

Title	Report on Post-Convention Assistance (1 January – 31 December 2023)
Document	Prel. Doc. No 18 of February 2024
Author	PB
Agenda Item	Item III.6
Mandate(s)	C&R No 18 of CGAP 2015 (Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance)
Objective	To report on post-Convention assistance provided by the PB in 2023
Action to be Taken	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	Annex I: Post-Convention Assistance
Related Documents	N/A

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Proposal for CGAP	1
	Annex I	3

Report on Post-Convention Assistance (1 January – 31 December 2023)

I. Introduction

- 1 To ensure the effective implementation and practical operation of HCCH Conventions and instruments, and in conformity with the [Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance](#) (Strategic Framework), approved by the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) in March 2015 ([C&R No 18](#)), the Permanent Bureau (PB) provides a range of post-Convention assistance activities for the benefit of HCCH Members (and in exceptional circumstances non-Member Contracting Parties).
- 2 As set out in the Strategic Framework, the term “post-Convention assistance” refers specifically to:

“(…) assistance provided to support effective implementation and operation of any HCCH Convention or other HCCH instrument through legal and technical advice and training to the requesting State.

Post-Convention assistance does not include general activities and services such as Special Commissions, guides to good practice and practical handbooks, the publication of documents and maintaining databases, promotional activities or the provision of day-to-day advice and assistance to States and other stakeholders.”
- 3 This Prel. Doc. provides an exhaustive list of the post-Convention assistance activities undertaken by the PB between 1 January and 31 December 2023.

II. Proposal for CGAP

- 4 The PB proposes the following Conclusion and Decision:

CGAP noted the report on post-Convention assistance activities and recognised the value of these activities in contributing to the effective operation of HCCH Conventions.

ANNEX

Annex I

I. Post-Convention Assistance

Date(s)	Instrument(s)	Beneficiary	Activity	Objectives	Outcomes	Selection Criteria*	Prioritisation Criteria**	Funding Source(s)
15-16 May 2023	2019 Judgments Convention	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	Seminar “Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in the Western Balkan Region: HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention”	To further refine knowledge of the 2019 Judgments Convention among Western Balkan jurisdictions and increase awareness of its importance to the region, with the ultimate aim of assisting them in the process of joining the Convention.	30 officials representing Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and National Champions from six jurisdictions in the Western Balkans acquired a comprehensive understanding of the functioning of the 2019 Judgments Convention and its importance to the region. On the margins of the seminar, North Macedonia signed the Convention.	ii, iii, iv, v, vi	i, ii, iv, viii, iv	Center for International Legal Cooperation
March-June 2023	1993 Adoption Convention	Uruguay	Technical assistance to Uruguay on the 1993 Adoption Convention	(1) To ensure that Uruguay’s adoption practices as set out in its new road map and other documents are in line with the 1993 Adoption Convention. (2) To improve Uruguay’s Central Authority’s functioning and capacity to fulfil its	A “Guide to the administrative adoption procedure in Uruguay” was developed and delivered to the Uruguayan authorities to ensure that Uruguay’s adoption practices are in line with the 1993 Adoption Convention. The staff of the Central	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii(a), viii(b)	i, ii, iv, vi, vii, viii, ix	Monetary voluntary contribution by the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs.

				<p>role in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p> <p>(3) To enable actors involved in Uruguay's adoption process to acquire a strong level of understanding of the 1993 Adoption Convention and its application within Uruguay's legal framework and to be able to ensure that Uruguay's adoption procedures respect the standards of the Convention.</p>	<p>Authority and other relevant actors received guidance and training on the different stages of the adoption procedure, as well as concrete inputs on the resolution of some national and international adoption cases.</p>			
May 2023	1993 Adoption Convention	Mongolia	Technical assistance to Mongolia on the 1993 Adoption Convention	<p>To ensure that actors involved in Mongolia's adoption process acquire a strong level of understanding of the 1993 Adoption Convention and its application, and are able to ensure that Mongolia's adoption procedures respect the standards of the Convention.</p>	<p>The staff of the Central Authority and other relevant actors were trained on the operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention. A number of practical cases were discussed in order to improve their understanding of the Convention and adoption as a child protection measure.</p>	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii(a), viii(b)	i, ii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii, ix	<p>Monetary voluntary contribution by the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs.</p>

* Requests for post-Convention assistance must meet the following selection criteria:¹

- i) an official request has been received from the State concerned;
- ii) the requesting State has expressed a commitment to fully co-operate with the Permanent Bureau (PB);
- iii) the requested assistance is likely to achieve the intended objectives in light of relevant social, political and economic factors;
- iv) the requested assistance is reasonably expected to produce measurable benefits;
- v) the requested assistance falls within the specific area of expertise of the PB;
- vi) the PB is the only or best placed entity to provide or coordinate the requested assistance;
- vii) where relevant, conditions in the requesting State are conducive to the effective provision of post-Convention assistance; and
- viii) where relevant, the requesting State expresses a commitment to:
 - a. actively cooperate with the PB or other relevant experts in the establishment and the realisation of an action plan for the provision of post-Convention assistance; and
 - b. move forward in achieving set milestones within a reasonable timeframe established in consultation with the PB.

** The prioritisation of selected requests is based on several factors, listed below, that determine the order in which post-Convention assistance will be provided to eligible States:²

- i) the requesting State is a Member of the HCCH or is actively committed to pursuing Membership;
- ii) the requesting State is in the process of preparing to join or is already a Contracting Party to the relevant HCCH Convention;
- iii) the urgency of the request;
- iv) the offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Member States or Contracting Parties;
- v) the requesting State is already receiving or is likely to receive additional relevant support or assistance from other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities;
- vi) the request reflects the diversity of regions in which the HCCH operates;
- vii) the lasting and substantive impact that providing post-Convention assistance is expected to have on the recipient State and the region, including the possibility that such assistance may enable the recipients to later provide training to other States in need of assistance;
- viii) the post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way; and
- ix) the request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted HCCH Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.

¹ Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance of the HCCH, Section IV.

² *Ibid.*, Section V.