

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

Identification for follow-up purposes:

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I. OVERARCHING QUESTIONS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
1.	<p>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?</p> <p style="background-color: #e0f0ff;">In accordance with the restrictive measures against the COVID 19, exceptionally, online contact between a child and prospective adoptive parents was allowed before consent to adoption to be given.</p>
II. OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 (cases in transition only)	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
2.	<p>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?</p> <p style="background-color: #e0f0ff;">For the unfinished procedures, online contact with children was allowed and this was used to complete it, albeit with considerable delay. More than 100 children were in pending proceedings in the first months of 2020.</p>
3.	<p>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?</p> <p style="background-color: #e0f0ff;">Protection measures for adopted children were continued. Assistance was requested and received from the competent health and border authorities to allow the adoptive parents to enter the country for bringing the adopted children.</p>

III. DURING COVID-19 (cases in transition and new cases)	
	<u>States of origin only</u>
4.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Declaration of adoptability of the child: There is no change.</p> <p>b) Matching: There is no change.</p> <p>c) Socialisation period: There is no change other than usage of online contact technologies where was appropriate.</p> <p>d) Support and counselling to adoptable children: There is no change other than usage of online contact technologies where was appropriate.</p> <p>e) Adoption decision: There is no change.</p> <p>f) Other stages: Please insert text here</p>
	<u>Receiving States only</u>
5.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents: Please insert text here</p> <p>b) Support and counselling to prospective adoptive parents: Please insert text here</p> <p>c) Other stages: Please insert text here</p>
IV. USE OF TECHNOLOGY	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
6.	<p>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:</p> <p>a) any benefits and challenges: The online contacts between a child and prospective adoptive parents is an opportunity to conduct the procedures in extraordinary circumstances, but technologies cannot provide the same connection between a child and prospective adoptive parents as the contact in person.</p>

	<p>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:</p> <p>No</p>
<p>V. POST COVID-19: LOOKING AHEAD</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>No</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>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:</p> <p><u>Please insert text here</u></p>
<p>VI. ANY OTHER COMMENTS</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Please insert here any other comments you may have:</p> <p><u>Please insert text here</u></p>