

Title	Questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19 on intercountry adoptions under the 1993 Adoption Convention
Document	Prel. Doc. No 5 of December 2020
Author	PB
Agenda Item	Item TBD
Mandate(s)	N/A
Objective	To obtain information about the practical impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the Convention from Contracting Parties
Action to be Taken	For Action ☒ For Approval ☐ For Decision ☐ For Information ☐
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	Prel. Doc. No 3 of February 2020 – 2020 Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention

I. Objectives and scope of the Questionnaire

- 1 This Questionnaire has been prepared for the purposes of the upcoming Fifth Meeting of the Special Commission (SC) on the practical operation of the *Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (hereinafter, “HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention”, “1993 Adoption Convention” or simply “the Convention”) scheduled tentatively for the week of 14 to 18 June 2021. It seeks to elicit information from Contracting Parties on their current policies, practices and challenges with regard to the implementation and operation of the Convention in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its far reaching, global consequences.
- 2 This Questionnaire is addressed primarily to Contracting Parties to the HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention. However, Members which are not Party to the Convention may respond to the Questionnaire or provide comments should they so wish.
- 3 This Questionnaire expands on questions posed to Contracting Parties in the Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Prel. Doc. No 3), with particular focus on practices at the moment of the COVID-19 outbreak and during the course of the pandemic. The Questionnaire also seeks information from Contracting Parties about how they plan to move forward in these new global circumstances.

II. Instructions for Questionnaire completion

- 4 The Questionnaire is being sent to Central Authorities designated under the 1993 Adoption Convention, as well as to National and Contact Organs of Members of the HCCH. Central Authorities are asked to coordinate, as appropriate, between themselves and with other competent authorities. For Contracting Parties to the Convention, the designated Central Authorities are ultimately responsible for submitting the completed Questionnaire to the Permanent Bureau (PB).
- 5 Please note that each question specifies whether it is addressed to “States of origin”, “receiving States”, or to both. For Contracting Parties which are both a State of origin and a receiving State, please respond from both perspectives and identify in which capacity the response is made, if necessary. If a question is not applicable to your State, please respond “N/A”. If appropriate, please indicate the type of restrictions in relation to COVID-19 in place in your State for each specific answer.
- 6 In order to allow the PB to extract parts of the Questionnaire for compilation and analysis of the responses, you are kindly requested to use **this Word version** of the document, and **not to return a PDF version** of the completed Questionnaire.
- 7 You are kindly requested to send your completed Questionnaire to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > no later than **Monday 1 March 2021** with the following indication in the subject line of the e-mail: “Questionnaire Adoption COVID – [name of State]”.
- 8 The PB intends, except where expressly asked not to do so, to place all replies to this Questionnaire on the HCCH website (< www.hcch.net >). Therefore, please clearly identify any responses which **should not** be made visible on the website.
- 9 Please address any questions you may have regarding this Questionnaire to < secretariat@hcch.net >. Thank you for your cooperation as the PB prepares for the next meeting of the SC in 2021.

Questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19 on intercountry adoptions under the 1993 Adoption Convention

Identification for follow-up purposes:

NAME of STATE or territorial unit: [Please insert text here](#)

Name of contact person: [Please insert text here](#)

Name of Authority / Office: [Please insert text here](#)

Telephone number: [Please insert text here](#)

E-mail address: [Please insert text here](#)

I. OVERARCHING QUESTIONS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
1.	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has your State modified intercountry adoption procedures under the 1993 Adoption Convention? If so, what has your State done to ensure that the safeguards and procedures of the Convention have been, and continue to be, respected? Please insert text here
II. OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 (cases in transition only)	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
2.	What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the child had already been matched with prospective adoptive parents, but no adoption decision had been issued at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation? Please insert text here
3.	What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the adoption decision had already been issued, but the child was still in the State of origin at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation? Please insert text here
III. DURING COVID-19 (cases in transition and new cases)	
	<u>States of origin only</u>
4.	Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure: a) Declaration of adoptability of the child: Please insert text here

	b) Matching: Please insert text here c) Socialisation period: Please insert text here d) Support and counselling to adoptable children: Please insert text here e) Adoption decision : Please insert text here f) Other stages: Please insert text here
	<u>Receiving States only</u>
5.	Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure: a) Eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents: Please insert text here b) Support and counselling to prospective adoptive parents: Please insert text here c) Other stages: Please insert text here
IV. USE OF TECHNOLOGY	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
6.	Has the use of technologies (e.g, videoconferencing) evolved in the adoption procedures in place in your State since the outbreak of COVID-19 in your State? Please specify: a) any benefits and challenges : Please insert text here b) if your response to question 72 ("Use of new technologies") of the 2020 Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Prel. Doc. No 3) has changed: Please insert text here
V. POST COVID-19: LOOKING AHEAD	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>

7.	Has your State developed any practices during this pandemic period that would be useful to mainstream into regular work practices? If so, please elaborate on what those practices are and how you plan to go about mainstreaming them into regular work practices: Please insert text here
8.	Please share any good practices and lessons learned by your State which may be applied in the event of another pandemic or similar state of emergency: Please insert text here
VI. ANY OTHER COMMENTS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
9.	Please insert here any other comments you may have: Please insert text here