

Title	Summary of Responses to the 2022 Service Questionnaire
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Objective	To summarise the findings of the 2022 questionnaire relating to the <i>Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters (Service Convention)</i>
Action to be Taken	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	Annex: Compilation of responses (questionnaire for Contracting Parties) – responses have been compiled in the language in which they were received
Related Documents	Prel. Doc. No 1 of December 2022 - questionnaire relating to the <i>Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters (Service Convention)</i>

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Summary of Responses to the 2022 Service Questionnaire

I. Introduction

- 1 Pursuant to the mandate of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) at its 2021 and 2022 meetings,¹ in December 2022 the Permanent Bureau (PB) circulated two questionnaires on the practical operation of the *Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters* (Service Convention or Convention). One questionnaire sought information from Contracting Parties to the Convention² and the second questionnaire sought information from non-Contracting Parties.
- 2 The questionnaire for Contracting Parties covered a range of topics including the scope and operation of the Convention, the use of information technology in the transmission and execution of requests for service abroad, potential issues to discuss at the upcoming meeting of the Special Commission (SC), and data and statistics relating to the Convention. The information received from Contracting Parties, in response to this questionnaire, will help inform the agenda for the meeting of the SC. Responses were also taken into account in making updates to the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Service Convention* (Practical Handbook). The questionnaire for non-Contracting Parties was aimed at discovering whether these States had considered, or were, considering, joining the Service Convention.
- 3 The questionnaires were circulated to all HCCH Members and respective Contracting Parties to the Service Convention, with a deadline for responses of 31 March 2023. In light of CGAP's decision to postpone the meeting of the SC to Financial Year 2024-2025,³ the PB extended the deadline for responses to 9 June 2023 and continued to accept responses after this date. This Summary includes all responses received up to 30 November 2023.
- 4 At the time the questionnaire was circulated, the Service Convention had 79 Contracting Parties.⁴ The PB received 50 responses to the questionnaires in total, including 49⁵ responses from 47 Contracting Parties.⁶ This means that out of 79 Contracting Parties to the Convention, approximately 59% have responded to the questionnaire. One non-Contracting Party also responded to the questionnaire.⁷ The PB is very grateful to these respondents for the time and effort they have devoted to answering the questionnaires.

¹ C&D No 36 of CGAP 2021; C&D No 32 of CGAP 2022.

² "Questionnaire relating to the *Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters* (Service Convention)" Prel. Doc. No 1 of December 2022 (hereinafter, the "2022 Service questionnaire").

³ C&D No 39 of CGAP 2023. At its meeting in March 2024, CGAP confirmed that the meeting of the SC would take place from 2 to 5 July 2024 (C&D No 46 of CGAP 2024).

⁴ At the time of publication of this Prel. Doc. the Service Convention had 84 Contracting Parties.

⁵ The People's Republic of China (China) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macao SAR submitted individual responses to the questionnaire in addition to China (Mainland). Although these responses were provided by the same Contracting Party, they have been separately counted and analysed. Where appropriate these responses are considered as individual responses.

The European Union (EU) has also provided supplementary information regarding the EU law in the area of service of documents abroad.

⁶ Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Viet Nam.

⁷ Singapore. Please note that at the time of responding to the questionnaire for non-Contracting Parties, Singapore was not yet a Contracting Party to the 1965 Service Convention. However, Singapore acceded to the Convention on 16 May 2023, and the Convention entered into force for Singapore on 1 December 2023.

- 5 This document only summarises the responses to the questionnaire from Contracting Parties. Responses received from non-Contracting Parties will be used for ongoing promotional and bilateral engagement efforts and are therefore not included for analysis in this document.
- 6 The Summary has been prepared using available information in the responses provided. Where answers to the questions were not clear, they have not been considered for the purposes of this Summary. Similarly, where respondents did not answer certain questions, the PB did not take these responses into account when calculating the indicative percentages of responses. All in all, the Summary is not intended to be conclusive or comprehensive; as indicated in several responses, States’ answers do not always provide complete reviews of their laws and practices.
- 7 The annex contains a compilation of Contracting Party responses to each individual question. Individual responses provided by each Contracting Party (where Contracting Parties have permitted publication) will be published on the Service Section of the HCCH website.⁸

II. General Feedback

- 8 The majority of respondents rated the general operation of the Service Convention as “good” or “excellent”.⁹ Two, out of 49 respondents, indicated that the Convention’s operation is “satisfactory”, while two other respondents noted that the Convention “requires improvement”. The latter responses reported challenges with the use of the Model Form, including deficiencies with the address of the person to be served or the information required to effect service; failure to provide documents in duplicate and/ or their translation; no acknowledgment of receipt of requests transmitted under the Convention by foreign authorities, and difficulties corresponding with forwarding authorities and Central Authorities.
- 9 With regard to the question concerning the useability of the Practical Handbook,¹⁰ 73% of respondents answered “good”, 16% “excellent”, and 6% “satisfactory”. A lower proportion of responses (4%) indicated that the Practical Handbook “requires improvement”.
- 10 Responses show that 70% of Central Authorities track incoming requests under the Service Convention, whereas 9% do not.¹¹ For those Central Authorities that track incoming requests, most have an electronic case management register or system in place:

Electronic for incoming and outgoing requests	49%
Electronic for incoming requests only	14%
Manual for incoming and outgoing request	14%

For respondents that selected “other” to provide additional information about a system that is used to track incoming requests, most responses described some kind of case management system. Three federal States noted the existence of different practices depending on the territory.

- 11 Contracting Parties were asked whether their Central Authority has oversight of all outgoing requests.¹² Among the 35% of respondents that answered “yes”, 69% use an electronic system to track the progress of the requests, while 31% use a manual register. Approximately 37% of

⁸ Responses will be available on the HCCH website at www.hcch.net under “Service” then “Questionnaires & Responses”.

⁹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 1.

¹⁰ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 2.

¹¹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 3.

¹² 2022 Service questionnaire, question 4.

respondents answered “no”. Most of the respondents that answered “other” noted that their Central Authority is involved in the processing of incoming requests only.

- 12 Responses show that in 2022, ~~38~~37% of respondents executed incoming requests in 1 to 3 months, ~~42~~45% did so in 3 to 6 months and ~~10~~7% per cent of respondents executed requests in 6 to 12 months. ~~Five~~Seven per cent of respondents executed requests in under a month and ~~5~~4% executed requests in over 12 months.¹³ Importantly, 16 respondents noted that execution times for electronically transmitted requests for service are either “significantly” or “moderately” faster than those transmitted by post.

III. Scope of the Convention

- 13 Roughly 59% of respondents have not experienced difficulties in interpreting the scope of the Service Convention in the five-year period between 2017 and 2022.¹⁴ Twenty-six per cent of responses indicated that there have been issues regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) and most of these respondents considered there to be doubts as to whether administrative matters fall within the scope of the Convention. The remainder of the responses indicated other difficulties, including the operation of Articles 8 and 9 of the Convention (Diplomatic and Consular channels), the preparation of the Model Form, and location of the person to be served.
- 14 Seventy-eight per cent of respondents indicated that their internal laws do not define “extrajudicial documents” (Art. 17), with 22% indicating that this term is defined in internal law.¹⁵ Some European Union (EU) Member States referred to the concept of “extrajudicial documents” under the 2020 EU Service Regulation,¹⁶ and the interpretation provided by the European Court of Justice (ECJ).¹⁷
- 15 The types of extrajudicial documents that respondents transmit under the Service Convention vary:¹⁸

1.	Documents issued by notaries and private enforcement agents
2.	Documents executed by government officials
3.	Decisions rendered by registry offices
4.	Mediation, arbitration, and administrative resolutions
5.	Documents from attorneys, in connection with or in anticipation of litigation
6.	Demands for payment
7.	Documents associated with family law matters, including separation or divorce decisions and claims for child support
8.	Documents and requests issued by authorities in relation to customs and taxation

¹³ Data from 2022 was used in this calculation as this was the most recent data available to the PB.

¹⁴ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 5.

¹⁵ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 6.

¹⁶ Regulation No 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast) (hereinafter “2020 Service Regulation”).

¹⁷ ECJ, Judgment of 11 November 2015, *Tecom Mican SL & José Arias Domínguez*, C-223/14.

¹⁸ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 7.

IV. Operation of the Convention

16 When receiving requests for service as the requested State, 61% of respondents indicated that assistance to locate the person to be served under the Service Convention is provided, whereas the remainder of respondents (39%) do not provide such assistance.¹⁹ In providing assistance, most respondents noted that their Central Authority may resort to a broad range of information sources, including government databases and public or commercial registers.

17 Contracting Parties were asked how documents are transmitted for service abroad upon another State, a State official, or a State-owned company.²⁰ Six respondents indicated that the Convention would not apply in such cases, while 29 respondents considered that the Convention would apply. The remainder of responses reported using diplomatic channels, and / or the existence of different approaches, depending on the addressee.

18 Among those 29 respondents which considered the Service Convention applies in serving another State, State official or a State-owned company, respondents indicated the use of different channels, either exclusively or alternatively:²¹

Main channel of transmission (Art. 5)	83%
Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 8)	38%
Indirect consular channel (Art. 9(1))	3%
Indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2))	24%
Postal channel (Art. 10(a))	24%
Direct communication between judicial officers (Art. 10(b))	3%
Direct communication between interested person and judicial officers (Art. 10(c))	3%

19 Almost all respondents (89%) serve judicial and extrajudicial documents in the same way.²² One respondent indicated that judicial documents are served by a Sheriff's Officer, bailiff, or other process server on the request of the Supreme Court of the requested jurisdiction, while extrajudicial documents are forwarded by the Central Authority to a private service provider to arrange service.

A. Main Channel of Transmission (Art. 5)

20 With regard to the question concerning which authorities or persons are competent to forward a request for service to a foreign Central Authority, respondents indicated the following authorities, either exclusively or alternatively:²³

¹⁹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 8.

²⁰ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 9.

²¹ Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

²² 2022 Service questionnaire, question 11.

²³ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 12. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

Courts / Tribunals	59%
Prosecutors	7%
Registrars	13%
<i>Huissiers</i>	13%
Process servers	4%
Central Authority(ies)	65%
Other	26%

Responses show a diversity of forwarding authorities. Respondents which selected “other”, to provide additional authorities, listed a variety of authorities and competent persons, including notaries, enforcement agents, attorneys, and other State bodies.

21 Although not required by the Convention, 48% of respondents noted that outgoing requests should be transmitted through their Central Authority.²⁴ The most commonly cited reasons were the expertise and language skills of the Central Authority. Some respondents also consider their Central Authority to be better placed to check if the request for service complies with the requirements established under the Convention and the law of the requested State.

22 When no particular method of service is requested by the applicant, the primary / default method of service varies amongst respondents:²⁵

Informal delivery (voluntary acceptance) (Art. 5(2))	4%
Personal service	33%
By post	21%
Court summons	19%
By e-mail	0%
By other electronic means	4%
Other	19%

23 In the five-year period between 2017 and 2022, 47% of respondents received a request indicating a particular method of service (Art. 5(1)(b)), while 32% stated that they had not received a request for a particular method, and 21% did not know.²⁶

24 Among the requested methods of service, responses (from the perspective of a requested State) indicated a preference for personal service, followed by service by e-mail and by post:²⁷

²⁴ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 13.

²⁵ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 14.

²⁶ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 15.

²⁷ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 15.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

Personal service	73%
By post	14%
Court summons	9%
By e-mail	18%
By other electronic means	9%

- 25 Only three respondents indicated not being able to execute requests for particular methods of service, either because there were no resources to effect personal service or because there were no procedures in place to serve documents by electronic means, including e-mail.²⁸
- 26 From the perspective of requesting States, 39% of respondents stated that they had not forwarded requests with a particular method of service selected, against 35% which did not know whether a particular method had been requested.²⁹ Conversely, nearly 26% of respondents indicated having made such a request for a particular method of service in the five-year period between 2017 and 2022. The responses reflect again a preference for personal service, followed by service by court summons and by post.³⁰
- 27 Fifty-eight per cent of responses indicated that the request had been executed, while 42% did not know whether the request had been executed.³¹ Finally, three respondents noted that there were costs associated with personal service and service effected by a bailiff.

B. Alternative Channels of Transmission (Arts 8, 9 & 10)

1. Use of Model Form

- 28 In relation to the transmission of a request for service through alternative channels, almost 40% of respondents advised that they use the “Warning” and “Summary” sections of the Model Form,³² among which, 24% indicated that they “always” use the Form. Forty-four per cent of respondents did not know whether the Form was used for service through alternative channels. Seven per cent of respondents confirmed that the Form was “never” used, and 9% of respondents do not use the Model Form, due to the objection made regarding the use of alternative channels.
- 29 From the perspective of States of destination, 54% of respondents indicated that the “Certificate” section of the Model Form is used when informing whether documents have been served,³³ among which 43% of respondents always use the Form. Twenty-four per cent of respondents did not know whether the Form is used, one respondent answered that the Form is “never” used, and 20% do not use the Form, due to the objection made regarding the use of alternative channels.

2. Diplomatic and Consular Agents (Art. 8)

- 30 Responses show that in the five-year period between 2017 and 2022, diplomatic and consular agents of almost half of the respondents (43%) have directly effected service of judicial or extrajudicial documents upon persons abroad (Art. 8(1)).³⁴ The remainder of responses were evenly

²⁸ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 15.2.

²⁹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 16.

³⁰ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 16.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

³¹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 16.2.

³² 2022 Service questionnaire, question 17.

³³ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 18.

³⁴ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 19.

divided among “no”, diplomatic or consular agents have not directly effected service upon a person abroad (21%), and those which did not know (21%). For 15% of respondents, the direct diplomatic and consular channel is not applicable, due to an objection made.

31 A small number of respondents (17%) indicated that, in the five-year period between 2017 and 2022, service by the State’s diplomatic or consular agents had been rejected by the addressee.³⁵ To the contrary, 22% of respondents noted the opposite. However, in nearly half of the responses (46%), respondents did not have information in this regard.

3. Diplomatic and Consular Channels (Art. 9)

32 Contracting Parties were asked if they had used consular and diplomatic channels to forward documents in the five-year period between 2017 and 2022.³⁶ Responses show that a similar number of respondents make use of one or both channels:

Consular Channel		Diplomatic Channel	
Yes	34%	Yes	32%
No	40%	No	36%
Unknown	23%	Unknown	30%
Not applicable	2%	Not applicable	2%

33 The most cited reason for using diplomatic channels was the service of documents upon foreign States or State officials. Some respondents also referred to other exceptional circumstances, including the suspension of postal services during the conflicts between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and the outbreak of COVID-19.

4. Postal Channel (Art. 10(a))

34 Twenty-two respondents have objected to service by post under Article 10(a) of the Convention.³⁷ Despite having made an Article 10(a) objection, 50% of respondents, as the State of origin, continue to use postal channels for service.³⁸ However, one respondent noted that, as the State of destination, it did not accept the use of postal channels when documents originate from a State that has made an objection under Article 10(a).³⁹

35 Contracting Parties were asked which categories they recognise, exclusively or alternatively, as a “postal channel”:⁴⁰

³⁵ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 20.

³⁶ 2022 Service questionnaire, questions 21-22.

³⁷ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 23.

³⁸ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 23.1.

³⁹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 23.2.

⁴⁰ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 23.3. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

Regular post	50%
Registered (tracked) post, with receipt	54%
Private courier, such as FedEx	33%
E-mail	13%
e-Post via State postal agency	0%
Other	13%

36 For the respondents which have not made an Article 10(a) objection, 7 respondents consider service by e-mail to be analogous to service by postal channels, whereas 11 do not consider this to be the case.⁴¹

37 Finally, 38% of respondents indicated that they require documents served through postal channels to be translated into one of their official languages.⁴² The majority of respondents (62%) do not have such a requirement.

5. Judicial Officers, Officials or other Competent Persons (Art. 10(b))

38 More than half of the respondents (57%) have objected to the use of direct communication between judicial officers, officials or other competent persons under Article 10(b).⁴³

39 For the respondents which have not made an Article 10(b) objection, the following officials were recognised as a “judicial officer, official or other competent person”:⁴⁴

Attorney or solicitor	64%
Bailiff	57%
<i>Huissier</i>	50%
Court official	71%
Notary	43%
Official of the executive branch	14%
Process server	43%
Other	43%

40 For 53% of respondents, there are costs associated with the transmission and service of documents through this channel.⁴⁵ While 12% of respondents indicated that there are no costs, 35% did not know.

⁴¹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 23.4.

⁴² 2022 Service questionnaire, question 23.5.

⁴³ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 24.

⁴⁴ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 24.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

⁴⁵ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 24.3.

6. Person Interested in a Judicial Proceeding (Art. 10(c))

41 Sixty-two per cent of respondents have objected to the use of direct communication between an interested party and judicial officers, officials or other competent persons under Article 10(c).⁴⁶

42 For the respondents which have not made an objection to Article 10(c), the following officials were recognised as “any person interested in a judicial proceeding”:⁴⁷

Attorney or solicitor	71%
Bailiff	50%
<i>Huissier</i>	57%
Court official	64%
Notary	43%
Official of the executive branch	14%
Other	43%

43 Six respondents reported that there are costs associated with the transmission and service of documents through this channel.⁴⁸ Only two respondents indicated that there are no costs, and the remainder of respondents either did not know the answer or have objected to service under Article 10(c).

C. Refusal to Execute Request (Art. 13)

44 Responses show that, in the five-year period between 2017 to 2022, only a small number of respondents (19%) have refused a request for service on grounds of infringing “sovereignty or security”.⁴⁹ According to one respondent, reasons for refusing a request under Article 13 of the Convention included garnishment of sovereignty funds, claims relating to wartime activities, attachment of sovereign assets, and no record of service of the underlying proceeding when seeking to serve or enforce a default judgment. Another respondent also noted that requests for service in patent dispute matters had been refused.

45 Notwithstanding that, the majority of respondents (62%) have not refused requests for service in the five-year period between 2017 and 2022, whereas 19% did not know. These figures demonstrate that the Convention has been operating successfully, and it is uncommon that requests for service are refused by Contracting Parties under Article 13.

V. Use of Information Technology (IT)

46 Responses were evenly divided among respondents as to whether they have taken steps (including through legislation) to enable or increase the use of technology in the operation of the Convention.⁵⁰ Respondents reported a number of developments in that regard, including the establishment of online platforms and systems for transmission of requests, payment of related

⁴⁶ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 25.

⁴⁷ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 25.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

⁴⁸ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 25.3.

⁴⁹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 26.

⁵⁰ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 28.

costs, and communication with foreign authorities. Another group of respondents also noted improvements with the use of e-mail for forwarding and receiving requests.

47 Thirty-three per cent of respondents transmit requests electronically under the Convention.⁵¹ In this context, responses show a preference for using e-mail, followed by other methods of transmission:⁵²

E-mail	69%
E-mail (secured / encrypted)	31%
Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government	46%
Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider	15%
Electronic transmission using distributed ledger technology (DLT)	0%
Other	31%

48 Notably, 53% of respondents do not accept requests for service transmitted electronically in circumstances where only an electronic copy is provided.⁵³ These respondents noted the following reasons for why this is not yet possible: the lack of policies and procedures in place at the global level for guaranteeing the identity of the forwarding authority; the integrity of the documents; and the compliance with data protection laws. Some of these respondents also indicated internal law limitations.

49 Respondents which accept requests for service transmitted electronically, in circumstances where only an electronic copy is provided, indicate the use of different electronic methods of transmission:⁵⁴

E-mail	81%
E-mail (secured / encrypted)	43%
Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government	24%
Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider	14%
Electronic transmission using distributed ledger technology (DLT)	0%
Other	14%

⁵¹ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 29.

⁵² 2022 Service questionnaire, question 29.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

⁵³ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 30.

⁵⁴ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 30.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

50 Contracting Parties were asked if they permit the execution of service via electronic means.⁵⁵ Sixty-seven per cent of respondents answered that they do. The method of service varies:

E-mail	20%
E-mail (secured / encrypted)	10%
Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government	33%
Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider	7%
Electronic transmission using distributed ledger technology (DLT)	0%

Respondents which selected “other” to provide additional information clarified that service by electronic means may be permissible in specific circumstances and under certain conditions, including the consent of the parties and / or the authorisation by the competent court.

51 Respondents noted that reasons for refusing to execute requests for service via electronic means include:⁵⁶

Use of technology is prohibited by internal law	7%
Use of technology is not provided for internal law	33%
Use of technology is not possible as there is no compatible system in your State	40%
The authorities lack familiarity with the use of the requested technology	0%
Other	33%

52 Lastly, Contracting Parties were asked to indicate possible challenges, if any, faced by them regarding the use of IT under the Service Convention.⁵⁷ Twenty-four per cent of respondents consider that there are no challenges with the use of IT. From the responses indicating challenges, the following issues were often raised: implementation challenges; issues with system interoperability / compatibility; internal law limitations and security concerns:

⁵⁵ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 31. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

⁵⁶ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 31.1. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

⁵⁷ 2022 Service questionnaire, question 32. Respondents could select more than one option to answer this question.

Internal law limitations	50%
Judicial or administrative structures	29%
Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure)	74%
Cost	32%
System interoperability / compatibility	53%
Security concerns	50%
Other	12%

Among the respondents which selected “other”, to provide additional issues, one respondent reported problems with the lack of reciprocity from Contracting Parties to the Convention in relation to the use of technology and difficulties with the acceptance abroad of electronic signatures. Another respondent indicated challenges with the electronic transmission and reception of voluminous documents.

VI. Data and Statistics for Contracting Parties

A. Incoming Requests (Main Channel of Transmission (Art. 5))

53 Number of incoming requests for service received under the main channel of transmission (Art. 5):⁵⁸

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Argentina	59	55	56	(⁵⁹)	75	125	N/A
Australia	-	-	270	375	465	426	(⁶⁰)
Belgium	144	127	157	107	203	262	N/A
Bulgaria	231	216	240	153	204	180	N/A
Brazil	-	-	46	315	579	623	N/A
Canada	2400	2500	2400	2100	2300	-	N/A
China (Mainland)	1612	1782	1987	1335	2049	1571	N/A
Croatia	-	4	15	18	29	32	N/A
Czech Republic	66	86	116	77	110	124	N/A
Estonia	7(⁶¹)	30	37	33	35	38	N/A
France	903	964	897	701	989	1031	N/A
Georgia	0	0	0	0	2	44	N/A
Germany	7335	6539	6871	6411	7622	5697	(⁶²)
Hong Kong SAR	538	586	565	435	522	421	N/A
Hungary	135	202	179	134	118	124	N/A
India	800	750	2000	600	650	1050	N/A
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Israel	967	909	1083	818	896	754	N/A
Japan	657	1257	1319	884	1079	1100	N/A
Kazakhstan	50	99	130	135	126	105	N/A
Latvia	19	1	50	66	60	30	N/A
Lithuania	24	30	21	51	44	34	N/A
Mexico	534	631	506	408	448	410	N/A
Montenegro	71	40	71	46	31	47	N/A
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	7	10	N/A
Philippines	-	-	-	21	372	570	N/A
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Portugal	489	460	701	403	579	646	N/A
Romania	101	87	73	77	110	86	N/A
Serbia	284	292	308	317	350	377	N/A
Slovenia	35	31	19	27	41	16	N/A
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x

⁵⁸ The data and statistics reported in this section only reflect the figures as indicated by the Contracting Parties which authorised the publication of their responses on the HCCH website.

⁵⁹ According to Argentina's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he data of 2020 is unavailable due to the pandemic".

⁶⁰ According to Australia's response to the questionnaire, "(...) these figures are approximate and cover only those requests received by the Central Authority; rejected requests and requests sent directly to Australian State and Territories are not captured. Data has only been provided from 2019, as the electronic database used to record and manage requests received by the Central Authority was only implemented in 2018".

⁶¹ According to Estonia's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he data of 2017 is only partial".

⁶² According to Germany's response to the questionnaire, "[a]s a preliminary remark it must be said that in Germany, no official statistics are kept on the number of incoming and outgoing requests for service. The figures below are based on voluntary information from the Central Authorities of the federal states in which documents were served in accordance with the Hague Service Convention. The data of 2022 is only partial (in some of the federal states data is not yet available)".

Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approximately 200-300 per year.
United Kingdom ⁽⁶³⁾	19176 ⁽⁶⁴⁾	19135	11503	20580	15154	569 ⁽⁶⁵⁾	N/A
United States of America	7182	7857	8046	5835	8272	7323	N/A
Viet Nam	143	267	333	303	286	301	N/A
TOTAL	43962	44937	39999	42765	43807	24126	-

54 Time (in months) to execute incoming requests:

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Argentina	-	-	-	-	3-6	3-6	N/A
Australia	-	-	>12	>12	>12	>12	(66)
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Bulgaria	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Brazil	-	-	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	N/A
Canada	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
China (Mainland)	6-12	6-12	6-12	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
Croatia	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
Czech Republic	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Georgia	-	-	-	-	3-6	1-3	N/A
Germany	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Hong Kong SAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Hungary	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
India	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Israel	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
Japan	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
Kazakhstan	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	6-12	N/A
Latvia	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Lithuania	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Mexico	3-6	3-6	3-6	6-12	6-12	3-6	N/A
Montenegro	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Nicaragua	<1	-	-	-	1-3	3-6	N/A
Philippines	-	-	-	1-3	1-3	<1	N/A
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	x

63 These figures take into account requests for service received in Northern Ireland and Scotland, in addition to England and Wales.

64 According to the United Kingdom’s response to the questionnaire, and in connection with England and Wales, “[w]e do not have exact records for 2017 and 2018 but the approximate average per annum was 19,000”.

65 According to the United Kingdom’s response to the questionnaire, “[d]ate unavailable for England, Wales and Northern Ireland”.

66 According to Australia’s response to the questionnaire, “[t]hese figures are approximate and cover only those requests received by the Central Authority; rejected requests have not been included; requests sent directly to Australian State and Territories are not captured. Data has only been provided from 2019, as the electronic database used to record and manage requests received by the Central Authority was only implemented in 2018”.

Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	(⁶⁷)
Slovenia	1-3	<1	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Slovakia	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	N/A
Sweden	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	3-6	N/A
United Kingdom	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	3-6	3-6	N/A
United States of America	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	N/A
Viet Nam	3-6	3-6	6-12	6-12	6-12	3-6	N/A

55 Number of incoming requests for service received via electronic transmission:

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	(⁶⁸)
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Brazil	-	-	29	69	326	424	N/A
China (Mainland)	0	0	36	270	439	821	N/A (⁶⁹)
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A (⁷⁰)
Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A (⁷¹)
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x (⁷²)
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A (⁷³)
Hong Kong SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A (⁷⁴)
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Israel	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A (⁷⁵)
Mexico	0	0	0	0	1	4	N/A
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	-	x(⁷⁶)

⁶⁷ According to Portugal's response to the questionnaire, "[m]any of the requests are sent back directly by the competent authority, without the intervention of the Central Authority".

⁶⁸ According to Argentina's response to the questionnaire, "mostly all requests are received electronically".

⁶⁹ According to China's response to the questionnaire, "[o]ur only system starts since 2019".

⁷⁰ According to Czech Republic's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he Czech Republic does not accept incoming requests received via electronic transmission, only via standard post (on paper form)".

⁷¹ According to France's response to the questionnaire, "The French Central Authority does not currently have the technical means to process applications electronically. Applicants are therefore invited to send us their applications by post" [Response received in French and translated by the PB].

⁷² According to Georgia's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he Central Authority of Georgia does not process such data. All incoming requests, both received via mail and post, are integrated in unified electronic system".

⁷³ According to Germany response to the questionnaire, "[i]t is not possible to send a Letter of Request via electronic means. In the case of incoming Letters of Request a signature and official seal or stamp is required. There is not yet a cross-border electronic signature on a global level to identify the origin and authenticity of the Letter of Request".

⁷⁴ According to Hong Kong SAR's response to the questionnaire, "[a]s electronic transmission is not accepted, we do not have relevant statistics".

⁷⁵ According to Lithuania's response to the questionnaire, "[i]ncoming requests are usually in paper form. But electronic form is also acceptable by the central authority. No precise number of received requests is available".

⁷⁶ According to Nicaragua's response to the questionnaire, "[u]ntil 2023 a diligence has been received via e-mail".

Philippines	-	-	-	18	204	296	N/A
Portugal	-	-	145	263	404	497	N/A
Serbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approximately 10
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
United States of America	0	2	1	886	952	1086	N/A
TOTAL	0	2	211	1506	2326	3128	-

56 Number of incoming requests for service executed via electronic means (regardless of whether a paper copy of the documents was subsequently provided):

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Brazil	-	-	29	69	326	424	N/A ⁽⁷⁷⁾
China (Mainland)	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁷⁸⁾
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Hong Kong SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Israel	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A ⁽⁷⁹⁾
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A ⁽⁸⁰⁾
Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	5	N/A
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

⁷⁷ According to Brazil's response to the questionnaire, "100% in 2019-2022 respectively".

⁷⁸ According to France's response to the questionnaire, "[a]s the majority of requests for service do not pass through our department and are made directly by the huissiers, we do not have access to this information" [Response received in French and translated by the PB].

⁷⁹ According to Kazakhstan's response to the questionnaire, "none of the requests executed via electronic transmission".

⁸⁰ According to Lithuania's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he Chamber of the Judicial Officers of Lithuania did not execute any requests via electronic means".

United States of America	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Viet Nam	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
TOTAL	0	0	29	69	326	429	-

B. Outgoing Requests (Main Channel of Transmission (Art. 5)):

57 Number of outgoing requests for service made under the main channel of transmission (Art. 5):

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Argentina	151	111	111	0	75	125	N/A ⁽⁸¹⁾
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Bulgaria	92	99	124	85	198	194	N/A
Brazil	0	0	123	579	1096	1228	N/A
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁸²⁾
China (Mainland)	955	486	1005	955	1117	814	N/A
Croatia	-	1	20	13	32	47	N/A
Czech Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁸³⁾
Estonia	4	14	13	5	18	17	N/A ⁽⁸⁴⁾
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁸⁵⁾
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	2	N/A
Germany	7833	7725	7481	6976	6852	3329	N/A ⁽⁸⁶⁾
Hong Kong SAR	102	93	107	59	116	51	N/A
Hungary	460	569	447	414	499	496	N/A
India	500	450	600	300	350	400	N/A
Israel	65	57	69	111	141	97	N/A
Japan	234	178	187	202	269	247	N/A
Kazakhstan	5	10	16	15	24	18	N/A
Latvia	117	16	13	19	14	17	N/A ⁽⁸⁷⁾
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁸⁸⁾
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁸⁹⁾
Mexico	118	90	107	70	96	152	N/A
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	4	3	N/A
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-	x

⁸¹ According to Argentina's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he required information of 2020 is not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic".

⁸² According to Canada's response to the questionnaire, "[n]o data is available as outgoing requests under Article 5 are typically sent by members of the law societies of Canadian provinces and territories and members of the Chambre des notaires of the Province of Québec (for non-litigious matters only) acting in their capacity as forwarding authorities".

⁸³ According to Czech Republic's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he majority of the outgoing requests for service are forwarded (on paper) by the Czech forwarding Authorities (Czech Courts) directly to the Central Authority of the State. No data available. There is no special legal rule for the Czech courts to keep records of cases where the Hague Convention was applied".

⁸⁴ According to Estonia's response to the questionnaire, "[d]ata of 2017: partial data since September".

⁸⁵ See France's response to the questionnaire (note 78).

⁸⁶ According to Germany's response to the questionnaire, "[f]or 2022, in some of the federal states data is not yet available".

⁸⁷ According to Latvia's response to the questionnaire, "from 2018 to 2022: requests to Canada through Ministry of Justice".

⁸⁸ According to Lithuania's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he courts of the Republic of Lithuania (as requesting authorities) process data on cases in the Lithuanian Courts Information System (LITEKO). LITEKO's automated statistical generation works on the basis of classifications of categories of cases and court procedural decisions. Unfortunately, there is no separate code for files relating to the Service Convention. Therefore, it is not possible to provide accurate data on the outgoing requests".

⁸⁹ According to Montenegro's response to the questionnaire, "outgoing requests does not transmitted through Ministry of Justice".

Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁹⁰⁾
Romania	195	279	256	258	280	277	N/A
Serbia	300	299	315	328	355	413	N/A
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁹¹⁾
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
United Kingdom	831	816	668	934	1007	684	N/A
United States of America	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Viet Nam	883	1326	1445	1137	1217	1446	N/A
TOTAL	12845	12619	13107	12460	13760	10057	-

58 Number of outgoing requests for service made via electronic transmission under the main channel of transmission (Art. 5):

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	(⁹²)
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Brazil	0	0	47	288	487	572	N/A
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁹³⁾
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A ⁽⁹⁴⁾
Estonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁹⁵⁾
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	1	N/A
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A ⁽⁹⁶⁾
Hong Kong SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A ⁽⁹⁷⁾
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ⁽⁹⁸⁾
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	1	N/A

⁹⁰ According to Portugal's response to the questionnaire, "[r]equests are usually sent directly by competent authorities to the Central authorities of the requested States".

⁹¹ According to Slovenia's response to the questionnaire, "data is not available since the requests are sent directly from Slovenian courts directly to the CA of the requested State".

⁹² According to Argentina's response to the questionnaire, "[m]ostly all requests are made electronically".

⁹³ See Canada's response to the questionnaire (note 82).

⁹⁴ According to Czech Republic's response to the questionnaire, "[t]he outgoing requests for service are forwarded to the Central Authority of the State addressed only on paper".

⁹⁵ See France's response to the questionnaire (note 78).

⁹⁶ According to Germany's response to the questionnaire, "[f]or outgoing Letters of Request, the German domestic Regulation on Judicial Assistance in Civil Matters (ZRHO) prescribes that they are to be signed by a judge and stamped with an official stamp or with an official seal. There is not yet a cross-border electronic signature on a global level to identify the origin and authenticity of the Letter of Request".

⁹⁷ According to Israel's response to the questionnaire, "[o]utgoing requests are transmitted only in hard copy".

⁹⁸ See Lithuania's response to the questionnaire (note 88).

Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	5	1	N/A ⁽⁹⁹⁾
United States of America	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Viet Nam	0	0	0	386	0	5	N/A
TOTAL	0	0	47	674	492	580	-

C. Statistics under Alternative Channels of Transmission

59 Number of total incoming requests for service received under the alternative channels of transmission:

Respondent	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Unknown
Bulgaria	15	6	14	10	3	12	N/A
Romania	235	232	189	181	132	161	N/A
TOTAL	250	238	203	191	135	173	-

D. Refusal (Art. 13):

60 Number of incoming requests for service refused between 2017 and 2022:

Respondent	Response
Croatia	“[V]ery few when forms are not filled in with relevant data”
Kazakhstan	“2-3”
Latvia	“About one to three requests per year”
USA	“43 incoming requests. Of the 43 requests, 28 requests were submitted in relation to unique cases, the remaining refusals were issued in relation to previous cases”
Lithuania	“7 (no payment received)”
Israel	1
Australia	“Approximately 370 requests between January 2019 and December 2022. Please note that this figure includes requests that were initially rejected, but were later re-submitted as an entirely new request. In addition, the figure covers only those requests received by the Central Authority; requests sent directly to Australian State and Territories are not captured. Data has only been provided from 2019, as the electronic database used to record and manage requests received by the Central Authority was only implemented in 2018”
Philippines	“There are three hundred and ninety-two (392) requests that the SCU refused to comply for failure to pay the required service fee. Under Title III, Item 3 of A.O. No. 251-2020: “[a]ll requests must be accompanied by payment of One Hundred U.S. Dollars (US\$100.00) for costs of service for each recipient to be served. xxx”
Mexico	“1960”

⁹⁹ According to the United Kingdom’s response to the questionnaire, “[f]or 2021 and 2022: all US cases as they will only accept electronically”.

61 Number of outgoing requests for service refused between 2017 and 2022:

Respondent	Response
Brazil	“The Convention is in force in Brazil since mid 2019 only. Since then, seventeen outgoing requests were denied by countries that did not accept requests of an administrative or fiscal nature. Also, many requests were not sent because it was known that the requested country would not accept it for these reasons or because they were related to corruption cases.”
Croatia	“very few when forms are not filled in with relevant data”
Kazakhstan	“about 5 requests was refused”
Mexico	“31”

ANNEX

Annex: Compilation of Responses (questionnaire for Contracting Parties)

I. General Feedback

(1) How does your State rate the general operation of the Service Convention?	
Argentina	Good
Australia	Satisfactory
Austria	Good
Belgium	Good
Brazil	Good
Bulgaria	Excellent
Canada	<p>Requires improvement - "Canadian central authorities have experienced difficulties corresponding with foreign forwarding authority to try to resolve issues such the absence of translations or of the required fee in requests for service. To facilitate resolving these, issues, forwarding authorities should include their email addresses in their requests for service. Also, see note below on the lack of access to the Handbook.</p> <p>Les autorités centrales canadiennes ont éprouvé des difficultés à correspondre avec les autorités expéditrices étrangères pour tenter de résoudre des problèmes tels que l'absence de traductions ou de frais dans les demandes de signification ou de notification. Pour faciliter la résolution de ces problèmes, les autorités expéditrices devraient inclure leur adresse électronique dans leurs demandes de signification ou de notification. Voir également la note ci-dessous sur le manque d'accès au Manuel".</p>
China	Good
Croatia	Excellent
Czech Republic	Good
Estonia	Good
France	Bon
Georgia	Good
Germany	Good
Hong Kong SAR	Good
Hungary	Good
India	Excellent
Ireland	Good
Israel	Good
Japan	Good
Kazakhstan	Excellent
Latvia	Good
Lithuania	Good
Mexico	Excellent
Montenegro	Good
Nicaragua	Good
Norway	Good
Philippines	Good
Poland	Good
Portugal	Good
Romania	Good
Serbia	Excellent

Slovenia	Excellent
Slovakia	Excellent
Sweden	Satisfactory
United Kingdom	Requires improvement – “The comments from England and Wales are that: The most common problems with incoming requests are: • Not using Hague Model Form • Address incomplete/incorrect/out of date • Form handwritten and illegible • Defendant is a prisoner and prison number not provided • Two defendants for service on one request • Only one set of documents provided (two are required) • Translation not provided, without explanation • Incomplete summary of documents for service Problems experienced with outgoing requests include: • A substantial number (c 25%) of requested states do not acknowledge the request • Although the success rate in achieving service is high overall , there are a small number of countries, four in particular, where service either does not take place at all or takes a very long time, sometimes 1-2 years The Central Authorities of Scotland and Northern Ireland have rated the general operation of the Convention as satisfactory”.
United States of America	Good
Viet Nam	Good

*_*_*

(2) How does your State rate the useability of the HCCH Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Service Convention?	
Argentina	Satisfactory
Australia	Good
Austria	Good
Belgium	Good
Brazil	Excellent
Bulgaria	Excellent
Canada	Requires improvement – “The Handbook should be made available on HCCH.net for free. Access to the Handbook is a matter linked to access to justice. In Canada, members of the law societies of Canadian provinces and territories and members of the Chambre des notaires of the Province of Québec (for non-litigious matters only) are forwarding authorities. We cannot assume that these forwarding authorities who may serve documents abroad very infrequently, will purchase a Handbook. Often, service abroad involves family law matters and clients do not necessarily have the funds to help their legal counsel purchase a copy of the Handbook. As a result of the unavailability of the Handbook for free, the application of the Convention may be negatively impacted in these cases and this may have a negative impact on litigants. Le manuel devrait être disponible gratuitement sur le site HCCH.net. L'accès au Manuel est une question liée à l'accès à la justice. Au Canada, les membres des barreaux des provinces et territoires canadiens et les membres de la Chambre des notaires de la province de Québec (pour les affaires non contentieuses uniquement) sont des autorités expéditrices. Nous ne pouvons pas supposer que ces autorités expéditrices, qui ne signifient des documents à l'étranger que très rarement, achèteront un manuel. Souvent, les significations ou notifications à l'étranger concernent des affaires de droit de la famille et les clients n'ont pas nécessairement les moyens d'aider leur conseiller juridique à acheter un exemplaire du manuel. Le fait que le manuel ne soit pas disponible gratuitement peut avoir un impact négatif sur

	l'application de la Convention dans ces affaires, ce qui peut avoir des conséquences négatives pour les parties au litige”.
China	Good.
Croatia	Excellent
Czech Republic	Good
Estonia	Good
France	Bon
Georgia	Good
Germany	Good
Hong Kong SAR	Good
Hungary	Good
India	Good
Ireland	Good
Israel	Excellent
Japan	Good
Kazakhstan	Excellent
Latvia	Good
Lithuania	Good
Mexico	Excellent
Montenegro	Good
Nicaragua	Good
Norway	Good
Philippines	Good
Poland	Good
Portugal	Good
Romania	Good
Serbia	Good
Slovenia	Excellent
Slovakia	Good
Sweden	Satisfactory
United Kingdom	Good - “Northern Ireland rated the usability of the Practical Handbook as satisfactory”.
United States of America	Good
Viet Nam	Good

*_*_*

(3) Does your State’s Central Authority have a manual or electronic case management register or system that is used to track incoming requests under the Service Convention?	
Argentina	Yes - electronic for incoming and outgoing
Australia	Yes – electronic for incoming only
Austria	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Belgium	Yes – electronic for incoming only
Brazil	Yes - electronic for incoming and outgoing
Bulgaria	Yes - electronic for incoming and outgoing
Canada	Other – “Some Canadian Central Authorities have manual case management registers while others have electronic systems. Canadian Central Authorities only deal with incoming requests as they do not act as forwarding authorities. Certaines Autorités centrales canadiennes ont des registres manuels de

	gestion des dossiers, tandis que d'autres ont des systèmes électroniques. Les Autorités centrales canadiennes ne traitent que les demandes entrantes et n'agissent pas en tant qu'autorités expéditrices”.
China	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Croatia	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Czech Republic	Other – “The Czech Central Authority (Ministry of Justice) has got the electronic register of the incoming requests under the Service Convention. After the registration the incoming requests are forwarded to the competent Czech courts to be served”.
Estonia	Other - “Estonia is currently using an electronic system for registration of cases. Due to changes in EU Regulations, EU Commission is currently developing reference implementation software, which the Member States may choose to connect to the decentralised IT system”.
France	Oui - électronique pour les demandes reçues et envoyées
Georgia	Yes – manual for incoming and outgoing
Germany	Other – “There are no federal registers used throughout Germany; some of the Länder use case management registers, some of them electronic registers, some manual registers or other means to track incoming requests. As a remark to questions 3. and 4. as well as preliminary to questions concerning data and statistics it must be underlined that in Germany no official statistics are kept on the number of incoming and outgoing requests for service or on the time to process them. The judicial departments of the Länder, which designate the Central Authorities for their area of competence, have an informal overview, but are only able to provide limited information on content-related aspects of Letters of Request and the time required to process them. Some of the following information is based on their records. It is only of limited informative value. An answer to this question is also given by the European Union”.
Hong Kong SAR	Yes – manual for incoming and outgoing
Hungary	Other – “The general electronic register system of the Ministry of Justice is used for cases relating to the Service Convention. This system stores basic data of the cases for identification purposes, therefore more detailed information is kept in the paper based files”.
India	Yes – manual for incoming and outgoing
Ireland	Other – “Using Excel spreadsheet – no specific case management system”.
Israel	Yes – manual for incoming and outgoing
Japan	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Kazakhstan	Yes - electronic for incoming and outgoing
Latvia	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Lithuania	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Mexico	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Nicaragua	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Montenegro	Yes – electronic for incoming only
Norway	Yes – electronic for incoming only
Philippines	Yes - manual for incoming and outgoing
Poland	No
Portugal	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Serbia	Yes – electronic for incoming and outgoing
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	Yes - electronic for incoming and outgoing
Sweden	Other – “Not at the moment. See also response of the EU”.
United Kingdom	Yes – manual for incoming and outgoing

United States of America	Yes – electronic for incoming only
Viet Nam	Other – “The Ministry of Justice of Viet Nam uses Mutual Legal Assistance Request Management Software for both incoming and outgoing requests. However, this software mainly focuses on following up the work done by the Ministry of Justice. Thus, the input are based on requests or results of the requests received by the MOJ”.

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(4) If your State’s Central Authority has oversight for all outgoing requests, please indicate if there is a system used to track the progress of these.	
Argentina	No
Australia	Other – “The Australian Central Authority does not have oversight of outgoing requests”
Austria	No
Belgium	Other – “Nous n’avons pas de droit de regard sur les dossiers sortants”.
Brazil	Yes – electronic.
Bulgaria	No
China	No
Croatia	Yes – electronic.
Czech Republic	Other – “Outgoing requests are usually transmitted directly from a judicial authority to the CA of the requested State. However, in some cases, the Letters of Request are transmitted via Central Authority or via diplomatic channels. In these cases, Letters of Request are registered by means of electronic case management. The CA maintains an electronic file service (a case management) in which incoming/outgoing requests for legal aid are registered. The case management enables to monitor the status of their processing”.
Estonia	Yes – electronic.
France	Oui - électronique
Georgia	Yes – manual
Germany	Other – “An answer to this question is also given by the European Union”.
Hong Kong SAR	Yes – manual
Hungary	Other – “See response to question No. 3. All incoming and outgoing correspondence is registered in the case register electronically but the substance can only be known from the file”.
India	No
Ireland	Other – “Using Excel spreadsheet – no specific case management system”.
Israel	Yes – manual
Japan	Yes – electronic
Kazakhstan	Yes – electronic
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Mexico	No
Nicaragua	No
Montenegro	No
Norway	Other – “Unknown”.
Philippines	Yes - manual
Poland	No

Portugal	Other – “The requests sent through the central authority are overseen using our case Management System, but as general principle requests are sent directly without the intervention of the central authority”.
Serbia	Yes – electronic
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	Other – “Please see response of the EU”.
United Kingdom	Yes – manual
United States of America	Other – “The U.S. Central Authority does not have oversight for outgoing requests”.
Viet Nam	Other – “The Mutual Legal Assistance Request Management Software has some functions such as reminding and alerting when there is no reply for outgoing requests which were sent for a specific time (usually more than 6 months)”.

II. Scope of the Convention

(5) In the previous five years, has your State experienced any difficulties in interpreting the scope of the Service Convention?	
Argentina	Other – “Articles 8 and 9 of the Service Convention”.
Australia	No
Austria	No
Brazil	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “We do not have clear information about which countries would accept requests under the Convention related to administrative matters or related to administrative improbity”.
Bulgaria	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “Receiving requests for service in Bulgaria of documents issued by customs and tax authorities of other Contracting States”.
Canada	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “Yes, one Central Authority received several requests related to proceedings in taxation matters. Oui, une autorité centrale a reçu plusieurs demandes relatives à des procédures en matière fiscale”.
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “Some requesting authorities try to include in the material scope of the Service Convention also administrative or financial proceedings”.
Estonia	Yes, other – “Sometimes there have been problems when the person’s address is not known. We have been advised to the HCCH 1970 request before”.
France	Oui, concernant l’interprétation de l’expression « matière civile ou commerciale » (art. 1) – “S’il est unanimement admis que cette expression exclut la matière pénale, la question du droit public est plus problématique. En pratique, sauf exceptions, une définition large est adoptée afin de faciliter les procédures de notification des actes à l’étranger. Ainsi la notification d’un acte judiciaire dans le cadre d’une procédure pendante devant une juridiction judiciaire relève de la matière civile et commerciale quand bien-même l’administration est partie au litige”.
Georgia	No

Germany	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “Distinction between private and public law matters; outgoing requests for service of interlocutory orders pursuant to the Act on Protection against violence according to Section 210 of the Act on Proceedings in Family Matters and in Matters of Non-contentious Jurisdiction (FamFG); Service of documents where split-recovery statutes will apply; in these cases parts of the amount a plaintiff would receive will be deposited into a general state fund”.
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “Requests sent by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission were questionable for us, as its activity is not considered of civil nature in Hungary, nevertheless the requests were accomplished in the end”.
India	Yes, other – “Sometimes foreign authorities dont mention complete address of both of the parties (petitioner / respondent). The translated version of the requests is also not provided many times due to which the same are returned”.
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “Are personal status proceedings included within ‘civil and commercial matters’. Are administrative notices (such as fines, etc.) included”.
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Yes, other – “Use of language, for example, USA and UK in cases where the request is sent by our Country according to section c) of the Model form of the request, has been refused, although all rules were followed”.
Lithuania	No
Mexico	No
Nicaragua	No
Montenegro	No
Philippines	No
Poland	No
Portugal	No
Romania	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “[T]he exclusion of the administrative law”. Other – “[T]he exclusion of the administrative law; the exclusion of the acta de iuri imperii”.
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	Yes, regarding the interpretation of “civil or commercial matters” (Art. 1) – “The 1965 Service Convention is not applicable on administrative matters (article 1 in the Convention). It can sometimes be difficult to distinguish administrative matters from civil and commercial matters. Administrative courts and authorities make several efforts to apply for service in administrative matters and there applications have been rejected”.
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	No

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(6) Is the concept of “extrajudicial documents” (Art. 17) defined in the internal law of your State?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	No
Brazil	Yes - “Article 726, of the CCP. The extrajudicial notification consists of a legal document that requires the payment of some debt, demanding the fulfillment of some non-compliance contract or cessation of an activity that is infringing the law”.
Bulgaria	No
Canada	No
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	No
Estonia	Yes - “Within the EU, the concept of ‘extrajudicial documents’ within the meaning of the Service of Documents Regulation has been interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union in its judgment of 11 November 2015 in case C-223/14 Tecom Mican and Arias Domínguez encompassing not only documents drawn up or certified by a public authority or official but also private documents of which the formal transmission to an addressee residing abroad is necessary for the purposes of exercising, proving or safeguarding a right or a claim in civil or commercial law. Furthermore, according to Recital 8 of the Service of Documents Recast Regulation the term ‘extrajudicial documents’ should be understood to include documents that have been drawn up or certified by a public authority or official, and other documents of which the formal transmission to an addressee residing in another Member State is necessary for the purposes of exercising, proving or safeguarding a right or a claim in civil or commercial law. The term ‘extrajudicial documents’ should not be understood to include documents issued by administrative authorities for the purposes of administrative proceedings”.
France	Non, il n’existe pas de définition codifiée. “Pour la doctrine et la jurisprudence, l’acte extrajudiciaire est un acte signifié par un officier ministériel et produisant des effets juridiques en dehors de toute procédure judiciaire”.
Georgia	No
Germany	No
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	“Concept not defined but referred to in Superior and Circuit Courts Rules - https://www.courts.ie/rules/service-documents-outside-jurisdiction-hague-convention https://www.courts.ie/rules/service-eu-member-states-including-state-judicial-and-extra-judicial-documents-si-no-883-2004 ”
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	Yes - “[F]rom notaries, lawyers, bailiff”.
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	Yes - “The domestic law of Nicaragua as such does not have a definition for extrajudicial documents but according to the general understanding of the legal terminology and the context of extrajudicial documents, it refers to those

	processes that are not linked to legal proceedings before courts or judicial processes”.
Norway	No
Philippines	Yes
Poland	No
Portugal	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	Yes – “We refer to the relevant part of the European Union reply”.
Sweden	Yes – “Not in a Swedish national law. See also response of the EU”.
United Kingdom	No – “The concept of ‘extrajudicial documents’ is defined in the internal law of Northern Ireland”.
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	No

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(7) What types of extrajudicial documents are transmitted under the Service Convention by your State?	
Argentina	“Mediation, Arbitration Awards and Administrative Resolutions”.
Australia	“Under Australian law, the instances in which an extrajudicial document would need to be transmitted for service under the Convention are, in practice, very limited. Unfortunately, the Australian authorities do not have oversight of these instances”.
Austria	“None”.
Brazil	“All permitted by domestic law”.
Bulgaria	“Documents issued by enforcements agents and notaries”.
Canada	“It is not possible to know if any extrajudicial documents have been transmitted for service abroad as forward authorities are private sector lawyers and Quebec notaries (for non-litigious matters only) and the government of Canada does not have access to their professional records. Il n'est pas possible de savoir si des actes extrajudiciaires ont été transmis pour signification ou notification à l'étranger, car les autorités expéditrices sont des avocat.es du secteur privé et des notaires du Québec (pour les affaires non contentieuses uniquement) et le gouvernement du Canada n'a pas accès à leurs dossiers professionnels”.
China	“China has not submitted any request for service of extrajudicial documents. However, we have received requests from other contracting parties for assistance in serving foreign extrajudicial documents such as notice of payment, lawyer’s letter, etc. After review, China has assisted in implementing the aforementioned request”.
Croatia	“Any document that is issued or verified by public authority and that is needed for realization, proving or preservation of rights in civil and commercial matters”.
Czech Republic	“There is not any internal definition of „extrajudicial documents“ in the Czech civil law; however, the Czech Courts shall take into account the concept of „extrajudicial documents“ within the meaning of the Service of Documents Regulation and the interpretation of this concept done by the Court of Justice of the European Union (judgement of 11 November 2015 in case C -223/14 Tecom Mican and Arias Domínguez)”.

France	“Sommmation de payer, contrat de bail, congé, protêt, commandement de saisie”.
Georgia	“Up to date, Central Authority of Georgia has not received requests concerning the service of extrajudicial documents”.
Germany	“Most requests for service of such documents concern notarial documents and administrative documents especially in child support cases”.
Hong Kong SAR	“We do not keep information on the types of extrajudicial documents, if any, that are transmitted under the Service Convention”.
Hungary	“Documents issued by civil law notaries (in succession cases), decisions on land registry offices on registration of in rem rights on immovable properties”.
India	“Documents/requests of authorities related to Customs, Indirect Taxation, Direct taxation, etc. are received and processed”.
Ireland	“No monitored in depth”.
Israel	“Unknown”
Japan	“A notarial deed prepared by a notary with regard to a claim for payment of a certain amount of money or any other fungible thing or a certain amount of securities, which contains a statement to the effect that the obligor will immediately accept compulsory execution is considered to be extrajudicial document”.
Kazakhstan	“All the documents we are requested”.
Latvia	“N/A”.
Lithuania	“Advance notice regarding claim of child support, an invoice, an eviction notice, etc. Note as regards concept of ‘extrajudicial documents’: according to EU Service Regulation 2020/1784, which applies directly within EU Member states, ‘the term ‘extrajudicial documents’ should be understood to include documents that have been drawn up or certified by a public authority or official, and other documents of which the formal transmission to an addressee residing in another Member State is necessary for the purposes of exercising, proving or safeguarding a right or a claim in civil or commercial law”.
Montenegro	“Competent authorities (notaries, public bailiffs and state bodies)”.
Nicaragua	“Our legislation in accordance with article 600 of the Code of Civil Procedure of Nicaragua, indicates the types of non-judicial (extrajudicial) documents which are the following "... 1-The public deed as long as it is the first testimony, and the second and third copies of the testimony issued with judicial authorization in accordance with the Notarial Law and with the knowledge of the persons to whom those who harm; 2- The authentic document issued by a competent public official, officials or employee, with the solemnities required by law; 3-The securities and other commercial documents that, having fulfilled the requirements established by the law, they are given executive force; 4- Arbitration awards, transactions and agreements signed between the parties arising from any of the alternative forms of conflict resolution; ...)”.
Norway	“The County Governor’s decision on separation and divorce - The Norwegian labour and Welfare services decisions on child support - Payment notices’ and orders for unpaid invoices”.
Philippines	“Title I, Item 5(g) of Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 251-2020 (<i>Guidelines on the Implementation in the Philippines of the Hague Service Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters</i>) dated 11 September 2020 defines “extrajudicial documents” as one referring to any private or public document not directly connected with pending or terminated lawsuits before courts. These shall include, but not limited to, demands for payment, notices to quit in connection with leaseholds, and protests in connection with bills of exchange (<i>citing Report on the Work of the Special</i>

	<i>Commission on the Operation of the Convention of November 15, 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters</i>)”.
Poland	“Unknown – no statistics”.
Portugal	“Extrajudicial documents are transmitted from public authorities, for example in succession procedures (by notaries)”.
Romania	“Documents issued by the bailiff or public notaries”.
Serbia	“Different types of submissions by participants in court proceedings”.
Slovakia	“N/A”
United Kingdom	“None”.
United States of America	“Most incoming requests are only for judicial documents; however, some of the requests for service of extrajudicial documents that have been transmitted are from attorneys, usually in connection with litigation or in anticipation of litigation, notices from foreign government agencies, or settlement demands from prosecutor’s offices”.

III. Operation of the Convention

(8) As the requested State, does your State provide assistance to locate a person to be served under the Service Convention?	
Argentina	No
Australia	Yes – “The lack of formal address registration in Australia makes it difficult for authorities to provide assistance to locate a person. Generally, requesting authorities are advised to consult publicly available registers, such as the Australian Electoral Commission (for natural persons), and the Australian Business Register or the registers of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Registers (for legal persons). Some jurisdictions are able to provide limited assistance, for example, where the addressee has moved, a bailiff or process server may make enquiries with the new resident or neighbours in relation to a forwarding address”.
Austria	Yes
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes – “The Central Authority and other authorities have access to governmental databases to locate the persons to be served. The Superior Court of Justice also determines that water, electricity and telephone companies provide information. Judicial Officers call any phone number provided, try to fix incomplete addresses and talk to neighbours and other people that could help determining if the person lives in or around the provided address”.
Bulgaria	Yes – “The Court may consult with the National Database “Population”, the Commercial Register and Register of Non-profit Legal Entities”.
Canada	Yes – “Some, but not all, Central Authorities will attempt to serve documents at more than one address, conduct internet searches or consult available government records to attempt to locate a person to be served under the Convention. Oui - Certaines Autorités centrales, mais pas toutes, tenteront de signifier des documents à plusieurs adresses, effectueront des recherches sur Internet ou consulteront les registres gouvernementaux disponibles pour tenter de localiser une personne devant être signifiée ou notifiée en vertu de la Convention”.

China	Yes – “The court would try to locate the person to be served. It is therefore advisable that the requesting State provide contact information of the addressee whenever possible”.
Croatia	Yes – “Judges of the First instance Courts have possibility to use all tools prescribed by Croatian Civil procedure act. Under the provisions of mentioned Act obligation on determining or checking address by official duty is not prescribed, such obligation is prescribed in enforcement procedure that's process is initiated on authentic document”.
Czech Republic	Yes – “The Czech competent courts provide some kind of assistance to requesting authorities to locate a person (an addressee) to be served – we mean the correcting or clarifying an incorrect address. For this purpose the Czech requested authorities need to know the date of birth and the last known address of the person to be served in the Czech Republic. However, the Service Convention shall not be abused for address searching”.
Estonia	Yes – “Referring to EU reply”.
France	Non – “[L]a France ne disposant pas d'autorité compétente pour procéder à la recherche d'adresse ou de registre de population. Les requérants sont invités à consulter des sites d'information (Service public, pages blanches, Infogreffe)”.
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes – “In some cases assistance might be provided by getting information from the municipal registration office, or from a commercial register in cases the person to be served is a company”.
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	Yes – “If the person of whom the procedural actions should be performed does not located at the address indicated in the documents, then the court executing the order independently takes measures to establish his place of residence”.
Latvia	No
Lithuania	Yes – “To the extent possible and subject to functional capabilities, the Chamber of Judicial Officers may provide such assistance”.
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	Yes – “The designated notifier strives for the notification to be positive, seeking other addresses in the systems at our disposal”.
Philippines	Yes – “Limited assistance only. For instance, if the sheriff or the process server can identify the new location of the intended party, the former may locate the latter in its new address, and serve the documents”.
Poland	Yes – “[I]f the address is incorrect and there is an opportunity to identify a new address”.
Portugal	Yes – “If the request is to executed under our national law, there is a possibility to locate the address of the person to be served. Although, a specific request for that purpose is recommended, otherwise, there is a strong possibility that such a service is not provided. The access to some databases depends on a decision from the judge”.
Serbia	No

Slovenia	Yes – “Courts have access to the population register and are authorised on their own initiative or if so requested by a requesting court to acquire information on addresses, when an address stated in a request for service is inaccurate or unknown”.
Slovakia	Yes – “We refer to the relevant part of the European Union reply. Furthermore, according to the information available to the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak courts generally accept also requests when incomplete or incorrect address is listed, since Slovak courts are always taking steps to establish current address of addressee. On receipt of the request Slovak courts usually automatically check the current address of addressee in the Central Register of Inhabitants of the Slovak Republic, The Social Insurance Agency and in the register of prisoners. Further, according to the information available to the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak courts also try to find the whereabouts of the addressee in cases when address in the request is not outdated (in situations when court tried to serve the documents to the address stated in the request, however service is not effective due to the fact that address of addressee has changed)”.
Sweden	Yes – “Firstly, there is a control whether the addressee can be identified in the National Population Register or not. Secondly, service will be proceeded at the registered address”.
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Yes – “The U.S. Central Authority delegated the ministerial act of service on private individuals and companies pursuant to the Convention to ABC Legal Services, a process server. All incoming requests for service under the Convention for private individuals and companies are transmitted to and executed by ABC Legal Services. ABC Legal will attempt to resolve issues with incomplete or incorrect addresses by finding the closest possible match to the address provided in the request. If, in the course of attempts to serve, it is discovered that the subject or entity can no longer be found at the requested address, ABC Legal provides a complimentary investigation to locate the subject. ABC Legal’s investigation department can use a name, previous address, and/or date of birth to conduct a search to find a new or updated address. If a valid new address is identified, ABC Legal will confirm with the foreign applicant whether a new attempt at service should be made for an additional fee”.
Viet Nam	Yes – “The Central Authority and competent authorities of Viet Nam provide assistance to locate a person to be served under the Service Convention when several following conditions are fulfilled: First, the forwarding authority has to provide a relatively sufficient address of the addressee. Usually, a sufficient address contains the house number, street, ward, district, city/ province. [To some areas, the information of quarter or group (subdivision of ward) is necessary]. A relatively sufficient address may lack some parts but at least must contain basic information of ward, district, city/ province. Please note that some provinces cannot verify the address within the service process even though the basic information is provided. Second, the forwarding authority should provide other information of the addressee to avoid identical names. Regarding individual addressee, further information may include ID or passport number, date of birth, names of relatives/ family members. Regarding legal entity, further information may include the name of legal representatives, tax number, register number... The phone number of relevant person might help. Insufficient address (contains only the name of district or province) is not qualified for service process, however, foreign authorities can request for taking of evidence to verify the address”.

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(9) As the requesting State, how would your State transmit a document for service upon another State, a State official, or a State-owned company?	
Argentina	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Indirect consular channel (Art. 9(1)) (3) Indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2))
Australia	Other – “In such a situation, diplomatic channels would likely be used, but the question of whether this use of diplomatic channels would be under the Hague Convention has not yet been considered”.
Austria	The Service Convention would not apply
Brazil	The Service Convention would not apply
Bulgaria	The Service Convention would apply: Through indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2))
Canada	Other – “The State would not necessarily be involved in transmitting the documents through the main channel, postal channels and direct communication between interested persons and judicial officers. Documents may be transmitted through any of the channels listed above if the rules of civil procedure applicable to the dispute allow the use of such channels. In some cases, requests sent through the main channel are rejected by the requested State and diplomatic channels are then used. L'État n'interviendrait pas nécessairement dans la transmission des actes par la voie principale, la voie postale et la communication directe entre les personnes intéressées et les huissiers de justice. Les documents peuvent être transmis par l'une des voies énumérées ci-dessus si les règles de procédure civile applicables au litige permettent l'utilisation de ces voies. Dans certains cas, les demandes adressées par la voie principale sont rejetées par l'État requis et la voie diplomatique est alors utilisée”.
China	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Postal channel (Art. 10(a))
Croatia	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 8)
Czech Republic	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2))
Estonia	The Service Convention would not apply
France	La Convention Notification s'appliquerait par : (1) Voie principale de transmission (art. 5) (2) Voies diplomatique et consulaire directes (art. 8)
Georgia	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Postal channel (Art. 10(a))
Germany	Other – “Whether the Service Convention applies can remain open from the German perspective. This is because Germany also considers requests for service on Contracting States, on State officials or in some cases State-owned companies under the Hague Service Convention to be exceptional cases under the Convention in which at least diplomatic transmission is required. Indeed,

	Article 9(2) of the Hague Service Convention provides that documents may be transmitted through diplomatic channels for the purpose of service "if exceptional circumstances so require". In these cases it is for the defendant State to decide whether the request is handed to the Central Authority for execution or the respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms acceptance of service by verbal note. German courts would use diplomatic channels for transmission and the request would be handed to the respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs by verbal note without using the model forms. The term "through the diplomatic channel" is interpreted by Germany as referring to transmissions of documents by the competent authorities of the forum State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the defendant State through the forum State's diplomatic or consular mission in the defendant State. Germany does not accept service to its diplomatic or consular missions".
Hong Kong SAR	Other – "The forwarding authority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China ("Hong Kong SAR, China") has not come across such a situation".
Hungary	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 8)
India	The Service Convention would not apply
Ireland	The Service Convention would apply: Through Postal channel (Art. 10(a))
Israel	Other – "Service upon States and State Officials (sued in their official capacity) - by diplomatic channels. Service upon State-owned companies - through the Service Convention".
Japan	The Service Convention would apply: Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5).
Kazakhstan	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (2) Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 9) (3) Direct communication between judicial officers (Art. 10(b))
Latvia	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 8) (3) Postal channel (Art. 10(a))
Lithuania	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2))
Mexico	The Service Convention would apply: Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5)
Montenegro	The Service Convention would apply: Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5)
Nicaragua	The Service Convention would apply: Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5)
Norway	The Service Convention would apply: Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5)
Philippines	Other – "The Service Convention may apply. Service upon another State, a State official, or State-owned company should observe the proper diplomatic channels. In addition, in situations where there is a Treaty entered into between the Philippines and another State, the same may be preferred".
Poland	The Service Convention would apply: Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5)

Portugal	Other – “Diplomatic channel”.
Romania	Other – “Via diplomatic channel”.
Serbia	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 8)
Slovenia	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmission (Art. 5) (2) Direct diplomatic and consular channel (Art. 8) (3) Indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2)) (4) Postal channel (Art. 10(a))
Slovakia	The Service Convention would not apply
Sweden	Other – “Unknown”.
United Kingdom	Other
United States of America	The Service Convention would apply: (1) Through the Main channel of transmissions (Art. 5) (2) Indirect diplomatic channel (Art. 9(2)) (3) Postal channel (Art. 10(a))
Viet Nam	Other – “It depends. If there is no specific declaration of foreign country on their preferred channel, main channel of the Service Convention can be used in all circumstances. If foreign State is an addressee, indirect diplomatic channel may be used. Postal channel can also be exploited if available”.

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(10) As the requested State, how is a request for service on your State, State official or State-owned company executed?	
Argentina	“The articles 5 or 9 of the Service Convention are applied”.
Australia	“Such a request would ordinarily be transmitted either via diplomatic channels or to the Central Authority, before being forwarded to the relevant Australian authority for execution”.
Austria	“Via the diplomatic way”.
Brazil	“Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs”.
Bulgaria	“When we receive such documents through diplomatic channels we submit the documents for service to the competent Bulgarian authorities on Art. 6”.
Canada	“For requests under Article 5 of the Convention, service would be executed as prescribed by that Article. Pour les demandes relevant de l'article 5 de la Convention, la signification ou la notification s'effectuera selon les modalités prévues par cet article”.
China	By state officials. “For requests for service made through the Hague Convention on Service, Chinese courts review them in accordance with the Convention and domestic law. If the request falls within the circumstances specified in Article 13 of the Convention, we refuse to assist in service”.
Croatia	“Through the provisions of the Convention”.
Czech Republic	“The requests for service on the Czech State, State official or State-owned company are executed according to the Service Convention as the standard requests addressed to any private subject”.
Estonia	“We will forward the request to the court. Court will try to service documents accordingly to Estonian Code of Civil Procedure”.
France	“Voie principale de transmission (art. 5)”.

Georgia	“The Central Authority – The Ministry of justice forwards the incoming requests for service to the competent court of first instance, which executes such requests in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Civil Procedure Code of Georgia (see: https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/29962?publication=134)”.
Germany	“A request is executed via diplomatic channels”.
Hong Kong SAR	“Hong Kong SAR, China has not received such request”.
Hungary	“Under the general rules of service of documents”.
India	By post
Ireland	Postal channel
Israel	“Documents addressed to the State of Israel, including its political subdivisions, agencies, authorities and instrumentalities, and to officials, or agents acting or who acted on behalf of the Government of Israel - service shall be effected, subject to the provisions of the Convention, through the Central Authority”.
Japan	“Main channel of transmission”.
Kazakhstan	“The requests come from the Ministry of External affairs to the Judicial Administration and also comes directly from the central organs of other countries”.
Latvia	“III. Document Delivery Procedures 7. For a legal entity, the document shall be delivered to its registered address. The document shall be serviced to the official or an employee of the legal entity. 8. For a natural person, the document shall be delivered to the address indicated by the submitter in the submission. 9. The document to be delivered to a natural person shall be serviced to the addressee personally. If the addressee cannot be met at the indicated address at the moment of the delivery of the document, the document shall be handed over to a family member or kinsman met at the respective address who has attained the legal age and residing together with the addressee (if the delivery of the document has been made to the address of the residence of the addressee) or to the administration of the workplace (if the delivery of the document has been made to the address of the workplace of the addressee) for servicing it to the addressee. The aforementioned person shall have the duty to service the document to the addressee. The warning to a debtor regarding voluntary sale at auction of immovable property through the court or undisputed enforcement of obligations or a court warning on enforcement of payment obligations envisaged in the Civil Procedure Law shall be serviced only to the addressee personally. 10. If in the process of the delivery of the document a sworn bailiff receives information that the addressee might be met in another address, a sworn bailiff shall inform the submitter about it by using the available means of communications (for example, telephone, electronic mail), and deliver the document to the respective address. 11. The addressee or the person indicated in paragraph 9 herein to whom the document has been handed over for servicing it to the addressee shall confirm the receipt of the document by putting the signature on a copy of the document. As from this moment, the document shall be considered as delivered. 12. If the addressee refuses to accept the document, a sworn bailiff shall inform the addressee about the type of the document and shall explain the consequences of the refusal that come into effect in accordance with paragraph 3 of these Regulations. As from this moment, the document shall be considered as delivered. 13. If the addressee cannot be met at the address indicated in the submission of the submitter and the document cannot be handed over to any of persons indicated in paragraphs 7 or 9 herein, a sworn bailiff shall leave a notice in a closed envelope in the post box of the addressee regarding the attempt to hand over the document to this person and invite the addressee to appear at the office of the sworn bailiff within seven days’ time to receive the

	document. https://lzeti.lv/media/documents/11789/2-03-01_MK_noteikumi_ENG.pdf ".
Lithuania	"No cases identified but, in general, the regular procedure applies: the Central Authority (MoJ) sends the documents to the Chamber of Judicial Officers of Lithuania which organises the service (appoints a judicial officer who serves the documents to the addressee)".
Mexico	"The Petition is sent to the Federal Judicial Council for processing".
Montenegro	"Requests for service are made through basic courts".
Nicaragua	"The document is received by the Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice (Central Authority of Nicaragua), It is verified whether the document has complied with the requirements that Nicaragua requires for the application of said agreement, then it is sent to the Court competent in the matter and territory to hear about said case. It is up to the court or tribunal to issue a resolution ordering the notification of the documents in reference. After the person has been notified, the documents that show whether the notification was positive or negative, the proceedings return to the Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua (central authority), so that the response of compliance with the agreement can be sent through the Ministry. of Foreign Affairs, attaching the annexed form of the agreement, so that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in turn sends the documents to the requesting State".
Philippines	"A request for service on the State, State official, or State-owned company should be coursed through the proper diplomatic channels. Should the circumstances warrants, the service may be executed through the Service Convention or request for judicial assistance (letters rogatory)".
Poland	"By the courts".
Portugal	"First, it should be highlighted that State jurisdictional immunity is subject to public international rules, which therefore affect if and how States are served. Portugal has signed the 1972 European Convention on State Immunity and has ratified the 2004 UN Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property (the latter is not yet into force). Notwithstanding, Portuguese legal scholars and case-law consider that these circumstances should not be a reason to consider their content as irrelevant on the field of State immunity having regard that international custom is a formal source of law (article 8 (1) of the Portuguese Constitution and article 38 (1) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice). Consequently, a special consideration on the service of documents rules set forward on those conventions should be envisaged".
Romania	"Via diplomatic channel".
Serbia	"The request is executed through the competent court".
Slovenia	"In accordance with methods prescribed by our internal law (usually district courts serve documents as the Civil Procedure Code prescribes that they are competent for mutual legal assistance, if a process should be served to a person enjoying immunity, the service shall be effected through diplomatic channels, unless otherwise provided by an international agreement or the Civil Procedure Code of Slovenia)".
Slovakia	"Through diplomatic channels".
Sweden	"The documents will be served with The Cancellor of Justice by postal channel".
United Kingdom	"The Civil Procedure Rules for England and Wales provides the addresses to be used for service in any proceedings against the Crown, which includes Government Departments. The method of service is the same as those permitted for service on other persons or entities".

<p>United States of America</p>	<p>“Requests for service on the United States Government, which includes its officials (when named in an official capacity), departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, can be transmitted to the U.S. Central Authority under Article 5 of the Hague Service Convention or through diplomatic channels under customary international law. If the request for service complies with the requirements of the Hague Service Convention (if serving pursuant to the Convention) and customary international law requirements, service is executed by serving the appropriate United States Government office. While the United States does not object to Article 10 service by postal channels for private individuals or companies, service on the United States Government cannot be effected through Article 10. For more information, please see: https://www.justice.gov/civil/service-requests”.</p>
<p>Viet Nam</p>	<p>“It depends. Requests for service of documents to the State or the Government of Viet Nam should be sent via diplomatic channel. Other requests to serve on State official or State-owned company can still be sent via main channels or other available alternative channels in Viet Nam. If the documents are served through competent authorities of Viet Nam (via main channel or diplomatic channels), the Vietnamese competent authority will use personal service or send the documents via mail. Please note that each request will be considered on a case by case basis”.</p>

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<p>(11) Does your State serve judicial and extrajudicial documents in the same way?</p>	
<p>Argentina</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Australia</p>	<p>No – “Service of judicial documents is effected by a Sheriff’s Officer, bailiff, or other process server, generally on the request of the Supreme Court of the requested jurisdiction or other relevant authority; Extrajudicial documents are received by the Central Authority and forwarded to a private service provider to arrange service”.</p>
<p>Austria</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Brazil</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Canada</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>China</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>France</p>	<p>Oui</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Germany</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Hong Kong SAR</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Hungary</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>India</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Ireland</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Japan</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Latvia</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lithuania</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Mexico</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	No - "The extrajudicial documents are not processed by a court. That is why they are not notified in the same way but they are sent by the same means".
Norway	Yes
Philippines	Unknown - "The Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the additional Central Authority designated to serve extrajudicial documents, has yet to issue its guidelines to establish the rules on said service".
Poland	Yes
Portugal	Yes
Romania	Yes
Serbia	Yes
Slovenia	Unknown
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes - "In Scotland the response is unknown".
United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	Yes

A. Main Channel of Transmission (Art. 5)

(12) In your State, what are the authorities or who are the persons competent to forward a request for service to a foreign Central Authority?	
Argentina	Central Authority(ies)
Australia	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Registrars (3) Process servers (4) Central Authority(ies) Other - "Any court official, or any other person or entity authorised by the rules of the relevant court".
Austria	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies)
Belgium	(1) Prosecutors (2) Registrars (3) Huissiers
Brazil	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Registrars (3) Central Authority(ies).
Bulgaria	Central Authority(ies)
Canada	Other - "Attorney General for Canada - Attorney General, Ministry of the Attorney General or Minister of Justice of a province or territory - Clerks of the courts and their deputies for a judicial or a court district. - Court Registrars (Saskatchewan) - Central Authority for Alberta - Deputy Minister of Justice, Northwest Territories - Huissiers and sheriffs - Local registrars - Members of the law societies of all provinces and territories - Members of the Board of Notaries of the Province of Québec (for non-litigious matters only) - Revenu Québec - Autorité centrale désignée de l'Alberta - Greffiers des cours et leurs adjoints d'un district judiciaire - Huissiers et les shérifs - Membres de la Chambre des notaires de la province de Québec (pour les matières non contentieuses seulement) - Membres des Barreaux des provinces et des territoires - Sous-ministre de la Justice des Territoires du Nord-Ouest - Procureur

	général, le Ministère du Procureur général ou le Ministre de la Justice d'une province ou d'un territoire - Procureur général du Canada - Registraires - Revenu Québec”.
China	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies) “The Ministry of Justice and Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Fujian, Jiangxi, Shandong, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan High People’s Courts”.
Croatia	Central Authority(ies)
Czech Republic	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies) Other - “Outgoing requests are usually transmitted directly from a judicial authority to the CA of the requested State. However, in some cases, the Letters of Request are transmitted via Central Authority or via diplomatic channels. In these cases, Letters of Request are registered by means of electronic case management. The CA maintains an electronic file service (a case management) in which incoming/outgoing requests for legal aid are registered. The case management enables to monitor the status of their processing”.
Estonia	Central Authority(ies)
France	(1) Greffiers (2) Huissiers
Georgia	Central Authority(ies)
Germany	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies)
Hong Kong SAR	Other - “Requests from Hong Kong are forwarded to foreign Central Authorities by the Chief Secretary for Administration’s Office of Hong Kong, which is an “other authority” designated by the People’s Republic of China under Article 18”.
Hungary	Central Authority(ies)
India	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Prosecutors (3) Central Authority(ies)
Ireland	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies)
Israel	Central Authority(ies)
Japan	Other - “[P]residing judge; authorized judge; commissioned judge”.
Kazakhstan	Central Authority(ies)
Latvia	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies)
Lithuania	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies)
Mexico	Courts / Tribunals
Montenegro	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Huissiers Other - “Notaries and state bodies”.
Nicaragua	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies)
Norway	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Central Authority(ies) Other - “Forbrukerklageutvalget (The Consumer complaints Committee (unofficial translation) - Husleietvistutvalget (Rent Disputes Tribunal, for house tenants) - Parkeringsklagenemnda (an dispute resolution agency for

	sanctions or removal of vehicles) - County Social Welfare Boards - The enforcement officers - County Governors”.
Philippines	Courts / Tribunals Other – “Title I, Item 5(d) of A.O. No. 251-2020 defines “forwarding authority” as one referring to the authority or judicial officer of the Requesting State competent to forward the request for service. All justices and Clerks of Court of collegiate courts, and Judges of lower courts are designated as Forwarding Authorities in the Philippines”.
Poland	Courts / Tribunals
Portugal	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Registrars (3) Huissiers (4) Central Authority(ies) Other – “Solicitors, Lawyers”.
Romania	Central Authority(ies)
Serbia	Courts / Tribunals
Slovenia	Courts / Tribunals
Slovakia	Courts / Tribunals Others - “[N]otaries (in inheritance proceedings and in proceedings seeking to reconstitute a lost or destroyed legal instrument, such as a title deed [konanie o umorení listiny])”.
Sweden	Courts / Tribunals Other – “Courts, enforcement agencies and other authorities serve documents in civil and commercial matters”.
United Kingdom	Central Authority(ies)
United States of America	(1) Courts / Tribunals (2) Prosecutors (3) Process servers Other – “The persons and entities within the United States competent to transmit service requests abroad pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention include any court official, any attorney, or any other person or entity authorized by the rules of the court. See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure”.
Viet Nam	Central Authority(ies)

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(13) Do outgoing requests for service have to be transmitted through your State’s Central Authority?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	No
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes – “The outgoing requests have to be transmitted through this Central Authority”.
Bulgaria	Yes – “The Central Authority examines if the documents meet the requirements”.
Canada	No
China	No – “Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Fujian, Jiangxi, Shandong, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan High People’s Courts can also transmit requests to other State’s Central Authority”.
Croatia	Yes – “It is prescribed by internal law of the Republic of Croatia”.
Czech Republic	No

Estonia	Yes – “Under convention yes, in EU countries directly thanks to the regulation”.
France	Non
Georgia	Yes – “According to the reservation N 9 made by Georgia, "For the purposes of: a) Article 2 of the Convention the Ministry of Justice of Georgia shall be designated as the Central Authority; b) Article 6 of the Convention the Courts of First Instance of Georgia are the authorities competent to complete the certificate; c) Article 9 of the Convention the Ministry of Justice of Georgia shall be designated as the authority competent to receive documents forwarded by consular channels." According to the reservation N 7 made by Georgia, "Georgia declares that the documents to be served in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention are forwarded to the Ministry of Justice of Georgia for the purposes of service to the parties". According the Article 2 of the Service Convention and reservations made Georgia, only State's Central Authority is authorized to transmit the outgoing requests for service”.
Germany	No
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes – “Specified knowledge on the application of the Convention and the necessary language qualifications is present at the Central Authority, but these cannot be guaranteed at all courts and other bodies dealing with civil cases”.
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes – “This is according to Israeli law”.
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	Yes – “[I]t depends on law”.
Latvia	Yes – “In case of Article 8 of the Convention”.
Lithuania	No
Mexico	Yes – “Declaration made by the Mexican State”.
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	Yes – “The secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice (central authority), is the organ of communication with the other branches of the State as well as with the judicial officials (art. 171, Law 260 “Organic Law of the Judiciary”)”.
Norway	No
Philippines	Yes
Poland	No
Portugal	No
Romania	Yes – “Art 5 from the L A W NO. 189/2003 regarding international judicial assistance in civil and commercial cases”.
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	Yes – “For Scotland the response is no: outgoing requests do not have to be submitted through the State’s Central Authority”.
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes – “Pursuant to Article 14 Law on Mutual Legal Assistance 2007, requests for mutual legal assistance in civil matters have to be sent via the Ministry of Justice – the Central Authority of Viet Nam. The MOJ will review the eligibility of the requests on the basis of national law, relevant treaties (if available) and specific requirements of foreign countries. It reduces the risk that foreign countries refuse requests from Viet Nam. The MOJ also helps the national

	competent authorities to follow up, communicate with, and remind foreign authorities to execute their requests”.
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(14) As the requested State, when no particular method is requested by the applicant, what is the primary / default method of service? (Art. 5(1)(a))	
Argentina	Court summons
Australia	Personal service
Austria	By post
Belgium	Other – “Le formulaire doit indiquer la forme de notification sollicitée”.
Brazil	By post
Bulgaria	Court summons
Canada	Personal service
China	(1) Personal service (2) By post
Croatia	Personal service
Czech Republic	Other – “If the documents shall be served by the way of the primary / default method of service (Art. 5(1)(a), the Czech Court chooses the appropriate method of service (by electronic means, by Court summon, via standard post) according to § 45 Czech Civil Procedural Code”.
Estonia	By other electronic means
France	Simple remise (acceptation volontaire) (art. 5(2))
Georgia	Court summons
Germany	By post
Hong Kong SAR	Personal service
Hungary	By post
India	By post
Ireland	By post
Israel	By post
Japan	Other – “[D]elivery of the document by mail or by a court execution officer”.
Kazakhstan	Court summons
Latvia	Personal service
Lithuania	Personal service
Mexico	Personal service
Montenegro	Informal delivery (voluntary acceptance) (Art. 5(2))
Nicaragua	Court summons
Norway	Other – “(a) Informal delivery (voluntary acceptance) (Art. 5(2)). (b) Personal service. (e) By e-mail. (f) By other electronic means”.
Philippines	Personal service
Poland	By post
Portugal	Personal service
Romania	Personal service
Serbia	Court summons
Slovenia	Other – “Article 89 of the Court Rules: (1) When a request by a foreign court to serve writings is not accompanied by a translation into the Slovenian language, even though required by international treaties or the European union regulations that the writings to be served must be written in the language of the requested country, then the court shall inform the party invited for the first time due to the serving of an act by a foreign court without a translation, that this court act shall be sent by post if the party does not appear in the court at

	the first invitation and the party shall therefore lose the opportunity to decline to accept this foreign court act, unless otherwise provided for by the law, an international treaty or a European Union regulation. (2) A party who appears in court in order to be served in person with a foreign court act without a translation, shall be informed by the court of the right to decline to accept it. (3) A court shall deliver a foreign writing under the regulations applicable for the deliveries of writings of domestic courts, unless differently requested in a request based on an international treaty, the law or a European union regulation”.
Slovakia	Other – “Art. 5(1)(a) - If the documents are in Slovak language (or with translation to Slovak language), Slovak courts serve the documents by post ‘Into own hands of addressee’ (personal service)”.
Sweden	Other – “Personal service by a Police process server (upon presentation of valid identification) and personal service by post (upon presentation of valid identification)”.
United Kingdom	Personal service – “In Scotland, post is the primary / default method of service”.
United States of America	Personal service
Viet Nam	Other – “Normally, the judicial official will bring the documents to the requested address to serve on the addressee personally. Less frequently used method is service by post. Other informal way is court summons to serve at the courthouse. During the pandemic, when personal service was impossible, the Vietnamese competent authority may execute the request by post or serve via the person in charge in each quarantine site”.

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(15) In the previous five years, as the requested State, has your State received a request with a particular method of service requested by the applicant? (Art. 5(1)(b))	
Argentina	No
Australia	Yes
Austria	Unknown
Belgium	Yes
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	No
Canada	Yes
China	Yes
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	Unknown
France	Non
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	Yes
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	Yes
Israel	Yes
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	Yes

Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	Unknown
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	No
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	Yes - "Request for Service through Publication by the Registrar of the High Court, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the year 2021".
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Yes
Romania	Yes
Serbia	Yes
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes - "In Northern Ireland the response is no".
United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	No

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(15.1) If yes, what method of service was requested?	
Australia	(1) By e-mail (2) By other electronic means Other - "Request for addressee to sign an acknowledgement of service from the State of Origin".
Belgium	Personal service
Brazil	Personal service
Canada	(1) Personal service (2) By email
China	(1) Personal service (2) Court Summons Other - "According to the Chinese Civil Procedure Law, personal service or service by leaving the documents with the recipient is possible. But the Forwarding Party should clearly specify this under Option a) of the Request Form if it requires so".
Czech Republic	Personal service
Germany	Personal service
Hong Kong SAR	Personal service
Ireland	Personal service
Israel	(1) Personal service (2) By email
Japan	By post Other - "[D]elivered by marshal".
Kazakhstan	Court summons
Philippines	"Request for Service through Publication by the Registrar of the High Court, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the year 2021".
Portugal	Other - "Personal service with a document to be signed by the person to be served".
Romania	Personal service

Serbia	Personal service
Sweden	Personal service
United Kingdom	(1) Personal service (2) By post (3) By e-mail
United States of America	(1) Personal service (2) By post

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(15.2) If yes, was the requested method of service able to be executed?	
Australia	Yes
Belgium	Yes
Brazil	Yes
Canada	No - "The request for service by email was not executed as there are no procedure in place for service by such method. La demande de signification par courriel n'a pas été exécutée car il n'y a pas de procédure en place pour la signification par une telle méthode".
China	Yes
Czech Republic	Unknown
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	Yes
Ireland	No - "No facilities or resources to effect personal service".
Israel	Yes
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	Yes
Portugal	Yes
Romania	Yes
Serbia	Yes
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Unknown
United States of America	Yes

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(16) In the previous five years, as the requesting State, has your State's forwarding authorities requested a particular method of service? (Art. 5(1)(b))	
Argentina	No
Australia	Unknown
Austria	Unknown
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	No
Canada	Unknown
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	Unknown
France	Inconnu
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes

Hong Kong SAR	Yes
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes
Japan	Unknown
Kazakhstan	Yes
Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	Unknown
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	No
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	No
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Yes
Romania	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	Unknown
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	Unknown
United Kingdom	Yes – “In Northern Ireland, the response is no”.
United States of America	Unknown
Viet Nam	No

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(16.1) If yes, what particular method of service was requested?	
Brazil	Personal service
Czech Republic	Personal service
Germany	Personal service Other – “Substituted Service”.
Hong Kong SAR	Other – “Publication on newspaper”.
Israel	Personal service Other – “By publishing in newspapers”.
Kazakhstan	Court Summons
Portugal	Personal service
Slovakia	Other – “‘Into own hands of addressee’ (personal service) - special method required by national law (Act No 160/2015, the Contentious Civil Procedure Code)”.
United Kingdom	(1) Personal service (2) By post (3) Court summons

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(16.2) If yes, was the requested method of service able to be executed?

Brazil	Yes
Czech Republic	Unknown
Germany	Unknown
Hong Kong SAR	Yes
Israel	Yes
Kazakhstan	Yes
Portugal	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
United Kingdom	Unknown

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(16.3) If yes, were there costs associated with this method of service?	
Brazil	No
Czech Republic	Unknown
Germany	Yes – “In some cases: bailiff costs when the document was served by a bailiff”.
Hong Kong SAR	Yes
Israel	No
Kazakhstan	No
Portugal	Yes – “Some States have costs associated to personal service”.
Slovakia	Yes – “Costs of personal service”.
United Kingdom	No

B. Alternative Channels of Transmission (Arts 8, 9 & 10)

(17) As the State of origin, does your State use the “Warning” and “Summary” sections of the Model Form when transmitting a request through alternative channels?	
Argentina	Always
Australia	Unknown
Austria	Unknown
Brazil	Always
Bulgaria	Sometimes
Canada	Sometimes – “Use of the “Warning” and “Summary” sections of the Model Form is mandated by the rules of civil procedure applicable in some jurisdictions in Canada. L'utilisation des sections « Avertissement » et « Éléments essentiels de l'acte » du formulaire type est mandatée par les règles de procédure civile applicables dans certaines administrations au Canada”.
China	Always
Croatia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Czech Republic	Sometimes – “However, the Czech requesting authorities (Czech Courts) are instructed to use both sections of the Model Form”.
Estonia	Always
France	Jamais
Georgia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Germany	Sometimes – “‘Warning’ and ‘Summary’ Sections are not used when requests are transmitted according to Art. 8; When the request is delivered by post, Art. 10, courts use a German model form (ZRH 6) as determined by the German domestic Regulation on Judicial Assistance in Civil Matters (Zivilrechtshilfeordnung – ZRHO)”.

Hong Kong SAR	Unknown
Hungary	Unknown
India	Unknown
Ireland	Unknown
Israel	Sometimes
Japan	Never
Kazakhstan	Always
Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Mexico	Always
Montenegro	Unknown
Nicaragua	Always
Norway	Always
Philippines	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels. "The Philippines made the following declaration/reservation/notification: (a) Pursuant to Article 8, the Philippines objects to service of judicial documents directly through diplomatic or consular agents upon persons in its territory, unless the document is served upon a national of the State in which the documents originate; and (b) the Philippines objects to the transmission channels under paragraphs a and c as provided for in Article 10 of the Convention".
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Sometimes – "The warning form is not always used".
Serbia	Unknown
Slovenia	Unknown
Slovakia	Unknown
Sweden	Unknown
United Kingdom	Always – "In Northern Ireland the response is not applicable. This is due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels".
United States of America	Unknown
Viet Nam	Never

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(18) As the State of destination, does your State use the "Certificate" section of the Model Form when informing whether documents have been served (in response to a request received through alternative channels)?

Argentina	Sometimes
Australia	Sometimes – "Usage differs between Australian jurisdictions, though in most cases the Certificate section is not used, as the requested jurisdiction either provides its own certificate or an equivalent proof of service, such as an affidavit".
Austria	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Brazil	Always
Bulgaria	Always
Canada	Always
China	Always
Croatia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Czech Republic	Always
Estonia	Always

France	Parfois – “Même si les attestations ne sont pas toujours complétées, des procès-verbaux sont annexés aux actes précisant les motifs de remise ou de non remise”.
Georgia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Germany	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Hong Kong SAR	Unknown
Hungary	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
India	Always
Ireland	Unknown
Israel	Always
Japan	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Kazakhstan	Always
Latvia	Always
Lithuania	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Mexico	Always
Montenegro	Unknown
Nicaragua	Always
Norway	Always
Philippines	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Always
Romania	Sometimes – “The content of the warning and of the Summary is included in the judicial document”.
Serbia	Always
Slovenia	Unknown
Slovakia	Unknown
Sweden	Always
United Kingdom	Always – “In Scotland it is unknown whether the “Certificate” section is used, and in Northern Ireland the response is not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels”.
United States of America	Unknown
Viet Nam	Never

*_*_*

(19) In the previous five years, have the diplomatic or consular agents of your State directly effected service of judicial or extrajudicial documents upon a person abroad? (Art. 8(1))

Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	Unknown
Belgium	Yes
Brazil	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Bulgaria	No
Canada	No
China	Yes – “Only to Chinese people”.
Croatia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	Unknown
France	Oui
Georgia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods

Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	Yes
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	Unknown
Latvia	No
Lithuania	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Mexico	No
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Yes
Romania	Unknown
Serbia	Yes
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Unknown
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes

*_*_*

(20) In the previous five years, has service by diplomatic or consular agents of your State been rejected by the addressee? (Art. 8(1))	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	Unknown
Belgium	Yes – “Dans ce cas de figure l’Ambassade n’a aucun moyen de contraindre la notification. Les exploits sont alors retournés par celle-ci au SPF Affaires étrangères qui les retourne à son tour à l’huissier belge en mentionnant le motif de non-notification (refus par le destinataire)”.
Brazil	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Bulgaria	No
Canada	No
China	Yes – “When rejected, diplomatic or consular agents of China will fill in certificates of non-service and send the certificates back to China”.
Croatia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative channels
Czech Republic	Unknown
Estonia	Unknown
France	Inconnu
Georgia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Germany	Yes – “When the addressee rejected the documents, it was not possible to serve the documents according to Art. 8 of the Convention. A certificate of non-service was issued by the diplomatic or consular agent”.

Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Unknown
India	No
Israel	No
Japan	Yes – “Consular delivered documents, but addressee refused complaining the service is not forcible”.
Kazakhstan	Unknown
Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Mexico	No
Montenegro	Unknown
Nicaragua	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	Not applicable, due to the objection made
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Unknown
Romania	Unknown
Serbia	No
Slovenia	Yes – “Since the Article 8(1) provides that service of judicial documents upon persons abroad effected directly through diplomatic or consular agents service can only be made without application of any compulsion, the service is effected only when the addressee accepts document voluntarily”.
Slovakia	Unknown
Sweden	Unknown
United Kingdom	Unknown
United States of America	Unknown
Viet Nam	No

*_*_*

(21) In the previous five years, has your State used consular channels to forward documents? (Art. 9(1))	
Argentina	No
Australia	No
Austria	Unknown
Belgium	Yes
Brazil	No
Bulgaria	No
Canada	Unknown
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Unknown
Estonia	Yes
France	Oui
Georgia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	No

Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	Unknown
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Mexico	No
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	No
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	Yes
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	No
Romania	Yes
Serbia	Unknown
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Unknown – “The response of ‘yes’ on the online questionnaire reflects the fact that Scotland has used consular channels to forward documents. This has not happened in Northern Ireland, and in England & Wales it is unknown”.
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes

*_*_*

(22) In the previous five years, under exceptional circumstances, has your State used diplomatic channels to forward documents? (Art. 9(2))	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	Unknown
Austria	Unknown
Belgium	No
Brazil	No
Bulgaria	Yes – “Explicit request of the court for various reasons, for example, when serving of court’s notification to the debtor for an injunction by means of garnishment of especially large amounts or in case of service to the requested State, its diplomatic representation or State official”.
Canada	Unknown
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes - “Letters of Request are usually transmitted directly from a judicial authority to the CA of the requested State. However, there are Contracted Parties that have not designated their CA, or that do not have a direct postal connection with the Czech Republic. In that case, the Letters of Request are transmitted via diplomatic channels”.
Estonia	Unknown
France	Non
Georgia	Not applicable, due to the objection made on the use of alternative methods
Germany	Yes – “See answer Q9”.
Hong Kong SAR	No

Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	Unknown
Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	No
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	Yes – “Nicaragua’s diplomatic channel is through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and our domestic law, article 123 of Act No. 260 Organic Law on the Judiciary, states that: “When a foreign judge is commissioned for the practice of judicial proceedings, a commission shall be sent legalized through the Supreme Court of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs...” That is why diplomatic channels are always being pursued”.
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	Yes
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	Unknown
Romania	Yes – “Service upon another State”.
Serbia	Unknown
Slovenia	Unknown
Slovakia	No
Sweden	Yes – “Initially during the war in Ukraine, the postal service was suspended to Russia”.
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Yes – “Requests for service through diplomatic channels, traditionally under customary international law, have been transmitted for service on a foreign state. The process for outgoing requests for service on a foreign state is governed by 28 U.S.C. § 1608(a)”.
Viet Nam	Yes – “Diplomatic channel is used to serve documents on individuals or entities in other Member States when main channel and other channels are not available (e.g: during the pandemic). As stipulated above, if the addressee is a foreign State or Government, Viet Nam may consider sending the documents through diplomatic channel”.

*_*_*

(23) Has your State (as the State of destination) objected to service under Article 10(a)?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	Yes
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes
Canada	No
China	Yes
Croatia	Yes
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	No

France	Non
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	No
Lithuania	Yes
Mexico	Yes
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes
Norway	Yes
Philippines	Yes
Poland	Yes
Portugal	No
Romania	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	No

*_*_*

(23.1) If an objection has been made under Article 10(a), does your State continue to use postal channels for service as the State of origin, despite the objection?

Argentina	Unknown
Austria	Unknown
Brazil	No
Bulgaria	Unknown
China	Yes - "Post channels are used only when the State of destination does not object to service under Article 10(a)".
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes
Germany	Yes
Hungary	Yes
Ireland	Yes
Japan	No
Lithuania	No
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	No
Norway	Yes

Poland	Yes
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes

*_*_*

(23.2) If no objection has been made, does your State, as the State of destination, accept the use of postal channels for service from other States of origin that have made an objection under Article 10(a)?

Australia	Yes
Belgium	Yes
Canada	Yes
Estonia	Unknown
France	Inconnu
Georgia	Yes
India	Yes
Ireland	Yes
Israel	Yes
Kazakhstan	Yes
Latvia	No
Portugal	Yes
Serbia	Unknown
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes
United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	Yes

*_*_*

(23.3) If no objection has been made, which of the following categories does your State recognise as a “postal channel” under Article 10(a)?

Australia	(1) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (2) Private courier, such as FedEx Other – “Please note that Australia has also declared that service by post must be permitted in the jurisdiction where process is to be served”.
Canada	Other – “There is no specific rule applicable to judicial or extrajudicial documents served in Canada if they relate to proceedings taking place outside of Canada. Il n'y a pas de règle particulière applicable aux actes judiciaires ou extrajudiciaires signifiés ou notifiés au Canada s'ils se rapportent à des procédures se déroulant à l'extérieur du Canada”.
Estonia	(1) Regular post (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (3) E-mail (4) e-Post via State postal agency
France	(1) Courrier postal (2) Courrier recommandé (suivi), avec reçu
Georgia	Regular post
India	(1) Regular post (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt

Ireland	(1) Regular post – “[F]or limited companies”; (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt – “For natural persons”.
Israel	(1) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (2) Private courier, such as FedEx
Kazakhstan	Regular post
Latvia	(1) Regular post (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (3) Private courier, such as FedEx (4) E-mail
Portugal	(1) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (2) Private courier, such as FedEx
Romania	Registered (tracked) post, with receipt
Serbia	Regular post
Sweden	(1) Regular post (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt
United Kingdom	(1) Regular post (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt
United States of America	(1) Regular post (2) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (3) Private courier, such as FedEx (4) E-mail
Viet Nam	(1) Registered (tracked) post, with receipt (2) Private courier, such as FedEx

*_*_*

(23.4) If no objection has been made, more specifically, would your State consider service by e-mail to be analogous to service by postal channels under Art. 10(a)?

Australia	Unknown – “While the principle of functional equivalence is generally accepted in Australian law, this particular question has not yet been formally considered”.
Canada	Unknown – “There is no specific rule applicable to judicial or extrajudicial documents served in Canada if they relate to proceedings taking place outside of Canada. Il n'y a pas de règle particulière applicable aux actes judiciaires ou extrajudiciaires signifiés ou notifiés au Canada s'ils se rapportent à des procédures se déroulant à l'extérieur du Canada”.
Estonia	Yes
France	Non – “Le droit national n'autorise pas la signification ou la notification d'un acte par simple courrier électronique. La signification électronique est possible sous réserve de respecter plusieurs conditions (doit garantir la fiabilité de l'identification des parties, l'intégrité des documents, la sécurité des échanges, et doit comporter la mention du consentement du destinataire et la date et l'heure de la signification)”.
Georgia	Yes
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Yes
Portugal	No

Romania	No
Serbia	No
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	No

*_*_*

(23.5) If no objection has been made, does your State require the documents served to be translated into one of your State’s official languages?	
Australia	No
Canada	No
Estonia	“Cover letter must be in Estonian or English. The rest of the documents, it depends what language the recipient understands”.
France	Non
Georgia	Yes - “Georgia declares that the documents to be served on the territory of Georgia shall be written in the Georgian language or accompanied by a translation into the Georgian language duly certified according to the law of the requesting State”.
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes - “[T]ranslation in accordance with the information provided in the practical information page on the HCCH website”.
Kazakhstan	Yes - “[A]ll the incoming documents”.
Latvia	Yes - “All documents”
Portugal	No
Romania	No
Serbia	No
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes - “As Viet Nam declared when acceding to the Service Convention, except for the documents to be served upon a national of a State in which the documents originate in accordance with ...paragraph a of Article 10 of the Convention, all documents to be served in Viet Nam must be either in the Vietnamese language or accompanied by a Vietnamese translation, in which case the signature of the translator must be duly verified or notarized”.

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(24) Has your State objected to service under Article 10(b)?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	Yes
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes
Canada	No

China	Yes
Croatia	Yes
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	Yes
France	Non
Georgia	Yes
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	Yes
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Yes
Lithuania	Yes
Mexico	Yes
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes
Norway	Yes
Philippines	No – “The Philippines declared its objections only to Article 10, paragraphs (a) and (c) of the 1965 Hague Service Convention”.
Poland	Yes
Portugal	No
Romania	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes

*_*_*

<p>(24.1) If no objection has been made, which of the following categories does your State recognise as a “judicial officer, official or other competent person” under Article 10(b), either for sending or receiving?</p>	
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Notary (6) Process server Other – “Any court official, or any other person or entity authorised by the rules of the relevant court”.
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official

	(5) Notary (6) Official of the executive branch (7) Process server
Canada	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Notary (6) Process server Other – “Any competent adult. Tout adult ayant la capacité juridique”.
France	(1) Huissier (2) Fonctionnaire attaché au tribunal
Hong Kong SAR	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff Other – “Hong Kong SAR, China only accepts those entities designated as “forwarding authorities” by other Contracting States”.
Ireland	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Court official
Kazakhstan	Court official
Portugal	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Notary
Romania	Other – “There is no special provision”.
Serbia	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Court official (4) Notary
Sweden	Process server Other – “Authorised Serving Company”
United Kingdom	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Process server “We would like to add that Scotland has a Messengers-at-Arms which are equivalent to hussiers. In Northern Ireland service can be by court bailiff”.
United States of America	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Court official (3) Process server Other – “See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable U.S. state civil procedure rules for the competent parties in the United States who can effect service”.

*_*_*

(24.2) If no objection has been made, how does this channel of transmission operate in practice?

Australia	“The Australian authorities do not have oversight of the practical operation of this channel of transmission”.
Belgium	“Les Officiers ministériels, fonctionnaires ou autres personnes compétents contactent directement un huissier en Belgique”.
Canada	“Individuals involved in judicial proceedings in Canada must ensure to follow to rules of civil procedure applicable to the service of documents abroad. Les personnes impliquées dans des procédures judiciaires au Canada doivent s'assurer de suivre les règles de procédure civile applicables à la signification ou notification à l'étranger”.
France	“La transmission est effectuée par un huissier sauf dans les cas où le greffe est compétent”.
Hong Kong SAR	“The practice of the Courts of the Hong Kong SAR, China is that whenever such requests are received, they will be forwarded to the Competent Authority for Hong Kong SAR, China (the Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong SAR, China) for processing. Direct service through Government officials is not available in Hong Kong SAR, China. However, a private agent (usually a firm of solicitors) may be appointed directly to effect service. Such service can be effected directly without going through the Government or the Judiciary of Hong Kong SAR, China. The Judiciary of Hong Kong SAR, China does not seek reimbursement of the costs. The charges made by solicitors appointed to serve process by foreign judicial officers, officials or other competent persons are not regulated by the Government of Hong Kong SAR, China. They vary depending on the services required and time taken to execute the request. This channel of transmission operates in a similar manner as the main channel of transmission under Articles 3 and 5 of the Convention”.
Ireland	“Don't understand this question”.
Kazakhstan	“Initial consideration of the return must be written on each page, a completed form ‘certificate according to the model attached to the severity”.
Portugal	“Requests are sent directly between competent authorities. Central Authority can facilitate communication, if necessary”.
Romania	“Unknown”.
Serbia	“By directly deliver”.
Sweden	“The applicant may contact the Police process server/Serving Company directly”.
United Kingdom	“It seems to operate satisfactorily, but we have no statistics on this”.
United States of America	“The United States has no objection to the informal delivery of such documents by members of diplomatic or consular missions in the United States, through the mail, or by private persons, if that would be effective under applicable law, provided no compulsion is used. See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable U.S. state civil procedure rules for the competent parties in the United States who can effect service and how service is effected”.

*_*_*

(24.3)	If no objection has been made, are there costs associated with this channel of transmission?
Australia	Unknown
Canada	Yes – “Nothing prevents individuals identified by Article 10(b) to charge fees to effect service abroad. Rien n'empêche les personnes identifiées par l'article (b), de facturer des frais pour effectuer une signification ou une notification à l'étranger”.

France	Oui - “Les frais de signification par huissier de justice à destination de l'étranger sont fixés à 48,36 €”.
Hong Kong SAR	No - “As explained in Q24.2”.
Ireland	Unknown
Kazakhstan	Yes - “[P]aid by the State”.
Portugal	Yes - “Personal Service may have costs associated. When a Bailiff is used for personal service there is a fee that needs to be paid”.
Romania	Unknown
Serbia	Unknown
Sweden	Yes - “At the moment approximately 100 Euros”.
United Kingdom	Yes - “Only if a process server is used. In England and Wales there are costs if a process server is used. In Scotland there are costs if service is by a Messenger-at-Arms. In Northern Ireland, there are costs if a process server is used”.
United States of America	Yes - “Private process servers charge a fee per request for service”.

*_*_*

(25) Has your State objected to service under Article 10(c)?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	Yes
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes
Canada	No
China	Yes
Croatia	Yes
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	Yes
France	Non
Georgia	Yes
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	Yes
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Yes
Lithuania	Yes
Mexico	Yes
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes
Norway	Yes
Philippines	Yes
Poland	Yes
Portugal	No

Romania	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No – “In Northern Ireland there has been an objection to service under Article 10 (c)”.
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes

*_*_*

(25.1) If no, which of the following categories does your State recognise as “any person interested in a judicial proceeding” under Article 10(c), either for sending or receiving?	
Australia	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Notary Other – “Any court official, or any other person or entity authorised by the rules of the relevant court. In some circumstances this may include the parties to the proceedings (or their representatives)”.
Canada	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Notary Other – “Any competent adult. Tout adult ayant la capacité juridique”.
France	(1) Huissier (2) Fonctionnaire attaché au tribunal Autre – “Agents du Ministère de l’Europe et des affaires étrangères pour les français de l’étranger”.
Hong Kong SAR	Other – “Hong Kong SAR, China only accepts those entities designated as “forwarding authorities” by other Contracting States”.
Ireland	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Court official
Kazakhstan	Court official
Portugal	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Notary
Romania	Other – “There is no special provision”.
Serbia	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Court official (4) Notary
Sweden	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official

	(5) Notary (6) Official of the Executive branch
United Kingdom	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier “We would like to add that Scotland has a Messengers-at-Arms which are equivalent to huissiers”.
United States of America	(1) Attorney or solicitor (2) Bailiff (3) Huissier (4) Court official (5) Notary (6) Official of the executive branch Other – “See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable U.S. state civil procedure rules for the competent parties in the United States who can effect service”.

*_*_*

(25.2) If no, how does this channel of transmission operate in practice?	
Australia	“The Australian authorities do not have oversight of the practical operation of this channel of transmission”.
Belgium	“Le requérant contacte directement un huissier en Belgique”.
Canada	“Individuals involved in judicial proceedings in Canada must ensure to follow to rules of civil procedure applicable to the service of documents abroad. Les personnes impliquées dans des procédures judiciaires au Canada doivent s'assurer de suivre les règles de procédure civile applicables à la signification et de notification d'actes à l'étranger”.
France	“Voie de transmission laissée à l'initiative du requérant”.
Hong Kong SAR	“This channel of transmission operates in a similar manner as the main channel of transmission under Articles 3 and 5 of the Convention”.
Ireland	“Don't understand this question”.
Kazakhstan	“A completed form ‘certificate according to the model attached to the severity”.
Portugal	“Requests are sent directly between competent authorities. Central Authority can facilitate communication, if necessary”.
Romania	“Unknown”.
Sweden	“The applicant may directly take contact with the Police process server/Serving Company without involvement of the Central Authority”.
United Kingdom	“It seems to operate satisfactorily, but we have no statistics on this”.
United States of America	“The United States has no objection to the informal delivery of such documents by members of diplomatic or consular missions in the United States, through the mail, or by private persons, if that would be effective under applicable law, provided no compulsion is used. See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable U.S. state civil procedure rules for the competent parties in the United States who can effect service and how service is effected”.

*_*_*

(25.3) If no, are there costs associated with this channel of transmission?	
Australia	Unknown
Canada	Yes – “Fees may be charged for sending requests for service abroad.”

	Des frais peuvent être facturés pour l'envoi de demandes de signification ou de notification à l'étranger".
France	Inconnu
Hong Kong SAR	No
Ireland	Unknown
Kazakhstan	Yes – “[P]aid by the State”.
Portugal	Yes – “Personal Service may have costs associated”.
Romania	“Unknown”.
Serbia	Unknown
Sweden	Yes – “At the moment approximately 100 Euros”.
United Kingdom	No – “There are costs associated with this channel of transmission if it is in Scotland and a Messenger-at-Arms has been used”.
United States of America	Yes – “Private process servers charge a fee per request for service”.

C. Refusal to Execute Request (Art. 13)

(26) In the previous five years, has your State refused a request for service on grounds of infringing “sovereignty or security”?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	No
Austria	Yes – “Public liability”.
Belgium	Unknown
Brazil	No
Bulgaria	No
Canada	No
China	Yes
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	No
Estonia	Unknown
France	Non
Georgia	No
Germany	No
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes – “Compliance with the request was deemed to infringe Israel's sovereignty”.
Japan	Yes
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	Unknown
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	No
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	No
Poland	Unknown
Portugal	No

Romania	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	Unknown – “This is ‘unknown’ in England & Wales and in Scotland, but the response is ‘no’ from Northern Ireland”.
United States of America	Yes – “In the past five years, the U.S. Central Authority has refused to execute 43 requests for service on the grounds of that the request infringed on the “sovereignty or security” of the United States. Common grounds for asserting an Article 13 rejection include, but are not limited to, garnishment of sovereign funds, claims relating to wartime activities, attachment of sovereign assets, and no record of service of the underlying proceeding when seeking to serve or enforce a default judgment. There are no U.S. court decisions to attach as U.S. courts do not review incoming service requests to make a determination of whether a request should be refused on the basis of Article 13”.
Viet Nam	No

*_*_*

(27) In the previous five years, has a request from your State been refused on grounds of infringing “sovereignty or security”?	
Argentina	No
Australia	Unknown
Austria	Unknown
Brazil	No
Bulgaria	No
Canada	Unknown
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Unknown
Estonia	Unknown
France	Oui – “[C]oncernant une signification d’une mise en demeure de payer une taxe foncière en invoquant une atteinte à la souveraineté”
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes – “Requests for service in patent dispute matters”.
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Unknown
Lithuania	Unknown
Mexico	No
Montenegro	Unknown
Nicaragua	No
Norway	Unknown
Philippines	No
Poland	Unknown

Portugal	Unknown
Romania	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	Unknown – “In Northern Ireland the response is no, a request has not been refused on these grounds”.
United States of America	Unknown
Viet Nam	No

IV. Use of Information Technology

(28) Has your State taken any steps (including through legislation) to enable or increase the use of technology to facilitate the operation of the Service Convention, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	Yes - “Increasing acceptance of requests received electronically; in urgent cases transmitting requests electronically between the Central Authority and relevant Australian jurisdiction; encouraging electronic means of communication with foreign authorities”.
Austria	Yes - “[W]here paper is not needed, electronic delivery is possible under certain conditions”.
Brazil	Yes - “We are able to receive requests through e-mail from any country that can do the same”.
Bulgaria	No
Canada	Yes - “Some jurisdictions have implemented online payment of the fees required for requests under Article 5 of the Convention. Certaines administrations permettent maintenant le paiement en ligne des frais exigés pour les demandes effectués en vertu de l'article 5 de la Convention”.
China	Yes - “We have established a system. https://www.hcch.net/en/states/authorities/details3/?aid=243 ”.
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes - “The COVID-19 pandemic has improved the communication of Central Authorities and established informal electronic communication (via e-mail)”.
Estonia	Yes
France	Oui - “La signification par voie électronique a été introduite en droit français par le décret n° 2012-366 du 15 mars 2012 venu modifier le Code de procédure civile, le décret n° 56-222 du 29 février 1956 pris pour l'application de l'ordonnance du 2 novembre 1945 relative au statut des huissiers de justice (remplacé depuis par le Décret n° 2021-1625 du 10 décembre 2021 relatif aux compétences des commissaires de justice) et le Code des procédures civiles d'exécution. L'initiative, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du développement de la communication par voie électronique, rend pour la première fois la transmission des actes de procédure et des actes juridictionnels dématérialisés accessibles aux non-professionnels du droit”.
Georgia	Yes - “Electronic means of communication between the authorities of the State were improved. During the COVID-19 pandemic, forwarding authorities of Georgia transmitted requests electronically under the Service Convention”.

Germany	No
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes - "Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Israel's Central Authority accepts incoming requests via e-mail".
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	Yes - "[W]e worked as usual, everyone worked from home and one was on duty in office".
Latvia	Yes - "At the time of Covid, the hearings of the court were primarily dealt with in video conference mode, similarly to prisons it was determined not to convoy, but all accused would be interrogated by video conference regime".
Lithuania	No
Mexico	Yes - "Fifth Section Article 1169 of the National Code of Civil Procedures".
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	Yes - "Create an email only for the use of the convention".
Norway	Yes - "We have temporarily allowed electronic transmissions of request. This regulation will be repealed 1 July 2023".
Philippines	Yes - "Use of Official Philippines Judiciary Office 365 Accounts".
Poland	No
Portugal	Yes - "The use of video Conferencing or any other technological platform was extended".
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	"No, not yet. See also response of the EU".
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Yes - "ABC Legal Services, the U.S. Central Authority's designated process server for all incoming Convention requests for private individuals and companies, uses an online database and platform. The platform allows requesting authorities to upload their requests for service online, make the necessary payment, receive status and progress updates, communicate with staff, and obtain their proof of service. ABC Legal also accepts requests by email. The entire process of transmission of requests to ABC Legal, correspondence, and the transmission of the proof of service can now be done electronically".
Viet Nam	Yes - "The MOJ Viet Nam scanned the requests and sent via its official email address mlavietnam@moj.gov.vn or haguevietnam@moj.gov.vn and accepted the requests sent from the official email addresses of foreign Central authorities during the pandemic when postal service was not available. At present, the transmission of request via email is only applicable when postal service is unavailable or in other exceptional cases".

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(29) Do the forwarding authorities of your State transmit requests under the Service Convention electronically?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	Yes
Austria	Yes

Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	No
Canada	Yes
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	No
Estonia	Yes
France	Non
Georgia	Yes
Germany	No
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	No
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	No
Lithuania	Yes
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	No
Norway	No
Philippines	No – “While forwarding authorities do not transmit requests electronically, A.O. No. 251-2020 did not prohibit (or silent on) electronic service”.
Poland	No
Portugal	No
Serbia	No
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	Yes

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(29.1) If yes, what methods of transmission do the forwarding authorities of your State use?	
Argentina	Email (regular)
Australia	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted) (3) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government; (4) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider Other - “Please note that while nothing legislatively precluding Australian jurisdictions from doing so, it is not yet common practice”.
Brazil	(1) Email (regular) (2) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government

Canada	<p>Other – “Our response to question 29 is "unknown" but this is not an option for response. The government of Canada does not have any record of outgoing requests since they are mostly made by members of the law societies of Canadian provinces and territories and members of the Chambre des notaires of the Province of Québec (for non-litigious matters only) in their capacity as forwarding authorities.</p> <p>Notre réponse à la question 29 est "inconnu" mais il ne s'agit pas d'une option de réponse. Le gouvernement du Canada n'a pas de données sur demandes sortantes puisqu'elles sont principalement faites par des membres des barreaux des provinces et territoires canadiens et des membres de la Chambre des notaires de la province de Québec (pour les affaires non contentieuses seulement) dans leur qualité d'autorités expéditrices”.</p>
Estonia	<p>(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted) (3) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government</p>
Georgia	Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government
Lithuania	Email (regular)
Sweden	<p>(1) Email (regular) (2) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government</p>
United States of America	<p>(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted)</p>
Viet Nam	<p>Email (regular)</p> <p>Other – “As required by the Central Authority of China, the MOJ Viet Nam sent requests to the Ministry of Justice of China via their online system (ilcc.online). We log in, fill the form online, then scan and upload documents to their system. We do not have any further detailed information of this system”.</p>

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(30) Does your State’s Central Authority accept requests under the Service Convention transmitted electronically in circumstances where only an electronic copy is provided (and where a paper copy is not subsequently provided)?	
Argentina	Yes
Australia	Yes
Austria	No
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	No
Canada	No
China	Yes – “Requests have to be signed or stamped”.
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	No
Estonia	Yes
France	Non
Georgia	Yes
Germany	No
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	Yes
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes

Japan	No
Kazakhstan	No
Lithuania	Yes
Mexico	Yes
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes
Norway	No
Philippines	Yes
Poland	No
Portugal	Yes
Romania	No
Serbia	Yes
Slovenia	No
Slovakia	No
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	Yes

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(30.1) If yes, what methods of transmission does your State accept?	
Argentina	Email (regular)
Australia	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted) (3) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government (4) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider Other - "Please note that not all jurisdictions in Australia will be able to accept electronic transmission of requests, so in some cases the Central Authority may need to assist. The Australian Central Authority will accept requests received electronically. To assist with execution, it is useful if the requesting authority provides written confirmation that it is sufficient to serve a copy of the document/s that have been transmitted electronically according to their internal law".
Brazil	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted) (3) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government (4) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider Other - "Brazil is able to accept many methods of electronic transmission, provided it was previously agreed upon in a bilateral, regional or multilateral initiative. For example, as soon as the "Protocolo de Medellín" is in force in Brazil, requests will also be exchanged using the Iber@ system".
China	Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government
Estonia	Email (regular)
Georgia	(1) Email (regular) (2) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by the government
Hungary	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured/encrypted)

India	Email (secured / encrypted)
Israel	Email (regular)
Lithuania	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted)
Mexico	Other – “They are always received in physical or electronic form”.
Montenegro	Email (regular)
Nicaragua	Email (regular)
Portugal	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured/encrypted)
Serbia	Email (regular)
United States of America	(1) Email (regular) (2) Email (secured / encrypted) (3) Electronic transmission via online platform administered by a private service provider
Viet Nam	Email (regular)

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(30.2)	If no, please provide further information about why this is not yet possible.
Bulgaria	“No legislative provisions”.
Canada	“It could become possible if policies and procedures were created for that purpose. Additional printing fees would have to be charged. Cela pourrait devenir possible si des politiques et des procédures étaient créées à cette fin. Des frais d'impression supplémentaires devront être facturés”.
Czech Republic	“There are internal law limitations to verify the sender of the request (the requesting authority) and integrity of documents”.
France	“Raisons technologiques et budgétaires mais la situation devrait prochainement évoluer, notamment en raison de l’obligation de transmission par voie électronique prévue par le Règlement européen signification 2020/1784 à compter du 1er janvier 2025”.
Germany	“The request for service must be signed and/or sealed. The technical requirements for transmission with a reliable examination of the origin and authenticity have yet to be fulfilled in this area on a global level. In addition to this, cross-border technical standards are not adequate in order to give legally secure evidence to the requesting party and the forwarding authority that the authentic request has been received and is being processed”.
Ireland	“Secure systems not yet developed”.
Japan	“Internal law limitation”.
Kazakhstan	“Use of technology is prohibited by internal law”.
Norway	“This is not yet possible due to the lack of a secure transmission channel and data protection (privacy) regulations”.
Poland	“Internal law limitations on electronic service”.
Slovenia	“Service of documents can be carried out via the e-Justice (e-Sodstvo) website, which is administered by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, to users’ secure e-mail addresses. Electronic service is permitted in civil procedure and other civil judicial proceedings in which the rules of the Civil Procedure Act apply to electronic service of documents, e.g. in proceedings regarding commercial disputes, labour and social disputes, non-civil procedures, inheritance proceedings (it is not yet used in all such procedures) and land register procedures, and in insolvency proceedings and enforcement proceedings (electronic service is already used in all of these procedures).

	There are restrictions with regard to the groups into which users are classified. They are first divided into general groups: – users who do not have to provide proof of identity when using the e-Justice system (ordinary users), – users who access the e-Justice system using a username and password (registered users), and – users who access the e-Justice system using a username and password, and a qualified digital certificate (qualified users). Qualified users include: – in-house qualified users (judges and officers of the court who are authorised to carry out e-tasks in certain types of civil judicial proceedings), and – external qualified users (notaries, lawyers, executors, receivers, the State Attorney's Office, State Prosecutor's Office, real estate companies and municipal attorney's offices, i.e. entities that have the role of representative or judicial body in civil judicial proceedings, and users/parties, i.e. legal persons, natural persons or state and local authorities that have the role of party to the proceedings in civil judicial proceedings). National legislation does not yet provide the legal basis for execution of requests for mutual legal assistance with electronic means. In accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast) the electronic cross-border transmission of documents through the decentralised IT system is possible (applicable from 01. 05. 2025)".
Slovakia	"It is possible only when the request and documents are signed electronically in accordance with REGULATION (EU) No 910/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC".
Sweden	"Because of judicial or administrative structures, lack of resources and infrastructure, cost and system interoperability, a reliable and legally secure reception cannot be guaranteed".
United Kingdom	"It seems to operate satisfactorily, but we have no statistics on this".

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(31) Does your State permit execution of service via electronic means?	
Australia	Other – "Some authorities may allow the execution of service requests via electronic means in specific circumstances and where it is authorised by the Court, however this is not yet common practice across Australian jurisdictions".
Austria	(1) By e-mail (secured / encrypted) (2) Via online platform administered by the government (3) Via online platform administered by a private service provider
Brazil	Yes (1) By e-mail (regular) (2) By e-mail (secured / encrypted) (3) Via online platform administered by the government (4) Via online platform administered by a private service provider
Bulgaria	Yes – Via online platform administered by the government
Canada	Other – "Canadian rules of civil procedure do not apply to the service of judicial documents in Canada in the context of foreign judicial procedures. While execution of service by electronic means in Canada in the context of foreign judicial procedures is not prohibited, there is no system in place at present for Canadian Central Authorities to execute service by such means.

	Les règles de procédure civile au Canada ne s'appliquent pas à la signification d'actes judiciaires au Canada dans le cadre de procédures judiciaires étrangères. Bien que l'exécution de la signification par voie électronique au Canada dans le cadre de procédures judiciaires étrangères ne soit pas interdite, il n'existe actuellement aucun système permettant aux Autorités centrales canadiennes d'exécuter la signification par de tels moyens”
China	Yes - (1) By e-mail (regular) (2) By e-mail (secured / encrypted) (3) Via online platform administered by the government “According to Article 90 of the Civil Procedure law of the People’s Republic of China, with to consent of the person on whom a litigation document is to be served, a people’s court may serve the litigation document by electronic means through which the receipt of the document can be confirmed. According to Article 10 of the Opinion on Further Strengthening Service Work in Civil Procedure, in strict compliance with the conditions prescribed by the civil procedure law and the judicial interpretation of the law regarding the use of electronic service, people’s courts may actively explore the effective ways of electronic service and the preservation of service proof. A court with necessary resources may establish a special electronic service platform. It may also carry out electronic service by way of litigation service platform, as well as serve documents through a special email address, a specific communication number or an information public account by cooperating with large portal websites and communication operators. According to Article 11 of the above Opinion, if the service is effected by fax or e-mail, the court shall record the sending and receiving fax numbers or e-mail addresses, sending time, as well as names of litigation documents served, and print the fax sending confirmation sheet or the web page for successful e-mail sending, saving it for future reference. According to Article 12 of the above Opinion, if the service is effected by SMS, wechat or other means, the court shall record the sending and receiving mobile phone numbers, the sending time, as well as names of the litigation documents served, and take photos of the contents delivered by SMS, wechat or other means, saving them for future reference”.
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes - Via online platform administered by the government
Estonia	Yes
France	Oui - Par transmission électronique via une plateforme en ligne administrée par un prestataire de services privé
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes - “By secured electronic means (Section 173 of the German Code of Civil Procedure [Zivilprozessordnung - ZPO])”.
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes - Via online platform administered by the government
India	Yes - By e-mail (regular)
Ireland	Other - “Only where court order in place allowing service to specific e-mail address”.
Israel	No
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Other - “Unknown”.
Lithuania	No

Mexico	Yes
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	Yes - By e-mail (regular)
Norway	Other – “This is only possible for the execution of service on the person, but not the transmission to/from other states”.
Philippines	No
Poland	Other – “Via online platform administered by the government only for professional attorneys when the document is without paper attachments”.
Portugal	No
Romania	No
Serbia	Yes - By e-mail (regular)
Slovenia	Yes - Via online platform administered by the government
Slovakia	Yes – Via online platform administered by the government
Sweden	Yes – “1. if the addressee agrees to be served at a specific email address and 2. if the addressee acknowledges receipt of service at the sam email address”.
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	Other – “See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable U.S. state civil procedure rules for the competent parties in the United States who can effect service and how service is effected. Service by electronic means may be allowed but typically only if the parties consent to service by email or a U.S. court grants permission in domestic litigation to serve by email. Service by email is not a form of service currently utilized by the U.S. Central Authority (and ABC Legal) under the Convention”.
Viet Nam	Other – “The execution of service via electronic means is possible but some conditions must be satisfied in accordance with Resolution no. 04/2016/NQ-HDTP dated 30/12/2016 guiding some provisions of the Civil Procedure Code no. 92/2015/QH13, Law on Administrative Procedure no. 93/2015/QH13 on sending, receiving the claims, documents and evidence as well as issuing, serving and notifying judicial documents via electronic means. At present, the Supreme Court has implemented 2 different options for registration of submitting and receiving the documents by electronic means through the Portal of The Supreme People’s Court: Option 1: Comprehensive package: (i) Submission of claims and tracking its process (ii) Registration of receiving judicial documents (iii) Receiving judicial documents Digital certificate is required to use this option and can be downloaded at http://nopdonkhoikien.toaan.gov.vn/download Option 2: Partial package Receiving judicial document only. Registration at https://xacthuc.dichvucong.gov.vn ”

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(31.1)	If no, what are your State’s reasons for refusing to execute the requests for service to be performed by using information technology?
Croatia	Use of technology is not possible as there is no compatible system in your State
Georgia	Use of technology is not possible as there is no compatible system in your State
Hong Kong SAR	Use of technology is not provided for internal law
Ireland	Use of technology is not possible as there is no compatible system in your State
Israel	Other – “According to Israeli law the first document to be served or the statement of claim cannot be transmitted electronically”.
Japan	Use of technology is not provided for internal law Other – “Under constracting the system for electronic transmission”.

Kazakhstan	Use of technology is prohibited by internal law
Lithuania	Other – “Electronic service is possible if the addressee has previously agreed to such method of service. In cases with a foreign element (incoming requests), it is generally not possible to obtain such prior consent. Therefore, even if the request and documents have been received electronically, the documents to be served shall be printed and served on paper”.
Montenegro	Use of technology is not possible as there is no compatible system in your State
Norway	Use of technology is not possible as there is no compatible system in your State
Portugal	Use of technology is not provided for internal law Other – “It is possible to use technology for service, but it is limited, at this time, to legal representatives of the parties (lawyers or solicitors) through a specific portal”.
Romania	Other – “It is not provided by the international law”.
United Kingdom	Use of technology is not provided for internal law

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(32) What challenges, if any, has your State faced regarding the use of information technology under the Service Convention?	
Argentina	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) Security concerns
Australia	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) Cost (4) Security concerns
Austria	None
Brazil	Other - “Lack of reciprocity from many of our partners, since many countries only accept paper requests. Also, many countries have difficulties accepting electronic signatures”.
Bulgaria	(1) Judicial or administrative structures (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) System interoperability / compatibility
Canada	(1) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (2) Cost (3) System interoperability / compatibility (4) Security concerns
China	Internal law limitations – “This refers to the different domestic laws of different countries on whether hard copy must be served. As a result, information technology cannot be widely promoted under the Convention”.
Croatia	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Judicial or administrative structures; Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) System interoperability / compatibility (4) Security concerns
Czech Republic	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) System interoperability / compatibility Other – “There are internal law limitations to verify the sender of the request (the requesting authority) and integrity of documents”.
Estonia	(1) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure)

	(2) Costs (3) System interoperability / compatibility (4) Security concerns
France	(1) Difficultés de mise en œuvre (par ex., le manque de ressources, le manque d'infrastructures) (2) Coût
Georgia	None
Germany	Security concerns Other – “Media discontinuity as requests are received by post due to security reasons”.
Hong Kong SAR	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Judicial or administrative structures
Hungary	(1) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (2) Security concerns
India	None
Ireland	(1) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (2) Cost (3) System interoperability / compatibility (4) Security concerns
Israel	None
Japan	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure)
Kazakhstan	None
Latvia	None
Lithuania	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Judicial and administrative structures (3) System interoperability / compatibility (4) Security concerns
Mexico	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Judicial or administrative structures (3) Implementation challenges (4) System interoperability/compatibility
Montenegro	Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure)
Nicaragua	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure)
Norway	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Judicial or administrative structures (3) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (4) Cost (5) System interoperability / compatibility (6) Security concerns
Philippines	Implementation challenges (e.g. lack of resources, lack of infrastructure)
Poland	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Judicial or administrative structures; Implementation challenges (e.g. lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) System interoperability / compatibility (4) Security concerns
Portugal	Internal law limitations
Romania	None
Serbia	None
Slovenia	(1) Internal law limitations

	(2) Judicial or administrative structures (3) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (4) Cost (5) System interoperability / compatibility
Slovakia	(1) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (2) System interoperability / compatibility (3) Security concerns
Sweden	(1) Judicial or administrative structures (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) Cost (4) System interoperability / compatibility
United Kingdom	Internal law limitations
United States of America	Other – “Incoming requests for service under the Convention are too voluminous; too many documents are sent, making electronic transmission impossible”.
Viet Nam	(1) Internal law limitations (2) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure) (3) Cost (4) System interoperability / compatibility (5) Security concerns

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(33) In your State’s opinion, what further work could the PB do on the use of information technology under the Service Convention?	
Argentina	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Australia	Other – “Australia agrees that additional guidance and information about the practical experience of Contracting Parties in this area would be useful, however in our view, this information would better be incorporated into the new edition of the Handbook than a standalone a Guide to Good Practice”.
Austria	Other – “Making electronic systems compatible”
Brazil	Other - “Stimulate all the countries to use electronic transmission, preferably by regular e-mail, as other initiatives that involve developing systems tend to take too long to develop and some are closed down shortly after they start being used and some don't even get to be used at all. If the development of a system becomes unavoidable, the same interface should be used for requests under all HCCH Conventions. Multiple systems should be avoided, but they may be acceptable if there is only one interface. Stimulate information exchange and confidence building among Members for the acceptance of electronic signatures. An idea would be to have an area on the website to disseminate information about each countries' valid electronic signatures”.
Bulgaria	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Canada	None
China	Development of a Guide to Good Practice – “It is recommended to collect widely the positions and legal provisions of various Contracting Parties regarding information technology, so that the requesting State can determine whether to submit the request electronically”.
Croatia	None
Czech Republic	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Estonia	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
France	Élaboration d’un Guide de bonnes pratiques

Georgia	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Germany	Other – “A similar project as I-support could be envisaged”.
Hong Kong SAR	None
Hungary	None
India	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Ireland	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Israel	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Japan	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Kazakhstan	None
Latvia	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Lithuania	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Mexico	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Montenegro	None
Nicaragua	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Norway	None
Philippines	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Poland	Other – “[C]reating an online forms to send to the authority or download a blank, editable PDF form”.
Portugal	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Romania	Other – “[T]he development of a Country Profile”.
Serbia	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Slovenia	Development of a Guide to Good Practice
Slovakia	None
Sweden	None
United Kingdom	None – “Here, England and Wales and Northern Ireland suggest the PB need not do further work, but Scotland has suggested the Development of a Guide to Good Practice”.
United States of America	Development of a Guide to Good Practice Other – “Further clarification from countries whether they allow service by email. Promoting the use of electronic means to transmit service requests and proofs of service”.
Viet Nam	Other – “Adding and updating the use of information technology under the Service Convention into the Handbook”.

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(34) In addition to the Service Convention, is your State a Party to any bilateral, regional, or multilateral agreements that provide rules for the service of documents abroad?

Argentina	Yes
Australia	Yes
Austria	Yes
Belgium	Yes
Brazil	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes – “Within the EU, the matter is governed by the Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast). Articles 5 and 37(2) of it and its implementing Regulation oblige Member States to start using a decentralised IT system for transmission of requests and communication related to the service of documents at the latest by 1 May 2025”.
Canada	Yes

China	Yes
Croatia	Yes
Czech Republic	Yes
Estonia	No
France	Oui “- Convention de La Haye du 1er mars 1954 - Conventions bilatérales d'entraide judiciaire: Algérie (1962), Australie (1922), Bahamas (1922), Belgique (1956), Bénin (1975), Brésil (1996), Bulgarie (1989), Burkina Faso (1961), Cameroun (1974), Canada (1922 et Entente franco-québécoise du 9 septembre 1977), Chine (1987), Congo, Côte d'Ivoire (1961), Djibouti (1986), Égypte (1982), Émirats arabes unis (1991), Fédération de Russie (1936), Gabon (1963), Hongrie, Italie (1955), Lituanie (1928), Luxembourg (1870), Madagascar (1973), Mali (1962), Maroc (1957), Mauritanie (1961), Monaco (1949), Mongolie (1994), Niger (1977), Nouvelle-Zélande (1922), République centrafricaine (1965), République démocratique populaire lao (1956), République tchèque (1984), République-Unie de Tanzanie (1922), Roumanie (1974), Saint-Marin (1967), Sénégal (1974), Slovaquie (1984), Suisse (1913), Tchad (1976), Togo (1976), Tunisie (1972), Uruguay (1991), Vietnam (1999). - Règlement (UE) 2020/1784 du 25 novembre 2020 (refonte) relatif à la signification et à la notification dans les Etats membres des actes judiciaires et extrajudiciaires en matière civile ou commerciale, qui remplace le règlement (CE) n° 1393/2007 du Conseil”.
Georgia	Yes
Germany	Yes
Hong Kong SAR	No
Hungary	Yes
India	No
Ireland	No
Israel	Yes
Japan	No
Kazakhstan	No
Latvia	Yes
Lithuania	Yes
Mexico	Yes
Montenegro	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes
Norway	Yes
Philippines	Yes – “For instance, Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters”.
Poland	Yes – “Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters and bilateral conventions on judicial co-operation: Belarus, Bulgaria, People’s Republic of China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine”.
Portugal	Yes
Serbia	Yes
Slovenia	Yes
Slovakia	Yes
Sweden	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes

United States of America	Yes
Viet Nam	Yes

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(34.1) Do any of these agreements provide for the use of electronic means (e.g., e-mail) to transmit or execute requests for service?	
Australia	Yes – “Bilateral treaties with New Zealand, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic Korea. Australia is also a party to a number of bilateral treaties between the UK and some European countries. These treaties were then extended to Australia due to its place in the Commonwealth of Nations. Although they do not expressly provide for the use of electronic means, there is also nothing to prohibit their use”.
Belgium	No
Brazil	Yes – “Many of the treaties are technology neutral and thus permit the electronic transmission of requests. Also, as soon as the "Protocolo de Medellín" is in force in Brazil, requests will also be exchanged electronically using the Iber@ system. An initiative of the COMJIB, the Protocol provides for the electronic transmission of mutual legal assistance requests in civil or criminal matters and is open to the accession of any other State”.
Bulgaria	Yes – “Within the EU, the matter is governed by the Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast). Articles 5 and 37(2) of it and its implementing Regulation oblige Member States to start using a decentralised IT system for transmission of requests and communication related to the service of documents at the latest by 1 May 2025”.
Canada	No
China	No
Croatia	No
Czech Republic	Yes – “Bilateral and multilateral Agreements/Conventions have been concluded many years ago and, therefore, they are technological neutral. However, in our opinion, they do not prohibit to use of electronic means. Within the EU, as regard the Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast) - see the coordinated answer of the EU”.
France	Oui – “Règlement (UE) 2020/1784 du 25 novembre 2020 relatif à la signification et à la notification dans les Etats membres des actes judiciaires et extrajudiciaires en matière civile ou commerciale (refonte)”.
Georgia	No
Germany	Yes – “1. Supplementary agreements to the Hague Convention of 17 July 1905 and/or of 1 March 1954 were concluded with: Norway (Berlin, 2 August 1909; Oslo, 17 June 1977); Switzerland (Berlin, 30 April 1910; and 24 December 1929 – in particular Article 18). 2. Bilateral conventions on judicial co-operation: United Kingdom (London, 20 March 1928 – Articles 2 to 7). United Kingdom (1928) which also applies to States other than the United Kingdom, e.g., Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand; Greece (Athens, 11 May 1938 – Articles 1 to 6); Liechtenstein (17 February / 29 May 1958); Morocco (Rabat, 29 October 1985); Tunisia (Bonn, 19 July 1966), Turkey (Ankara, 28 May 1929 – Articles 9 to 17), United States of America (29

	October 1954). 3. Within the EU, the Regulation (EC) No 1393/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents), and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1348/2000 (Service of Documents Regulation) has been replaced by Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast) (Service of Documents Recast Regulation). Articles 5 and 37(2) of the Service of Documents Recast Regulation and its implementing Regulation oblige Member States to start using a decentralised IT system for transmission of requests and communication related to the service of documents at the latest by 1 May 2025. Only no. 3 provides for the use of electronic means. An answer to this question is also given by the European Union”.
Hungary	Yes – “Please see response of the European Union”.
Israel	No
Latvia	Yes – “The electronical means is not specified in these agreements, but it also is no prohibited to use electronical channels : Agreement of 3 February 1993 between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters; Agreement of 14 April 1993 between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters; Agreement of 21 February 1994 between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Belarus on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters; Agreement of 23 May 1995 between the Republic of Latvia and Ukraine on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family, labour and criminal matters; Agreement of 23 May 1996 between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Uzbekistan on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family, labour and criminal matters; Agreement of 10 April 1997 between the Republic of Latvia and the Kyrgyz Republic on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters”.
Lithuania	Yes – “EU Service Regulation 2020/1784”
Mexico	No
Montenegro	No
Nicaragua	No
Norway	No
Poland	No
Portugal	Yes – “Regulation 2020/1784”.
Serbia	No
Slovenia	Yes – “Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast)”.
Slovakia	Yes – “Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents) (recast). Furthermore, we refer to the relevant parts of the European Union reply, especially reply to question 3”.
Sweden	Yes – “Regulation EU No 2020/1784 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 Nobember on the service in the Member States of judicial and

	extrajudicial documents in civil and commercial matter will provide the use of electronic means from april 2025”.
United Kingdom	No
United States of America	No
Viet Nam	Yes – “Viet Nam has signed 18 bilateral Agreements on mutual legal assistance in civil matters with the following countries: Slovensko - Czech and Slovakia succeed (12 October 1982); Cuba (30 November 1984); Bulgaria (03 October 1986); Poland (22 March 1993); Lao PDR (06 July 1998 – newly signed on 11/1/2023 –not yet into force); Russia (25 August 1998); People's Republic of China (19 October 1998); France (24 February 1999); Ukraine (06 April 2000); Mongolia(17 April 2000); Belarus (14 September 2000); North Korea (3 May 2002); Chinese Taipei (12 April 2010); Kazakhstan (31 October 2011); Kingdom of Cambodia (21 January 2013); Hungary (10 September 2018), Thailand (16 November 2022 – not yet into force). E- service is provided in several Agreements such as MLA VN- Hungary (Art 10 para 5), MLA VN- Thailand (Art 12 para 7), MLA VN- Laos (Art 14 para 6)”.

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