrated the jurisdiction in an exclusive way in the Circuit of the Courts for the Protection of Children and Adolescents of the Caracas Metropolitan Area and National of International Adoption.

(b) **who** can request the annulment (*e.g.*, adoptee, adoptive parents, birth parents);

In accordance with the provisions of article 509 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, the action of nullity of adoption can only be attempted directly by the adopted or adopted, if he is over 12 years of age, the legal representative of the adopted, by the Public Ministry and by those who may oppose the adoption.

(c) the **grounds** upon which this may be done;

Article 509 of the national law (LOPNNA).

(d) whether there is an **age limit** for the annulment of an adoption;

The age of the adoptee is not decisive for exercising the action of nullity of the adoption. The limit contained in the law is referred to an expiration period within which the action can be filed. The law provides for one (1) year after the date of registration of the adoption, the judicial sentence in the competent civil registry.

(e) the **procedure** involved;

Legal proceedings before the Courts for the Protection of Children and Adolescents of the Caracas Metropolitan Area and Nationals for International Adoption.

(f) the **number of** intercountry adoptions which are on average annulled per year.

N/A

No.

32. Is it possible in your State to **revoke** an intercountry adoption?

Yes. Please specify:

(a) the **authority** which has the jurisdiction to do so;

Please insert text here

(b) **who** can request the revocation (*e.g.*, adoptee, adoptive parents, birth parents);

Please insert text here

(c) the **grounds** upon which this is done;

Please insert text here

(d) whether there is an **age limit** for the revocation of the adoption;

Please insert text here

(e) the **procedure** involved;

Please insert text here

(f) the **number of** intercountry adoptions which are on average revoked per year.

Please insert text here

No.

### 3. INTRAFAMILY ADOPTIONS

In this Questionnaire, an “intrafamily adoption” is one in which the adoptive parent(s) are either **relatives** of the child (e.g., an aunt, a grandparent, a cousin) or a **stepparent** of the child. These adoptions are respectively referred to as “relative adoptions” and “stepparent adoptions.” The Convention applies to all intrafamily adoptions.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.1. General questions for intrafamily adoptions (i.e., relative and stepparent adoptions)

#### Both States of origin and receiving States

33.	<p>In your State, which <b>authority</b> is in charge of intrafamily adoptions?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The <b>Central Authority</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Another competent authority</b>. Please specify which authority and the reasons for designating a different authority:</p>
34.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that <b>Recommendation No 32</b><sup>11</sup> of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard:</p> <p style="color: blue;">The Venezuelan State recognizes that intra-family adoptions are included within the scope of the agreement. By virtue of this, we guarantee the advice and preparation of the PAPs, in the same forms and conditions as for all adoption processes.</p> <p style="color: blue;">Likewise, we recognize the relevance and need to evaluate the specific case of each child and adolescent, and to decide what is appropriate according to their best interests.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons:</p>
35.	<p>Are there specific <b>guidelines</b> or <b>procedures</b> for intrafamily adoptions in your State?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide a link or attach a copy with your response:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
36.	<p>Has your State encountered any particular <b>difficulties with adoptability</b> decisions in the context of <b>intrafamily</b> adoptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the situations and how they were handled:<sup>12</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

<sup>10</sup> See Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, [Guide to Good Practice No 1: The Implementation and Operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention](#), Bristol, Family Law (Jordan Publishing Limited), 2008 (hereinafter, “[Guide to Good Practice No 1](#)”), sections 8.6.4 and 8.6.5.

<sup>11</sup> C&R No 32 of the 2015 SC:  
 “In relation to in-family adoption, the SC:  
 a. recalled that in-family adoptions **fall within the scope** of the Convention;  
 b. recalled the need to respect the **safeguards** of the Convention, in particular to **counsel** and **prepare** the prospective adoptive parents;  
 c. recognised that the **matching** process might be **adapted** to the specific features of infamily adoptions;  
 d. recommended that the **motivations** of all parties should be **examined** to determine whether the child is genuinely **in need of adoption**;  
 e. recognised that it is necessary to undertake an **individualised assessment of each child’s situation** and it should **not** be **automatically assumed** that either an in-country or infamily placement is in a child’s best interests”[emphasis added].

<sup>12</sup> If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State’s response to Question 3(b) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

37.	<p>In your State, does the <b>termination</b> of the <b>pre-existing legal relationship</b> affect only the child and his or her mother and father, or does it also affect the other members of the family (see Art. 26(1)(c) of the Convention)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It only affects the child and his or her mother and father.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It affects the child and his or her mother and father, but also the other members of the family.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Please explain your response:</p> <p>The adoption extinguishes the relationship of the adopted with their family of origin, except when the adopted or adopted is the child of the spouse, in accordance with the provisions of article 427 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p>
38.	<p>Has your State encountered cases of <b>breakdown</b> in intrafamily intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please provide information on (a) the number of breakdowns; (b) the causes of the breakdowns; and (c) the ways your State addresses(ed) them:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
39.	<p>In the context of intrafamily intercountry adoptions, does your State <b>cooperate with States</b> with which it normally <b>does not</b> cooperate?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify any challenges your State encounters and share any good practices your State may have developed in this regard:</p> <p>By express mandate of the law, cooperation with the other States is always governed by the principle of reciprocity. In this sense, in all matters the Venezuelan State, faithful to that principle, cooperates with all States, unless it involves a matter of sovereignty.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>

States of origin only

40.	<p>In your State, is the <b>subsidiarity principle</b> applied in the same manner to intrafamily intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please describe any <b>different procedures</b> used and explain the reasons for these different procedures:<sup>13</sup></p> <p>The general principle is family reintegration with their family of origin. National Adoption is a priority over International Adoption. The procedure for adoption is the same, with the only differences regarding the follow-ups that are carried out: three (3) for national adoptions and two (2) for international adoptions. The reception of such follow-ups is carried out through the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, who is the accredited entity.</p>
41.	<p>Is intrafamily adoption used frequently to <b>protect children</b> within the extended family and / or are there other child protection measures (e.g., kinship care, foster care) that your State applies to protect children within the extended family?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intrafamily adoption is used frequently. Please explain your response:</p>

<sup>13</sup> If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 33(i) of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other child protection measures are applied. Please specify: <p>(a) which <b>other child protection measures</b> are applied to protect children within the extended family:  Generally it resort to the figure of Family Placement in Substitute Family, in order to exercise the representation of the child or adolescent until they acquire their majority.</p> <p>(b) if your State is a Party to the <b>1996 Child Protection Convention</b>, whether your State applies that Convention to give effect to these other child protection measures in other Contracting States:  N/A</p>
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### 3.2. Stepparent adoptions

Both States of origin and receiving States

42.	Does your State apply the <b>1993 Adoption Convention</b> to stepparent intercountry adoptions? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons:
43.	What is the <b>profile</b> of children who are adopted intercountry by a stepparent, either in your State or in the State with which your State cooperates? N/A
44.	<p>(a) Please specify any <b>challenges</b> your State encounters with stepparent intercountry adoptions:  N/A</p> <p>(b) Please specify any <b>good practices</b> of your State for stepparent intercountry adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges:  The law establishes that when it comes to the adoption of the spouse's children, the age difference between the adopted and the adopter may be only 10 years. Also the procedure can be faster because the matching stage is not required.</p>

### 3.3. Intrafamily adoptions and circumvention of immigration laws

Both States of origin and receiving States

45.	Has your State encountered situations where intrafamily adoptions were sought / used to <b>circumvent</b> immigration laws? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify what the situations were and how your State addressed these situations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
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## 4. DETERMINING THE CHILD'S HABITUAL RESIDENCE WHEN THE MOTHER MOVES TO ANOTHER STATE SHORTLY BEFORE GIVING BIRTH

*Scenario: A pregnant woman, habitually resident in one State (State A), travels to another State (State B) where she gives birth to her child and relinquishes her newborn child for adoption in that other State (i.e., State B).*

Both States of origin and receiving States

46.	<p>If your State has been involved in situation(s) similar to the above-described scenario:</p> <p>(a) was your State the <b>State of habitual residence</b> of the <b>mother</b> (State A), the State of <b>birth of the child</b> (State B), or another State? N/A</p> <p>(b) how was the <b>child's habitual residence</b> determined? Which <b>factors</b> were considered? N/A</p> <p>(c) if adoption was considered the best option for the child, did your State determine it as being a <b>domestic adoption</b> or an <b>intercountry adoption</b>? N/A</p> <p>(d) what <b>challenges</b> did your State face in dealing with such situation(s)? N/A</p> <p>(e) if your State was the State where the child was born, was <b>contact</b> sought with the State of habitual residence of the mother? Was there any <b>cooperation</b> between the concerned States? N/A</p>
47.	<p>If there is a <b>risk</b> that the situation described above involves a case of <b>human trafficking</b>, would this be considered by your State when determining the child's habitual residence?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: The Venezuelan State would take into account such determination, for the purposes of establishing habitual residence as a mechanism guaranteeing their rights not to be transferred from their habitual residence for illegal purposes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p>
48.	<p>Which <b>actions</b> would your State take to address the case where both your State and the other State:</p> <p>(a) would determine the child's habitual residence to be in <b>their</b> State? Please insert text here</p> <p>(b) would determine the child's habitual residence <b>not to be</b> in their State? Please insert text here</p>

## 5. SIMPLE AND OPEN ADOPTIONS

### Both States of origin and receiving States

#### 5.1. Simple adoptions

*A simple adoption is one in which the parent-child relationship which existed before the adoption is not terminated but a new legal parent-child relationship between the child and his or her adoptive parents is established, and these adoptive parents have parental responsibility for the child.<sup>14</sup>*

49.	<p>Has your State <b>changed its legislation, rules or practices</b> in recent years regarding simple intercountry adoption?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the changes made and the reasons for these changes:</p>
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<sup>14</sup> See [Guide to Good Practice No 1](#), Glossary.

	<p>This type of adoption was legally repealed in 2000. The actual law establishes only the full adoption.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
50.	<p>What is the <b>profile</b> of children for whom a simple intercountry adoption is made, either in your State or in the State(s) with which your State cooperates?</p> <p>It does not apply, since, in Venezuela, only full adoption is possible.</p>
51.	<p>If your State permits both full and simple adoption, are <b>simple adoptions encouraged / promoted</b>?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Domestic law only allows full adoption</p>
52.	<p>Has your State faced any problems regarding seeking the birth mother / family's <b>consent to convert</b> a simple adoption into a full adoption in the State of origin (Art. 27 of the Convention)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the situations which have arisen and how your State has dealt with these situations: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
53.	<p>(a) Please specify any <b>challenges</b> your State encounters with simple adoptions: N/A</p> <p>(b) Please specify any <b>good practices</b> of your State for simple adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges: N/A</p>

## 5.2. Open adoptions / openness in adoption

54.	<p>Does the terms "open adoption", "openness in adoption" or similar concepts <b>exist</b> in your State?<sup>15</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify: (a) how it is defined; (b) whether it is provided by law, regulation or only in practice; and (c) whether it is promoted in your State: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain what is understood in your State by the terms "open adoption", "openness in adoption" or similar concepts: In Venezuela, there is only full adoption. The types of adoption can be national or international, as established in article 407 of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.</p>
55.	<p>Has your State <b>changed its legislation, rules or practices</b> in recent years regarding open or openness in intercountry adoption?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the changes made and the reasons for these changes:</p>

<sup>15</sup> If applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Questions 19 and 20 of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

	<p>Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
56.	<p>Has your State developed any good practices to ensure that <b>Recommendation No 31</b><sup>16</sup> of the 2015 Special Commission is implemented?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the good practices developed in that regard: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify any reasons: The Venezuelan State establishes that all adoption must be full. The Organic Law of the Public Ministry (General Prosecutor's Office) prescribes an express prohibition to link a child or adolescent who has been the victim of abuse or cruel treatment with the abuser. If this is the father and / or the mother there can be no direct contact. However; The recommendation for other cases than the previous assumption is accepted..</p>
57.	<p>(a) What is the <b>profile</b> of children for whom an open intercountry adoption is made, either in your State or in the State(s) with which your State cooperates? N/A</p> <p>(b) Does your State have a <b>specific approach</b> depending on the profile of these children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify these different approaches:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
58.	<p>Does your State provide professional <b>support or services</b> to birth families (in the case of States of origin) or adoptive families (in the case of receiving States) and adoptees in open adoptions (e.g., support for contact agreements, supervising contact after adoption)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the support / services provided and any challenges and / or good practices in this regard: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Does not apply. In Venezuela there is only full adoption</p>
59.	<p>Has your State encountered situations where adoptees, adoptive parents and / or birth parents wanted to change the frequency or the method of <b>contact</b> between them after the adoption?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify what action was taken in response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
60.	<p>(a) Please specify any other <b>challenges</b> your State encounters regarding open adoptions: N/A</p> <p>(b) Please specify any <b>good practices</b> of your State with regard to open adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges:</p>

<sup>16</sup> C&R No 31 of the 2015 SC:

“The SC noted that, where not prohibited by domestic legislation, and after professional matching, **contact between the adoptee and biological family** in intercountry adoption may be **beneficial** in some cases. In order to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of such contact, professional support should be offered to prepare the parties, as well as to assist them during and after contact. The adopted child’s best interests should guide the nature of this contact, considering his or her wishes” [emphasis added].



N/A

## 6. NON-CONSENSUAL ADOPTIONS

*In this Questionnaire, non-consensual adoption refers to the adoption of children whose birth parents have been deprived of parental responsibility by a competent authority but nonetheless disagree with the adoption. It does not intend to cover adoption where consent of the birth parents is required but not sought (such adoptions would fall under the category of illegal adoption), or where consent of the birth parents cannot be sought (e.g., they are deceased or unknown).*

### States of origin only

61.	<p>What are the <b>circumstances</b> in your State in which a parent can lose his or her parental responsibility?</p> <p>Article 352 of the national law (LOPNNA): The father or mother or both may be deprived of parental responsibility over their sons or daughters when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) They abuse them physical, mental or morally.</li> <li>b) They expose them to any situation of risk or threat of the fundamental rights of the son or daughter.</li> <li>c) They fail to comply with the duties inherent to parental authority.</li> <li>d) They try to corrupt or prostituting them; or they be conniving at their corruption or prostitution.</li> <li>e) They abuse them sexually or expose them to sexual exploitation.</li> <li>f) They are dependent on alcoholic or psychotropic substances, narcotics or other serious forms of drug dependence that may jeopardize the health, safety or morals of sons or daughters, even if these events do not result in criminal penalties for its author.</li> <li>g) Be convicted for offenses committed against the son or daughter.</li> <li>h) They are declared as interdict.</li> <li>i) They refuse to enforce the child maintenance obligation.</li> <li>j) Incite, facilitate or allow the child engages in acts that violate their physical, mental and moral integrity.</li> </ul> <p>The judge shall observe the gravity, repetition, arbitrariness and regularity of facts.</p>
62.	<p>Does your State <b>permit</b> the adoption of children whose birth parents have been deprived of parental responsibility?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) whether the <b>consent</b> of the birth parents who have lost their parental responsibility is <u>still</u> required? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: Although the law has as a principle the family reintegration, because the Best Interest of the Child is pursued to grow and develop as a family. Once deprived of parental authority, only the right to direct contact remains (unless it is contrary to their best interest) and the obligation of maintenance, losing parental authority over the full subject of law, therefore their consent is not required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) how your State ensure that the <b>principle of subsidiarity</b> is respected. Please also specify whether measures to support the birth family's reunification and alternative care</li> </ul>

options (*e.g.*, long-term foster care, kinship care) are considered prior to making the decision of non-consensual adoption.

The Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents has as a principle the reintegration of the child with his or her family of origin, made up of the father and the mother, or one of them and their descendants and collaterals up to the fourth degree of consanguinity. Likewise, a substitute family placement measure may be issued as a temporary protection measure which is periodically reviewable while the possibility of depriving parental authority is decided if the case warrants it in the interests of the full legal subject.

- (c) what is the **procedure** applicable to such non-consensual adoptions (*e.g.*: how the child is declared adoptable; if the birth parents are given notice of the procedure; if the birth parents can contest).

We do not have non-consensual adoption procedures in our legislation. The consent can only be dispensed with when there is a definitive judicial decision of deprivation of parental authority. In cases of adoption with deprivation of parental authority, the biological parents are not notified. However, the Public Prosecutor who is guarantor of the procedure will always be notified and the law gives him the possibility to oppose in the cases that are appropriate.

No. Please explain your response:

#### Receiving States only

63.	<p>Has your State encountered situations in which the birth parents in the State of origin <b>contested</b> a non-consensual intercountry adoption when the child was already in the receiving State?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify what actions, if any, your State has taken to deal with these situations: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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#### Both States of origin and receiving States

64.	<p>What is the <b>profile of children</b> for whom a non-consensual intercountry adoption is made, either in your State or in the State(s) with which your State cooperates?</p> <p>N/A</p>
65.	<p>(a) Please specify any <b>challenges</b> your State encounters with non-consensual adoptions: N/A</p> <p>(b) Please specify any <b>good practices</b> of your State regarding non-consensual adoptions, including those for overcoming any challenges: N/A</p>

## 7. CONTACT BETWEEN THE PAPs AND THE CHILD BEFORE MATCHING

### Both States of origin and receiving States

#### 7.1. General questions

66.	<p>Does your State prohibit any <b>contact</b> between the child and the PAPs before matching?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response:</p>
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	<p>Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify:</p> <p>(a) in which <b>circumstances</b> such contact is permitted;  <a href="#">Contact is allowed for the purpose of knowledge and matching</a></p> <p>(b) the <b>experience</b> of your State with regard to such contact.  <a href="#">It has been positive in order to achieve the link</a></p>
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## 7.2. Summer camps / hosting programmes

*In this Questionnaire, the "summer camps" practice is when adoptable children and PAPs attend an event (usually a camp) in the PAPs' State of residence (i.e., receiving State) or in the State of origin, usually for a period of several weeks. The hope is that the PAPs will want to apply to adopt one or more of the children they have spent time with during this event.*

*"Hosting programmes" (including "respite care" programmes for children who go abroad to improve their physical and psychological well-being) are when adoptable children are hosted by families living abroad, usually for a period of several weeks, sometimes with the hope that the families will wish to adopt them after the hosting.*

67.	<p>Is your State involved in summer camps / hosting programmes for children?<sup>17</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify:</p> <p>(a) whether such programmes specifically aim to be a <b>precursor to adoption</b> for some children (e.g., for children with special needs):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response:  <a href="#">Please insert text here</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>(b) whether such programmes have, in fact, <b>resulted in the adoption</b> of children:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the percentage of children involved in the programmes that are adopted:  <a href="#">Please insert text here</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p> <p>(c) where a child is adopted following such a programme, how is it ensured that the <b>safeguards</b> of the <b>1993 Adoption Convention</b> have been respected (bearing in mind that it is likely that the child remains "habitually resident" in his or her State of origin and thus the adoption would fall within the scope of the Convention under Art. 2)?  <a href="#">Please insert text here</a></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
68.	<p>If your State is involved in summer camps / hosting programmes specifically aimed at the adoption of some children, please specify:</p> <p>(a) whether the children benefiting from these programmes must have been <b>declared adoptable before</b> they can be part of such programmes;  <a href="#">N/A</a></p>

<sup>17</sup> Regarding respite care, if applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 54 of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

	<p>(b) whether the PAPs participating in such programmes must have been <b>declared eligible and suitable</b> to adopt to be allowed to take part in such programmes; N/A</p> <p>(c) how the PAPs and children are <b>selected</b> to participate in such programmes, and whether a selection is made in cooperation with the other State; N/A</p> <p>(d) how the children are <b>prepared</b> for such programmes; N/A</p> <p>(e) what are the <b>effects on</b> and the <b>feedback from</b> the <b>children</b> who participated in such programmes but were not adopted; N/A</p> <p>(f) whether there have been situations where the adoption <b>broke down</b> after the child was adopted following participation in such programmes; N/A</p> <p>(g) if the PAPs wish to adopt the child, whether it is possible for the child to remain in the receiving State or whether he or she must <b>return</b> to the State of origin before the adoption procedure can be initiated; N/A</p> <p>(h) who <b>finances</b> such programmes; N/A</p> <p>(i) what is the <b>experience</b> of your State with these practices (<i>i.e.</i>, <b>challenges</b> and any potential <b>benefits</b>). N/A</p>
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### 7.3. Voluntourism

*In this Questionnaire, "voluntourism" refers to the practice of an individual travelling to another State to volunteer in that State. One common practice is to travel to volunteer in a children's institution. In these situations, some volunteers may subsequently wish to adopt one or more children from the child institution in which they were volunteering.*

69.	<p>Has your State <b>experienced</b> situations where "voluntourists" commenced an <b>adoption</b> procedure to adopt a child from the children's institution in which they volunteered?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify how your State handled these situations and any <b>difficulties</b> these situations may have caused: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
70.	<p>Has your State taken any <b>action</b> to prohibit, regulate or to otherwise add safeguards to the practice of "voluntourism"?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please explain your response: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain your response: This type of situation is unusual in Venezuela.</p>

### 7.4. Adoption of children already under the care of PAPs

71.	<p>If your State is aware of situations where PAPs have adopted or wished to adopt a child who was already under their care in the State of origin (<i>e.g.</i>, as part of a foster care placement, kinship care, “<i>niño puesto</i>”,<sup>18</sup> or a more informal arrangement such as temporary care by neighbours or within a community), please specify:<sup>19</sup></p> <p>(a) whether the child had already <b>been declared adoptable</b> before the PAPs’ adoption application was submitted; N/A</p> <p>(b) at what stage in the process the PAPs were <b>declared eligible and suitable</b> to adopt; N/A</p> <p>(c) what the <b>profile</b> of these children was; N/A</p> <p>(d) what was done to ensure that the <b>safeguards and procedures</b> of the 1993 Adoption Convention had been respected; N/A</p> <p>(e) your State's <b>experience</b> with such adoptions. N/A</p>
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## 8. USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Both States of origin and receiving States

72.	<p>Has your State changed its practices recently to <b>integrate new technologies</b> into work processes (<i>e.g.</i>, blockchain to facilitate transmission and access to data)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify (a) what the <b>experiences</b> of your State are in this regard (<i>i.e.</i>, benefits and challenges) and (b) how your State take into account <b>data protection</b> in this context: Please insert text here</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
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## 9. STATISTICS

Both States of origin and receiving States

73.	<p>Please specify the <b>number</b> of intercountry adoptions per year (between 2015 and the present date) involving your State that are:</p> <p>(a) <b>relative</b> adoptions (<i>i.e.</i>, excluding stepparent adoptions);<sup>20</sup> One (1) decreed intrafamily adoption and one (1) Intrafamily adoption in process, which is in the follow-up phase.</p> <p>(b) <b>stepparent</b> adoptions; None</p> <p>(c) <b>simple</b> adoptions;</p>
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<sup>18</sup> “*Niño puesto*” refers to a practice in some Latin American States where persons who already have care of a child request to adopt even if the child has not yet been declared adoptable nor have the persons been declared eligible and suitable to adopt.

<sup>19</sup> Regarding foster care, if applicable, you may wish to refer to your State's response to Question 55 of the [2014 Questionnaire](#).

<sup>20</sup> For receiving States, you may wish to refer to your State's response to the HCCH [Annual Adoption Statistics Form](#).

	<p>N/A</p> <p>(d) <b>open</b> adoptions or adoptions that involve a certain <b>degree of openness</b>; and</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(e) <b>non-consensual</b> adoptions.</p> <p>N/A</p>
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## 10. OTHER MATTERS

74.	<p>Please specify <b>any other comments</b> your State wishes to make concerning the implementation and / or operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p> <p>The members of the National Guiding System maintain a technical table where all the issues that concern the due protection of children and adolescents (full subjects of rights) are settled in order to guarantee effective and efficient mechanisms that serve their best interests. Likewise, everything related to the Adoption Agreement of the year 1993 signed and ratified by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, is worked together with the Central Authority.</p> <p>In this sense, we welcome the recommendations of the different special commissions, insofar as they are applicable in accordance with the provisions contained in our Constitution, the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents and other laws of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.</p>
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