

Title	Report on Post-Convention Assistance (1 January – 31 December 2022)
Document	Prel. Doc. No 13 of February 2023
Author	PB
Agenda Item	Item III.5.
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 2022
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

Report on Post-Convention Assistance (1 January – 31 December 2022)

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 Preliminary Document provides an exhaustive list of the post-Convention assistance activities undertaken by the PB between 1 January and 31 December 2022.

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)
18 July 2022	1961 Apostille Convention	Saudi Arabia	Technical workshop for Saudi Arabia on the practical operation of the 1961 Apostille Convention	To assist key officials of the Competent Authority designated under the 1961 Apostille Convention (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in understanding the object and practical operation of the Convention ahead of its entry into force for Saudi Arabia.	The Competent Authority is better positioned to ensure the correct and effective operation of the Convention at the time of entry into force. This includes ensuring Apostilles are designed and issued correctly, and other stakeholders are prepared to accept Apostilles from other Contracting Parties.	i-vi	i, ii, vi, viii, ix	Saudi Arabia organised and funded transport and accommodation for officials travelling from Riyadh to The Hague, where the workshop took place.
November 2021 – June 2022	1993 Adoption Convention	Paraguay	Technical assistance to Paraguay on the 1993 Adoption Convention	(1) To ensure that Paraguay's adoption practices under Law 6486/2020, and as set out in the regulations, procedural manuals, and other documents currently under development, are in line with the 1993 Adoption Convention. (2) To improve Paraguay's Central Authority's functioning and capacity to fulfil its role in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the	(1) A table outlining proposed amendments to Law 6486/2020 and an infographic on the requirements and stages of the intercountry adoption process were delivered to the Paraguayan authorities to ensure that Paraguay's adoption practices are in line with the 1993 Adoption Convention. (2) The Paraguayan Authorities received support in the development of an operational guide to the administrative	i-viii	i, ii, iv, vi-ix	Monetary voluntary contribution by the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs.

				<p>1993 Adoption Convention.</p> <p>(3) To enable actors involved in Paraguay's adoption process to acquire a strong level of understanding of the 1993 Adoption Convention and its application under the new adoption law.</p>	<p>procedure for adoption in Paraguay, as well as guidance on individual adoption cases, including feedback on how to address challenges and opportunities in the internal operation of the Central Authority and in its cooperation with other actors.</p> <p>(3) Two documents assessing challenges encountered by the Central Authority in its internal operations and in its cooperation with external actors were delivered to the Paraguayan authorities. These served as the basis for the identification of issues addressed in subsequent discussions with other stakeholders at a meeting held in August 2022.</p>			
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* 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;
- 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;

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

- v) The requested assistance falls within the specific area of expertise of the Permanent Bureau;
- vi) The Permanent Bureau is the only or best placed entity to provide or co-ordinate 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 co-operate with the Permanent Bureau 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 Permanent Bureau.

** 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 State to the relevant HCCH Convention;
- iii) The urgency of the request;
- iv) The offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States;
- 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.

² Section V of the Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance of the HCCH.