

Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference – March 2019

Document	Preliminary Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Document <input type="checkbox"/>	No 22 of January 2019
Title	Update on the <i>Proceedings</i> of the HCCH	
Author	Permanent Bureau	
Agenda item	Item VI.7	
Mandate(s)	C&R No 54 of the 2018 meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy	
Objective	To report on recent developments concerning the <i>Proceedings of the Diplomatic Sessions</i> of the HCCH as well as plans for future <i>Proceedings</i> and the <i>Collection of Conventions</i>	
Action to be taken	For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Annexes	n.a.	
Related documents	“ <i>Proceedings</i> of the HCCH: Update and proposals”, Prel. Doc. No 20 of February 2018 for the attention of the Council on General Affairs and Policy of March 2018	

1. In 2018, the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference (CGAP) discussed several items related to the *Proceedings* of the Diplomatic Sessions of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), concluding:

“that the Permanent Bureau upload progressively, and subject to other priorities, all the *Proceedings* of past Diplomatic Sessions of the HCCH to the web, and make these available to the public free of charge as searchable electronic publications” (CGAP Conclusion & Recommendation No 54).

2. Due to the migration of the Permanent Bureau’s (PB) information technology infrastructure in 2018, the progressive uploading of the PDF versions of *Proceedings* of past Diplomatic Sessions has been delayed. In 2019, the PB will resume this work and upload the *Proceedings* of all Diplomatic Sessions to the HCCH website in searchable format. The aim is to carry out this work before the meeting of CGAP in 2020.

3. The PB is currently finalising the *Proceedings of the Twenty-First Session* (resulting in the final texts of both the [Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance](#) and the [Protocol of 23 November 2007 on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations](#)). Whereas in the past the PB has worked with external publishers to produce and publish the *Proceedings*, for these tomes the editing and production of the tomes has and will be carried out by the PB. Preparing the *Proceedings* in-house will allow the PB to avoid the delays inherent in working with a publisher, including the review of many rounds of proofs. Furthermore, the PB can make the *Proceedings* available in a digital, searchable format, which was not possible when working with publishers who saw searchable PDFs as competition for the printed versions which they sought to sell at a profit. The PB plans to make the tomes available electronically on the public section of the HCCH website for free as soon as possible. The PB will also arrange for the printing of a small stock of hard copies of the three tomes of the *Proceedings of the Twenty-First Session* for internal use and for purchase for a nominal fee, set to cover the expense of producing the hard copy (plus shipping and handling where applicable).

4. The Twenty-Second Session will take place from 18 June to 2 July 2019. Following the conclusion of this Diplomatic Session, a public webpage will be created on the HCCH website for the work carried out before the Diplomatic Session (this page will closely resemble the page on the Secure Portal of the HCCH website dedicated to the meetings of the Special Commission on the Judgments Project). All materials related to the Diplomatic Session will be added to this page (under a separate heading) so that preparatory and Diplomatic Session documents are easily available. During the second half of 2019, the PB will prepare the hard copy volumes of the tomes of the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Session* for internal use and for purchase.

5. As indicated in Preliminary Document No 20 of February 2018, the proposed approach for the Twenty-Second Session differs from past practice in that the documents comprising the *Proceedings* will be made public via the HCCH website as soon as practicably possible following the Diplomatic Session. Additionally, while in the past the Netherlands Government has covered the cost of producing, printing, and shipping hard copies of the *Proceedings* to Members and participants in the Session, from 2019 going forward Members and other interested individuals will be required to purchase their own hard copies.

6. The printed tomes will be formatted in the traditional two-column format, to enable the documents to be printed in a manageable bound volume. However, going forward, instead of having bilingual tomes presenting the French and English texts side by side, separate English and French tomes will be published. While producing the hard copy of the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Session* will require some formatting and editing, having separate volumes for each language will allow the PB to avoid entirely reformatting the text and ensuring identical page breaks, which was a very time-consuming task for earlier tomes of *Proceedings*.

7. Following on from the Twenty-Second Session and the adoption of the 2019 HCCH Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters, the PB will

begin work on a new edition of the *Collection of Conventions*. This publication will closely resemble the version published in 2009, with French and English texts published side by side. It is suggested, however, that this new edition only contain the 12 to 15 core Conventions (all Conventions, incl. those not included in the *Collection of Conventions*, will of course continue to be available on the HCCH website). The existing fund for the publication of the *Collection of Conventions* will cover all expenses associated with the production of this publication. Members will each receive a complimentary copy of the new *Collection of Conventions* and will be able to purchase additional copies for a nominal fee.

8. In the year to come, the PB will upload the *Proceedings* of all Diplomatic Sessions to the HCCH website, while completing work on the *Proceedings of the Twenty-First Session*. Following the Twenty-Second Session in mid-2019, the PB will make all related documents available on the HCCH website as soon as possible and commence the editing, formatting and production of the hard copy of the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Session*, with the goal of making tomes available for purchase in 2020. In parallel, the PB will update the *Collection of Conventions* to include any missing core HCCH Conventions.

9. The PB currently contracts a publications consultant who works on the formatting and editing of the *Proceedings*. In The Hague, the Head of Administration, Publications Co-ordinator, Information Manager and Website / IT Officer work on other matters relating to the *Proceedings*. The proposed work would not entail any additional salary expense beyond what is included in the proposed Budget. The expenses associated with printing the *Proceedings of the Twenty-First Session* and the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Session* would be offset against the purchase price for the publication. The funds for the *Collection of Conventions* have already been set aside. Therefore, the above proposals will not generate extra costs beyond those which have already been budgeted.