

Title	1993 Adoption Convention: Report on the Post-Adoption State-led Workshops
Document	Prel. Doc. No 7D of January 2025
Author	Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services
Agenda Item	Item III.1.G
Mandate(s)	C&D No 27 of CGAP 2023
Objective	To report on the Post-Adoption State-led Workshops
Action to be Taken	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	Annex I – Steering Committee Terms of Reference Annex II – Workshop Agendas
Related Documents	Prel. Doc. No 5A of January 2023 – for CGAP 2023

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Workshops	1
	A. Workshop of June 2023	1
	B. Workshop of November 2024.....	1
III.	Proposal for CGAP	2
Annex I	Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services – Terms of Reference.....	4
Annex II	Workshop Agendas	5

1993 Adoption Convention: Report on the Post-Adoption State-led Workshops

I. Introduction

- 1 Following the March 2023 meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP), a Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services was established.
- 2 The following States were members of the Steering Committee: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Italy, Senegal, Togo, Viet Nam and the United States of America. Canada was invited by the members to chair the Committee.
- 3 The Steering Committee met online on three occasions: May 2023, July 2023 and February 2024. The Steering Committee identified and agreed on its terms of reference at its first meeting (see Annex I).

II. Workshops

- 4 Two virtual workshops took place – one in 2023 and one in 2024. The virtual workshops were simultaneously interpreted into English, French and Spanish.
- 5 The level of participation showed that there is a clear interest in the content offered. In total, approximately 250 participants from more than 40 States took part in the workshops.
- 6 The two virtual workshops were co-organised by four States. Other Contracting Parties to the *Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (1993 Adoption Convention) have expressed interest in organising additional workshops.
- 7 After each of the virtual workshops, a survey was sent to the participants to gather feedback from States and to measure the level of satisfaction.
- 8 The survey feedback indicates that participants' interest in this type of workshop goes beyond the topic of post-adoption services, for example to address adoption services themselves. In terms of the workshop format, respondents stressed the importance of allowing time for discussion, learning and sharing, rather than simply presenting information.

A. Workshop of June 2023

- 9 The first virtual workshop was held on 20 June 2023 and was co-organised by Colombia and Canada.
- 10 During this workshop, the Central Authorities of Colombia and the Province of Quebec (Canada) presented their responsibilities and approaches to tracing and reunification, as well as their collaborative practices in assisting adopted persons in their search for their origins.
- 11 The Central Authorities that co-organised the workshop worked closely together on their combined and individual presentations, which ensured that the presentations were highly complementary. An adoptee also shared her adoption experience and her search for identity. The workshop concluded with an open discussion between receiving States and States of origin.

B. Workshop of November 2024

- 12 The second virtual workshop was held on 20 November 2024 and was co-organised by Australia and New Zealand.

- 13 During this workshop, the Central Authorities of Australia and New Zealand presented their post-adoption practices and approaches to delivery of support services for the intercountry adoption community, including adoptees and their families.
- 14 The organisation, funded by the Australian Government and which delivers the Intercountry Adoptee and Family Support Service, presented on the wide range of supports available - including therapeutic support and community capacity building activities. Adoptees from Australia and New Zealand also shared their adoption and community leadership experiences.
- 15 The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to ask panellists questions about Australia and New Zealand's post-adoption services and the views of the intercountry adoption community on refining these services.

III. Proposal for CGAP

- 16 The level of participation in the two workshops shows that States do have an interest in this type of meetings. The Steering Committee moreover considers that, in order to properly assess their continued value, further workshops should be held. The Steering Committee proposes the following C&D for CGAP consideration:

CGAP noted the report of the Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services under the 1993 Adoption Convention. CGAP supported the holding of one or two additional virtual workshops on post-adoption services, organised by States, both States of origin and receiving States. The Steering Committee will report to CGAP 2026.

ANNEXES

Annex I Steering Committee for the organisation of virtual workshops on post-adoption services – Terms of Reference

1. As per the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Special Commission (SC) on the *Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*, a Steering Committee is to be set up to facilitate the organisation of State-led workshops on post-adoption services in order to allow interested Contracting Parties to share their experiences and practices.

A. Mandate and role

2. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to facilitate the organisation and timing of State-led virtual workshops on post-adoption services, which should involve the participation of persons with lived experience. The Steering Committee may also propose ideas for the content and format of the workshops.

B. Membership

3. Australia, Canada, Colombia, Italy, Senegal, Togo, Vietnam and the United States of America have agreed to participate in the Standing Committee. At the first Standing Committee meeting, it was agreed that Canada would take on the role of the chair. If this commitment becomes too labour-intensive for Canada to fulfil by themselves, the Standing Committee can discuss the possibility of a rotation.
4. The Permanent Bureau may support the Standing Committee and the workshops, for example, by providing their insights on the workshops and by acting as a conduit for e-mail communications from the Standing Committee or the States hosting the virtual workshops and the Central Authorities of the Contracting Parties.

C. Meetings

5. At the first Standing Committee meeting it was agreed that meetings would follow soon after each virtual workshop. For 2023, only two meetings will be feasible (June and in the last quarter of 2023). After the first virtual workshop, an e-mail will be sent to all States to determine their interest in hosting a virtual workshop. Based on this feedback, the Standing Committee will develop a schedule of virtual workshops and subsequent Standing Committee meetings.
6. The meetings will take place virtually and discussions will be conducted primarily in English. Participants may intervene in either French or Spanish and their interventions will be summarised in the other two languages during the videoconference.

D. Reporting

7. The Standing Committee will report to the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) in 2025 on the outcome of the workshops. It may recommend drafting a possible document on post-adoption services, the nature of which will be determined at that time. The Standing Committee could send out a very short survey after each workshop to find out what the participants felt worked well or not and to get a sense of how useful the workshop was. This feedback will be useful when it comes to drafting the report for CGAP. It might also be helpful if every Steering Committee member share their feedback following the workshops to feed into the final report.

Annex II Workshop Agendas

Tuesday – 20 June 2023

Canada and Colombia Central Authorities

Theme: Workshop on post-adoption services

Item	Topic	Presenter
1	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Federal Central Authority for Canada and Colombia Central Authorities
2	Canada Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the work of the Federal Central Authority responsibilities • Examples of legislations, services and experiences with search of origin and post-adoption services across Canada 	Federal Central Authority for Canada
3	Quebec Presentation – Search for Origins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal framework for the search for origins in Quebec • Data on adoption and origins research services • Services offered by the Central Authority of Quebec in the area of researching origins • Challenges and best practices • The importance of international collaboration 	Quebec Central Authority
4	Colombia Presentation – Search for Origins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Framework for the Search for Origins • Some facts about the Adoption Programme and the Search for Origins in Colombia • Services provided in the Process Search for origins 	Colombian Central Authority
5	Case example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution and conservation of an adoption file • Preparing for adoption and the search for origins (The child or adolescent, the family of origin and the adoptive family) • Origins still present, with or without an active search • The search for origins and international cooperation 	Quebec and Colombia Central Authorities
6	Testimonial from an adopted person	Anne-Sophie Bérubé
7	Open discussion with receiving States and States of origin	Federal Central Authority for Canada
8	Closing Remarks	Federal Central Authority for Canada and Colombia Central Authority

Wednesday 20 November 2024

Australian and New Zealand Central Authorities

Theme: ‘Post-adoption support services for the intercountry adoption community, including adopted children and their families’

Item	Topic	Presenter
1	Welcome - introduction and housekeeping	Brendan Tunks Director, Intercountry Adoption Section
2	Presentation from Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) - Australian Central Authority (ACA) for Intercountry Adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of Country Overview of the work of the Family and Adult Supports (FAS) Branch 	Tracy Creech Branch Manager, FAS
3	Presentation from ACA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> structure of intercountry adoption in Australia roles and responsibilities status of adoptions services funded types of post-adoption support services 	Brendan Tunks Director, Intercountry Adoption Section
4	Presentation from Relationships Australia South Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intercountry Adoptee and Family Support Service 	Nikki Hartman Program Manager Kayla Curtis
5	Presentation from New Zealand Central Authority, Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children and NGO - I’m Adopted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> structure of intercountry adoption in New Zealand legislation types of post adoption support services Issues New Zealand faces with post adoption support Post-adoption birth search and reunion 	Natasha Bastion Team Leader Alex Gilbert Director
6	Presentation from InterCountry Adoptee Voices (ICAV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoptee perspectives on what effective post-adoption services should look like Adoptee perspectives on effective peer support and peer support leadership Incorporating the voice of lived experience in the design of post- adoption services 	Lynelle Long ICAV
7	Panellist Question and Answer Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer pre-submitted questions Wrap up (Brendan) 	All presenters
8	Workshop Close	Brendan Tunks Director, Intercountry Adoption Section