

## STATE OF ORIGIN

**COUNTRY NAME:** GHANA

**PROFILE UPDATED ON:** 24/06/2020

### PART I: CENTRAL AUTHORITY

1. Contact details <sup>1</sup>	
Name of office:	CENTRAL ADOPTION AUTHORITY
Acronyms used:	CAA
Address:	MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION MB 186 MINISTRIES-ACCRA
Telephone:	0302949451/0302949447
Fax:	
E-mail:	dsd.adoption@gmail.com
Website:	
Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):	STEPHEN TIKAI DOMBO ENGLISH LANGUAGE
<i>If your State has designated more than one Central Authority, please provide contact details for the further Central Authorities below and specify the territorial extent of their functions.</i>	

### PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

2. The 1993 Adoption Convention and domestic legislation	
a) When did the 1993 Adoption Convention enter into force in your State?  <i>This information is available on the <a href="#">Status Table</a> for the 1993 Adoption Convention (accessible via the <a href="#">Adoption Section</a> of the HCCH website &lt; <a href="http://www.hcch.net">www.hcch.net</a> &gt;).</i>	1/01/2017

<sup>1</sup> Please verify whether the contact details on the “Adoption Section” of the HCCH website < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) > under “Central Authorities” are up to date. If not, please e-mail the updated contact information to < [secretariat@hcch.net](mailto:secretariat@hcch.net) >.

<p>b) Please identify the legislation / regulations / procedural rules which implement or assist with the effective operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in your State. Please also provide the date of their entry into force.</p> <p><i>Please remember to indicate how the legislation / regulations / rules may be accessed: e.g., provide a link to a website or attach a copy. Where applicable, please also provide a translation into English or French if possible.</i></p>	<p>Adoption Regulation, 2018 Children's Amendment Act 937 (2016)</p>
---	--

3. Other international agreements on intercountry adoption <sup>2</sup>	
<p>Is your State party to any other international (cross-border) agreements concerning intercountry adoption?</p> <p><i>See Art. 39.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regional agreements (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral agreements (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-binding memoranda of understanding (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

### PART III: THE ROLE OF AUTHORITIES AND BODIES

4. Central Authority(ies)	
<p>Please briefly describe the functions of the Central Authority(ies) designated under the 1993 Adoption Convention in your State.</p> <p><i>See Arts 6-9 and Arts 14-21 if accredited bodies are not used.</i></p>	<p>The object and functions of the authority are to provide for the conduct of all adoptions in the Country in a manner that promotes the well being and best interest of the child and to support efficient and accountable practice in the delivery of adoption services in accordance with the Hague Convention on protection of children and co-operation in respect of intercountry adoption.</p>

5. Public and competent authorities	
<p>Please briefly describe the role of any public and / or competent authorities, including courts, in the intercountry adoption procedure in your State.</p>	<p>The Department of Social Welfare in the various Regions facilitate the preparation of the Social and enquiry report and the Child Study Report.</p>

<sup>2</sup> See Art. 39(2) which states: "Any Contracting State may enter into agreements with one or more other Contracting States, with a view to improving the application of the Convention in their mutual relations. These agreements may derogate only from the provisions of Articles 14 to 16 and 18 to 21. The States which have concluded such an agreement shall transmit a copy to the depositary of the Convention" (emphasis added).

See Arts 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 22, 23 and 30.	
<b>6. National accredited bodies<sup>3</sup></b>	
a) Has your State accredited its own adoption bodies?  <i>See Arts 10-11.</i>  <b>N.B.</b> the name(s) and address(es) of any national accredited bodies should be communicated by your State to the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH (see Art. 13). <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – <b>go to Question 7</b>
b) Please indicate the number of national accredited bodies in your State, including whether this number is limited and, if so, on what basis. <sup>5</sup>	
c) Please briefly describe the role of national accredited bodies in your State.	
<b>6.1 The accreditation procedure (Arts 10-11)</b>	
a) Which authority / body is responsible for the accreditation of national adoption bodies in your State?	The Ghana Central Adoption Authority
b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting accreditation and the most important accreditation <i>criteria</i> .	Accreditation forms are purchased from the Central Adoption Authority it is filled with attachment of required supporting documents. These documents are vetted to ensure that they meet the requirement. The office is then inspected. Key among the staff of the agency is a Social worker which is a basic requirement.
c) For how long is accreditation granted in your State?	Twelve months
d) Please briefly describe the criteria and the procedure used to determine whether the accreditation of a national adoption body will be <i>renewed</i> .	When the accredited agency works within its set objectives for a year without any breaches then that agency is due for renewal.
<b>6.2 Monitoring of national accredited bodies<sup>6</sup></b>	
a) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise national accredited bodies in your State?	The Central Adoption Authority

<sup>3</sup> “National accredited bodies” in this Country Profile means adoption bodies based within your State (State of origin) which have been accredited under the 1993 Adoption Convention by the competent authorities in your State. See further *Guide to Good Practice No 2 on Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies* (“GGP No 2”), available on the [Adoption Section](#) of the HCCH website < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) > at Chapters 3.1 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter 3.2.1 (para. 111).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter 3.4.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter 7.4.

<i>See Art. 11(c).</i>	
b) Please briefly describe how national accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in your State ( <i>e.g.</i> , if inspections are undertaken, how frequently).	The activities are monitored quarterly throughout the year.
c) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the accreditation of bodies can be revoked ( <i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	If the agency is involve in illigalities and breaches of the Adoption Regulation
d) If national accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Adoption Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions ( <i>e.g.</i> , fine, withdrawal of accreditation): withdrawal of their accreditation <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>7. Authorised foreign accredited bodies<sup>7</sup> (Art. 12)</b>	
a) Has your State authorised any foreign accredited adoption bodies to work with, or in, your State?  <i>N.B. the name(s) and address(es) of any authorised foreign accredited bodies should be communicated by your State to the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – <b>go to Question 8</b>
b) Please indicate the number of foreign accredited bodies authorised to work with, or in, your State. If this number is limited in any way, please indicate on what basis your State limits the number. <sup>8</sup>	Not Applicable
c) Please briefly describe the role of authorised foreign accredited bodies in your State.	They facilitate family adoptions of Ghanaian resident outside Ghana as well as other nationals.
d) Are there any requirements concerning the way foreign accredited bodies must operate in your State?  <i>Please tick any which apply.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> The foreign accredited body must establish an office in your State with a representative and professional staff (from the receiving State or from your State – please specify): <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The foreign accredited body must work with your State through a representative, acting as an intermediary, but an office is not required: <b>OR</b>

<sup>7</sup> "Authorised foreign accredited bodies" are adoption bodies based in another Contracting State to the 1993 Adoption Convention (usually a receiving State) which your State has authorised, under Art. 12, to work with, or in, your State on intercountry adoption. See further GGP No 2, *ibid.*, Chapter 4.2.

<sup>8</sup> See GGP No 2, *ibid.*, Chapter 4.4 on "limiting the number of accredited bodies authorised to act in States of origin".

	<input type="checkbox"/> The foreign accredited body must be in direct contact with the Central Authority but need not have an office or a representative in your State: <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	--

<b>7.1 The authorisation procedure</b>	
a) Which authority / body in your State is responsible for the authorisation of foreign accredited bodies?	The Central Adoption Authority
b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting authorisation and the most important authorisation <i>criteria</i> . <sup>9</sup> If your State does not have authorisation criteria, please explain on what basis decisions concerning authorisation are made.	The Authority develops and administers systems and standards of control to guide recruitment, operations and monitoring of authorised bodies to conform to the Children's Act, the 1993 Hague Convention and other relevant enactments in the delivery of adoption
c) For how long is authorisation granted?	One (1) year
d) Please briefly describe the criteria and procedure used to determine whether authorisation will be <i>renewed</i> .	Renewal must be applied for three months prior to the expiration of the current authorisation. The application must come with a letter requesting for renewal of authorisation, a report of activities undertaken within the preceding two years with corresponding accounting documents, the prescribed fees and other relevant documents. The Authority shall, in deciding on the renewal of the authorisation, take into account the performance of the authorised body
<b>7.2 Monitoring of authorised foreign accredited bodies</b>	
a) Does your State monitor / supervise the activities of authorised foreign accredited bodies? <sup>10</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – <b>go to Question 8</b>
b) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise the activities of authorised foreign accredited bodies?	The Central Adoption Authority
c) Please briefly describe how the activities of authorised foreign accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in your State ( <i>e.g.</i> , if inspections are undertaken, how frequently).	Undertake quarterly inspection of all their activities in the Country engaging the local representative

<sup>9</sup> In relation to authorisation criteria, *ibid.*, Chapters 2.3.4.2 and 4.2.4.

<sup>10</sup> *ibid.*, Chapter 7.4 and, in particular, para. 290.

<p>d) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the authorisation of foreign accredited bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i>, withdrawn).</p>	<p>Authorisation may be revoked if :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the agency breaches a condition of the authorisation</li> <li>ii. the agency has provided false information in its application for authorisation</li> <li>iii. the agency refuses to comply with a directive of the Authority to rectify a violation of the condition of the authorisation</li> <li>iv. the adoption agency has committed an offence under the Act or Adoption Regulations</li> <li>v. investigations by the Authority reveal that the adoption agency is no longer able to provide adoption services</li> </ul>
<p>e) If authorised foreign accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Adoption Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions (<i>e.g.</i>, fine, withdrawal of authorisation): withdrawal of authorisation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<b>8. Approved (non-accredited) persons (Art. 22(2))<sup>11</sup></b>	
<p>a) Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons <i>from your State</i> permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in your State?</p> <p><i>N.B. see Art. 22(2) and check whether your State has made a declaration according to this provision. You can verify this on the <a href="#">Status Table</a> for the 1993 Adoption Convention, available on the <a href="#">Adoption Section</a> of the HCCH website. If your State has made a declaration according to Art. 22(2), the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH should be informed of the names and addresses of these bodies and persons (Art. 22(3)).<sup>12</sup></i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, our State has made a declaration according to Article 22(2). Please specify the role of these approved (non-accredited) persons in your State:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons <i>from other Contracting States</i> permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in your State?</p> <p><i>N.B. see Art. 22(4) and check whether your State has made a declaration according to this provision. You can verify this on the <a href="#">Status Table</a> for the 1993 Adoption Convention, available on the <a href="#">Adoption Section</a> of the HCCH website.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please specify the role of these approved (non-accredited) persons in your State:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, our State has made a declaration according to Article 22(4).</p>

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.2.2.5.

**PART IV: THE CHILDREN PROPOSED FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**

<b>9. The profile of children in need of intercountry adoption</b>	
Please briefly describe the general profile of the children usually in need of intercountry adoption in your State ( <i>e.g.</i> , age, sex, state of health).	a year old to 16 years of both sex. They may be fully fit or children with some underlying health conditions

<b>10. The adoptability of a child (Art. 4(a))</b>	
a) Which authority is responsible for establishing that a child is adoptable?	The Technical Committee of the Central Adoption Authority
b) Which criteria are applied to determine whether a child is adoptable?	<p>i. a child is adoptable if in need of an adoptive family</p> <p>ii. where the parent or guardian is</p> <p>a. known, the parent, guardian or Department of Social Welfare has consented to adoption in respect of that child</p> <p>b. unknown, the Regional Director of the Department where the child habitually resides has consented to adoption in respect of that child</p>
<p>c) Please briefly describe the procedures used in your State to determine whether a child is adoptable (<i>e.g.</i>, search for the child's birth family).</p> <p><i>N.B. the issue of consent is dealt with at Question 12 below.</i></p>	<p>a. when the child cannot be kept in or reunited with the family of that child</p> <p>b. there is basis under the Children's Act, for severing the links of the child with the parent, guardian or relative</p> <p>c. an assessment of the child by the Technical Committee has established that the child will benefit from a family environment and adoption is the preferred option of care.</p>

<b>11. The best interests of the child and subsidiarity (Art. 4(b))</b>	
a) Please briefly describe how your State ensures that the principle of subsidiarity is respected when undertaking intercountry adoptions ( <i>e.g.</i> , through the provision of family support services, the promotion of family reunification and domestic alternative care solutions).	there is family tracing and reunification. Children are also placed with local adoptive parents, only after their failure will intercountry will be considered. Exception is however given to children with special needs
b) Which authority determines, after consideration of the subsidiarity principle, that an intercountry adoption is in a child's best interests?	The Technical Committee of the Adoption Authority

<p>c) Please briefly explain how that decision is reached (<i>e.g.</i>, whether there are specific legal criteria which are applied) and at what stage of the intercountry adoption procedure.</p>	<p>a social enquiry is written on each child by the Department of Social Welfare in the region where the child is habitually resident. This is further reviewed by the Technical Committee during their monthly review meetings</p>
--	---

<b>12. Counselling and consents (Art. 4(c) and (d))</b>	
<p>a) According to your State's domestic legislation, please explain which person, institution or authority has to consent to the adoption of a child in the following scenarios – where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Both parents are known;</li> <li>(ii) One parent is unknown or deceased;</li> <li>(iii) Both parents are unknown or deceased;</li> <li>(iv) One or both parents have been deprived of his / her / their parental responsibilities (<i>i.e.</i>, the rights and responsibilities which attach to being a parent).</li> </ul> <p>In each case, please remember to specify in which circumstances a <i>father</i> will have to consent to his child's adoption. Please also specify whether your answer would be different if any of the known parents had not yet reached the age of majority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Both parents</li> <li>(ii) The Known Parent and the head of family of the the deceased parent</li> <li>(iii) The Director of the Department of Social Welfare</li> <li>(iv)</li> </ul>
<p>b) Please describe the procedure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) counselling and informing the birth parents / family regarding the consequences of a domestic / intercountry adoption; and</li> <li>(ii) obtaining their consent(s) to an adoption.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The birth parents are usually invited to the office of regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and are counselled explaining the consequences of their decision</li> <li>(ii) Once they are well informed of the consequences they consent</li> </ul>
<p>c) Does your State use the model form "<i>Statement of consent to the adoption</i>" developed by the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH?</p> <p><i>The model form is available on the <a href="#">Adoption section</a> of the HCCH website.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – please provide (or link to) any form(s) which your State uses for this purpose:</p>
<p>d) Having regard to the age and degree of maturity of a child, please briefly describe how your State ensures that consideration is given to the child's</p>	<p>Children aged 14 and above must fill out Form 16 to give their consent to adoptions concerning them.</p>

<sup>13</sup> See also Part VIII below on "Simple and Full Adoption" and Art. 27 of the 1993 Adoption Convention.



<p>wishes and opinions when determining whether an intercountry adoption should proceed.</p> <p><i>See Art. 4(d)(2).</i></p>	<p>Form 15 is administered on Children below 14 years to seek their opinions concerning their adoption depending on their level of maturity</p>
<p>e) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which a child's <u>consent</u> to an intercountry adoption is required in your State.</p> <p>Where the child's consent is required, please describe the procedure which is used to ensure that the child has been counselled and duly informed of the effects of the adoption.</p> <p><i>See Art. 4(d)(1).</i></p>	<p>Children aged 14 and above are deemed mature and as such the Department of social welfare in the region where the child is a habitual resident. Such a child will be counselled by an officer of the consequences of adoption before administering the Form 16</p>

13. Children with special needs	
<p>a) In the context of intercountry adoption, please describe what is meant in your State by "children with special needs".</p>	<p>A special need child is a child with special needs other children may not require. This may be due to a disability or a combination of several disability or ailment</p>
<p>b) What, if any, procedures does your State use to expedite the adoption of children with special needs?</p>	<p>The procedure is the same with the other children</p>

14. The preparation of children for intercountry adoption	
<p>Is there a special procedure in your State to prepare a child for an intercountry adoption?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details (<i>e.g.</i>, the stage at which the preparation is undertaken, which persons / bodies are responsible for preparing the child and the methods used):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

15. The nationality of children who are adopted intercountry <sup>14</sup>	
<p>Are children who are nationals of your State and who are adopted intercountry permitted to retain their nationality?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It depends – please specify which factors are taken into consideration (<i>e.g.</i>, the nationality of the foreign resident prospective adoptive parents ("PAPs"), whether the child acquires the nationality</p>

<sup>14</sup> Regarding nationality, see further the *Guide to Good Practice No 1 on the implementation and operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention* ("GGP No 1"), available on the [Adoption Section](http://www.hcch.net) of the HCCH website < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) >, at Chapter 8.4.5.

	<p>of the receiving State): it depends on the rules of nationality of the PAPs' receiving country</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, the child will never retain this nationality</p>
--	--

## PART V: PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS (“PAPs”)

16. Limits on the acceptance of files	
Does your State place any limit on the number of PAPs' files which are accepted from receiving States? <sup>15</sup>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the limit applied and the basis on which it is determined:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

17. Eligibility criteria for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State <sup>16</sup>	
<p>a) Do PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State have to fulfil any criteria concerning their relationship status(es)?</p> <p><i>Please tick any / all boxes which apply and indicate in the space provided whether any further conditions are imposed (e.g., duration of marriage / partnership / relationship, cohabitation).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the following person(s) may apply in our State for an intercountry adoption:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married, heterosexual couples:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Married, same-sex couples:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples in a legally registered partnership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples in a legally registered partnership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples that have not legally formalised their relationship:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples that have not legally formalised their relationship:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Single men:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single women: if Ghanaian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, there are no relationship status criteria for PAPs.</p>
<p>b) Are there any age requirements for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum age requirements: 25years</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximum age requirements: 50years</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Difference in years required between the PAPs and the child: 21years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<sup>15</sup> See GGP No 2 (*op. cit.* note 3), Chapter 3.4.2 and, in particular, para. 121.

<sup>16</sup> *I.e.*, this section refers to the eligibility criteria for PAPs who are habitually resident in *another* Contracting State to the 1993 Convention and who wish to adopt a child who is habitually resident in *your* State: see further Art. 2 of the 1993 Adoption Convention.

<p>c) Are there any <i>other</i> eligibility criteria which PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State must fulfil?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional / differing criteria must be met for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Couples must supply evidence of infertility:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For persons with children already (biological or adopted), there are additional criteria (please specify): names, ages, and criminal records of children, if any</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
---	--

18. Preparation and counselling of PAPs (Art. 5(b))	
<p>Does your State require that PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State receive preparation and / or counselling concerning intercountry adoption <i>in the receiving State</i>?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please explain what kind of preparation is expected: Ghana expects that PAPs are trained to be prepared for the challenges and changes that comes with raising a new child who may have a different background</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

## PART VI: THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCEDURE

19. Applications	
<p>a) To which authority / body in your State does the adoption file of PAPs have to be submitted?</p>	<p>The secretariat of the Central Adoption Authority</p>
<p>b) Please indicate which documents must be submitted with an application:</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An application form for adoption completed by the PAPs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A statement of “approval to adopt” issued by a competent authority in the receiving State</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A report on the PAPs including the “home study” and other personal assessments (see Art. 15)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs’ passports or other personal identification documents</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs’ birth certificates</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the birth certificates of any children living with the PAPs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of marriage, divorce or death certificates, as applicable (please specify in which circumstances):</p>

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the health of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): PAPs must be declared medically fit by a registered medical practitioner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the financial circumstances of the family (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): proof that PAPs have a steady income <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the employment status of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required): to determine that PAPs are gainfully employed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of no criminal record <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(s): please explain i. national ID of PAPs ii. two character referees iii. pictures of PAPs, their family and their home iv. completed commitment forms as set out in form 11 of the schedule from two guardian ad litem
<p>c) Is it compulsory in your State for an accredited body to be involved in an intercountry adoption procedure?<sup>17</sup></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify whether it must be a <i>national</i> accredited body, a <i>foreign authorised</i> accredited body or whether it may be either of these accredited bodies. <sup>18</sup> Please also specify at which stage(s) of the procedure an accredited body must be involved ( <i>e.g.</i> , for the preparation of the home study, for the submission of the adoption file to your State, for all stages of the procedure): the preparation of the home study report <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>d) Are any <i>additional</i> documents required if PAPs apply through an accredited body?</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney issued by the PAPs to the accredited body ( <i>i.e.</i> , a written document provided by the PAPs to the accredited body in which the PAPs formally appoint the accredited body to act on their behalf in relation to the intercountry adoption): <input type="checkbox"/> A contract signed by the accredited body and the PAPs: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A document issued by a competent authority of the receiving State certifying that the accredited body may

<sup>17</sup> See GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 14), paras 4.2.6 and 8.6.6: “independent” and “private” adoptions are not consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Adoption Convention.

<sup>18</sup> See the definitions provided at notes 3 and 7 above.

	<p>undertake intercountry adoptions:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
e) Please specify the language(s) in which any documents must be submitted:	English
f) Do any of the required documents need to be legalised or apostilled?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify which documents:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – <b>go to Question 20</b></p>
<p>g) Is your State party to the <i>Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents</i> (the Apostille Convention)?</p> <p><i>This information is available on the <a href="#">Status Table for the Apostille Convention</a> (see the <a href="#">Apostille Section</a> of the HCCH website).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the date of the entry into force of the Apostille Convention in your State:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<b>20. The report on the child (Art. 16(1)(a))</b>	
a) Who is responsible for preparing the report on the child?	The Regional Office of the Department of Social Welfare
b) Is a “standard form” used for the report on the child?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide a link to the form or attach a copy:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please indicate whether your State has any requirements concerning the information which should be included in the report on the child and / or the documentation which should be attached to it: The Social enquiry Report</p>
<p>c) Does your State use the “<i>Model Form – Medical Report on the Child</i>” and the “<i>Supplement to the general medical report on the child</i>”?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 – Annex 7, available <a href="#">here</a>.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<b>21. The report on the PAPs (Art. 15(2))</b>	
a) For how long is the report on the PAPs valid in your State?	1 year
b) Once a report on PAPs is no longer valid, please indicate what steps must be taken to renew it. <i>E.g., does an updated report have to be submitted or is an entirely new report</i>	the PAPs must contact their agency of the invalidity of their home study for them to get their report and home conditions re-evaluated.

required? In either case, what is the procedure?	
--	--

<b>22. Matching of the child and the PAPs (Art. 16(1)(d) and (2))</b>	
<b>22.1 The authorities and the matching procedure</b>	
a) Who is responsible for the matching of the child and the PAPs in your State?	The Technical Committee of the Central Adoption Authority
b) What measures are taken to ensure that the matching process is performed by an independent, duly qualified authority?	The Technical Committee is made up of independent individuals from different professional backgrounds. this is to ensure that matching is done independently
c) What methodology is used for the matching in your State?	
d) Is any preference given to PAPs who have a close connection with your State (e.g., nationals of your State who have emigrated to a receiving State)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: Nationals from Ghana in a receiving state are given the same treatment as though the were undertaking an incountry adoption <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Who is responsible for notifying the receiving State of the matching?	The Secretariat of the Central Adoption Authority
f) How does your State ensure that the prohibition on contact in Article 29 is respected?	The committee match PAPs with children in the adoption register and not children identified by PAPs
<b>22.2 Acceptance of the match</b>	
a) Does your State require that the matching be approved by the relevant authorities / bodies of the receiving State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide details of the required procedure: <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) How much time is the receiving State given to decide whether to accept a match?	One month
c) If the relevant authorities / bodies of the receiving State and / or the PAPs refuse the match, what, if any, are the consequences in your State?	No
<b>22.3 Information following acceptance of the match</b>	
Once the match has been accepted, do PAPs receive information regularly concerning the child and his / her development (i.e., during the remainder of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify who is responsible for providing this information: the information is provided by the secretariat of the central adoption authority <input type="checkbox"/> No

the intercountry adoption procedure and prior to entrustment)?	
--	--

<b>23. Agreement under Article 17(c)</b>	
a) Which competent authority / body agrees that the adoption may proceed in accordance with Article 17(c)?	the secretariat of the central adoption authority
b) At what point in the adoption procedure is the Article 17(c) agreement given in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Our State sends the Article 17(c) agreement to the receiving State with the proposed match; <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The receiving State must accept the match first and then our State will provide its Article 17(c) agreement; <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

<b>24. Travel of the PAPs to your State<sup>19</sup></b>	
a) In order to undertake an intercountry adoption in your State, is it mandatory for PAPs to travel to your State at any point?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, in which case please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At what stage(s) in the intercountry adoption procedure the PAPs must travel to your State: when the adoption proposition is made by the state</li> <li>- How many trips are required to complete the intercountry adoption procedure:</li> <li>- How long the PAPs need to stay for each trip:</li> <li>- Any other conditions:</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State permit an escort to be used to take the child to the adoptive parents in the receiving State in any circumstances?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in which circumstances: in the instance where the PAPs are unable to travel with the child <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>25. Entrustment of the child to the PAPs (Art. 17)</b>	
<p>After the procedures in Article 17 have been completed, what is the procedure for the physical entrustment of the child to the PAPs?</p> <p>Please include an explanation of the procedures used to prepare the child for entrustment (<i>e.g.</i>, counselling, visits with the PAPs, being in the temporary care of the PAPs for increasing periods).</p>	the child is counselled by the Department, then the PAPs are allowed to stay with the child on a temporary basis for bonding to take place

<sup>19</sup> See GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 14), Chapter 7.4.10.

<b>26. Transfer of the child to the receiving State (Arts 5(c) and 18)</b>	
a) Which documents does your State require in order for the child to be permitted to leave your State and travel to the receiving State ( <i>e.g.</i> , passport, visa, exit permit)?	Passport, Visa and an application to travel with the child which will be signed by the Director of the Department of Social Welfare
b) Which of the documents listed in response to Question 26 a) above does your State issue?  Please list the documents including, in each case, which public / competent authority is responsible for issuing the document.	passport: issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  Application to travel with the child: Department of Social Welfare
c) Other than the issuance of the documentation mentioned above, are there any other administrative or procedural matters which must be completed in order for the child to be permitted to leave your State and travel to the receiving State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

<b>27. Final adoption decision and the Article 23 certificate</b>	
a) In intercountry adoption cases, is the final adoption decision made in your State or in the receiving State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In our State – <b>go to Question 27 c)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In the receiving State – <b>go to Question 27 b)</b>
b) Following the making of the final adoption decision in the receiving State:  (i) Are any further steps required in your State to complete the procedure ( <i>e.g.</i> , obtaining a copy of the final adoption decision from the receiving State)?  (ii) Which authority or body in your State should receive a copy of the Article 23 certificate issued by the receiving State?	(i) (ii) <b><u>Go to Question 28</u></b>
c) If the final adoption decision is made in your State, which competent authority:  (i) Makes the adoption decision; and (ii) Issues the certificate under Article 23 of the 1993 Adoption Convention?  <i>N.B. According to Art. 23(2), the authority responsible for issuing the Art. 23 certificate should be formally designated at the time of</i>	(i) The Central doption Authority (ii) The Central doption Authority



<p><i>ratification of / accession to the 1993 Adoption Convention. The designation (or any modification of a designation) should be notified to the depositary of the Convention.</i></p> <p><i>The answer to (ii) above should therefore be available on the <a href="#">Status Table</a> for the 1993 Adoption Convention (under “Authorities”), available on the <a href="#">Adoption Section</a> of the HCCH website.</i></p>	
<p>d) Does your State use the “<i>Recommended model form – Certificate of conformity of intercountry adoption</i>”?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 – Annex 7, available <a href="#">here</a>.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>e) Please briefly describe the procedure for issuing the Article 23 certificate. <i>E.g.</i>, how long does it take to issue the certificate? Is a copy of the certificate always given to the PAPs? Is a copy sent to the Central Authority in the receiving State?</p>	<p>It take a five working day period to issue the certificate. A copy is given to the PAPs and a copy sent to the Central authority in the receiving state</p>

28. Duration of the intercountry adoption procedure	
<p>Where possible, please indicate the average time which it takes to:</p> <p>(i) Match a child who has been declared adoptable with PAPs for the purposes of an intercountry adoption;</p> <p>(ii) Physically entrust a child to PAPs once a match has been accepted by the PAPs and approved by the relevant authorities / bodies in the receiving State, if applicable;</p> <p>(iii) Make a final adoption decision following the entrustment of a child to PAPs (if applicable in your State: <i>i.e.</i>, if the final adoption decision is made in your State and not in the receiving State).</p>	<p>(i) One month (ii) One month (iii) One month</p>

## PART VII: INTRA-FAMILY INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

29. Procedure for the intercountry adoption of a child who is a relative of the PAPs (“intra-family intercountry adoption”)	
<p>a) Please explain the circumstances in which an intercountry adoption will be classified as an “<i>intra-family intercountry adoption</i>” in your State. Please include an explanation of the degree of relationship which a child</p>	<p>intra-family adoption is where the PAPs are related to the child through consanguinity the child and the PAPs must be related to the 5<sup>th</sup> level of consanguinity</p>

<p>must have with PAPs to be considered a “relative” of those PAPs.</p>	
<p>b) Does your State apply the procedures of the 1993 Adoption Convention to intra-family intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><i>N.B. If the child and PAPs are habitually resident in different Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption Convention, <b>the Convention is applicable</b>, irrespective of the fact that the child and PAPs are related: see further GGP No 1 at para. 8.6.4.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – <b>go to Question 30</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in general, although there are some differences in the procedures for intra-family intercountry adoptions – please specify: <b>. Go to Question 30</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – <b>go to Question 29 c)</b></p>
<p>c) If your State does not apply the Convention procedures to intra-family intercountry adoptions, please explain the laws / rules / procedures which are used in relation to:</p> <p>(i) The counselling and preparations which PAPs must undergo in the receiving State;</p> <p>(ii) The preparation of the child for the adoption;</p> <p>(iii) The report on the PAPs; and</p> <p>(iv) The report on the child.</p>	<p>(i)</p> <p>(ii)</p> <p>(iii)</p> <p>(iv)</p>

## PART VIII: SIMPLE AND FULL ADOPTION<sup>20</sup>

30. Simple and full adoption	
<p>a) Is “full” adoption permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 20 below.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>b) Is “simple” adoption permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 20 below.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – <b>go to Question 31</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only (<i>e.g.</i>, for intra-family adoptions only) – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>c) If a “simple” adoption is to be undertaken in your State in an intercountry adoption case, does your State nonetheless usually seek the birth mother / family’s consent(s)<sup>21</sup> to a “full” adoption where this is in the child’s best</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide details of how this is undertaken:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<sup>20</sup> According to the 1993 Adoption Convention, a **simple** adoption is one in which the legal parent-child relationship which existed before the adoption is not terminated but a new legal parent-child relationship between the child and his / her adoptive parents is established. A **full** adoption is one in which the pre-existing legal parent-child relationship is terminated. See further Arts 26 and 27 and GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 14), Chapter 8.8.8.

<sup>21</sup> Or other person(s) whose consent to the adoption is required under Art. 4 (c) and (d) of the 1993 Adoption Convention.

<p>interests (<i>i.e.</i>, so that a “conversion” of the adoption may be undertaken in the receiving State if the other conditions in Art. 27(1) are fulfilled)?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1)(b) and Art. 4 (c) and (d).</i></p>	
<p>d) How does your State respond to requests from receiving States to obtain the consent(s) of a child’s birth mother / family<sup>22</sup> to the conversion of a “simple” adoption into a “full” adoption (in accordance with Art. 27) when the request is made many years after the original adoption?</p>	

### PART IX: POST-ADOPTION MATTERS

<b>31. Preservation of, and access to, information concerning the child’s origins (Art. 30) and the adoption of the child</b>	
<p>a) Which authority is responsible for preserving information concerning the child’s origins, as required by Article 30?</p>	<p>The Secretariat of the Central Adoption Authority and the Regional Office of the Department of Social Welfare where the child is a habitual resident</p>
<p>b) For how long is the information concerning the child’s origins preserved?</p>	<p>the information has to be preserved always</p>
<p>c) Does your State permit the following persons to have access to information concerning the child’s origins and / or information concerning the adoption of the child:</p> <p>(i) the adoptee and / or his / her representative(s);</p> <p>(ii) the adoptive parents;</p> <p>(iii) the birth family; and / or</p> <p>(iv) any other persons?</p> <p>If so, are there any criteria which must be met for access to be granted (<i>e.g.</i>, age of the adopted child, consent of the birth family to the release of information concerning the child’s origins, consent of the adoptive parents to the release of information concerning the adoption)?</p> <p><i>See Art. 9(a) and (c) and Art. 30.</i></p>	<p>(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(ii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iv) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>d) Where access to such information is provided, is any counselling or other guidance / support given in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<p>e) Once access to such information has been provided, is any <i>further</i> assistance offered to the adoptee and / or others (e.g., regarding making contact with his / her biological family, tracing extended family)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: the Authority aids the adoptee with the provision on all needed information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
--	---

<b>32. Post-adoption reports</b>	
<p>a) Is there a model form which is used by your State for post-adoption reports?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify whether use of the form is mandatory and indicate where it may be accessed (e.g., provide a link or attach a copy):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – in which case, please specify the content expected in a post-adoption report (e.g., medical information, information about the child’s development, schooling): medical information, physical and mental development of the child, schooling and extra curricular activities</p>
<p>b) What are the requirements of your State in relation to post-adoption reports? Please indicate:</p> <p>(i) How frequently such reports should be submitted (e.g., every year, every two years);</p> <p>(ii) For how long (e.g., until the child is a certain age);</p> <p>(iii) The language in which the report must be submitted;</p> <p>(iv) Who should write the reports; and</p> <p>(v) Any other requirements.</p>	<p>(i) every 6 months for the first 2 years and once for the remaining three years</p> <p>(ii) 5 years after the adoption is done</p> <p>(iii) English</p> <p>(iv) The Accredited Adoption Agency of the PAPs</p> <p>(v)</p>
<p>c) What, if any, are the consequences in your State if post-adoption reports are either:</p> <p>(i) Not submitted at all; or</p> <p>(ii) Submitted, but not in accordance with your requirements?</p>	<p>(i)</p> <p>(ii)</p>
<p>d) What does your State do with post-adoption reports? (i.e., to what use are they put?)</p>	<p>they are reviewed to know the progress of the child</p>

## PART X: THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> See the tools developed by the “Experts’ Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption”, available on the [Adoption Section](#) of the HCCH website: i.e., the *Terminology on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* (“Terminology”), the *Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* (“Note”), the *Summary list of good practices on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* and the *Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption*.

**States of origin are also kindly requested to complete the “Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption”, available on the [Adoption Section](#) of the HCCH website.**

<b>33. The costs<sup>24</sup> of intercountry adoption</b>	
a) Are the costs of intercountry adoption regulated by law in your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify any relevant legislation / regulations / rules and indicate how they may be accessed ( <i>e.g.</i> , link to a website or attach a copy). Please also briefly explain the legal framework: The paliamentary select committee on fees/charges approved and passed the fee/charges schedule for intercountry adoption  <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State monitor the payment of the costs of intercountry adoption?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please briefly describe how this monitoring is undertaken: This is done through quarterly audit  <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your State paid through the accredited body involved in the particular intercountry adoption (if applicable – see Question 19 c) above) or directly by the PAPs themselves?  <i>See the “Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption” at para. 86.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through the accredited body: <input type="checkbox"/> Directly by the PAPs: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):
d) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your State paid in cash or only by bank transfer?  <i>See the “Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption” at para. 85.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only by bank transfer: <input type="checkbox"/> In cash: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):
e) Which body / authority in your State receives the payments?	The Central Adoption Authority
f) Does your State provide PAPs (and other interested persons) with information about the costs of intercountry adoption ( <i>e.g.</i> , in a brochure or on a website)?  <i>N.B. Please also ensure that your State has completed the “Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption” (see above).</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please indicate how this information may be accessed: This information will be published on Authority website when it goes live  <input type="checkbox"/> No

### 34. Contributions, co-operation projects and donations<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> See the definition of “costs” provided in the Terminology, *ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> See the definitions of these terms provided in the Terminology. In addition, on contributions and donations, see Chapter 6 of the Note, *supra*, note 23.

<p>a) Is it mandatory for a receiving State (either through its Central Authority or authorised foreign accredited bodies) to pay a contribution<sup>26</sup> to your State if it wishes to engage in intercountry adoption in your State?</p> <p><i>For good practices relating to contributions, see the “Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption” at Chapter 6.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What type of contribution is required:</li> <li>• Who is responsible for paying it (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority or the relevant authorised foreign accredited body):</li> <li>• How it is ensured that contributions do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process:</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Are receiving States (either through their Central Authority or authorised foreign accredited bodies) permitted to undertake co-operation projects in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – it is a <i>mandatory</i> requirement for authorisation to be granted to a foreign accredited body.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – it is <i>permitted</i> but not required.</p> <p>In either of the above cases, please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What type of co-operation projects are permitted:</li> <li>• Who may undertake such projects (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority and / or authorised foreign accredited bodies):</li> <li>• Whether such projects are monitored by an authority / body in your State:</li> <li>• How it is ensured that co-operation projects do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process:</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) Does your State permit PAPs or authorised foreign accredited bodies to make donations to orphanages, institutions or birth families in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To whom may donations may be made (<i>e.g.</i>, to orphanages, other institutions and / or birth families):</li> <li>• What donations are used for:</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup> See further the Terminology, *supra*, note 23, which states that there are two types of contributions: (1) contributions demanded by the State of origin, which are mandatory and meant to improve either the adoption system or the child protection system. The amount is set by the State of origin. These contributions are managed by the authorities or others appropriately authorised in the State of origin which decide how the funds will be used; (2) contributions demanded by the accredited body from PAPs. These contributions may be for particular children’s institutions (*e.g.*, for maintenance costs for the child) or for the co-operation projects of the accredited body in the State of origin. The co-operation projects may be a condition of the authorisation of that body to work in the State of origin. The amount is set by the accredited body or its partners. The payment may not be a statutory obligation and accredited bodies may present the demand in terms of “highly recommended contribution”, but in practice it is “mandatory” for the PAPs in the sense that their application will not proceed if the payment is not made.

<p><b>N.B. This is <u>not</u> recommended as a good practice:</b> see further the “Note on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption” at Chapter 6 (in particular, Chapter 6.4).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is permitted to pay donations (e.g., only authorised foreign accredited bodies or also PAPs):</li> <li>• At what stage of the intercountry adoption procedure donations are permitted to be paid:</li> <li>• How it is ensured that donations do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process:</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
---	--

35. Improper financial or other gain (Arts 8 and 32)	
a) Which authority is responsible for preventing improper financial or other gain in your State as required by the Convention?	financial intelligence centre
b) What measures have been taken in your State to prevent improper financial or other gain?	Public education and sensitisation
c) Please explain the sanctions which may be applied if Articles 8 and / or 32 are breached.	A term of imprisonment

## PART XI: ILLICIT PRACTICES<sup>27</sup>

36. Response to illicit practices in general	
Please explain how your Central Authority and / or other competent authorities respond to intercountry adoption cases involving alleged or actual illicit practices. <sup>28</sup>	The PAPs and individual officers involved are prosecuted

37. The abduction, sale of and traffic in children	
a) Please indicate which laws in your State seek to prevent the abduction, sale of and traffic in children in the context of your State’s intercountry adoption programmes.	The Children Act 560 (1998) The Children's Amendmen Act 937 (2016) Adoption Regulations, 2018 (LI 2360) Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694), Human Trafficking (Prohibition, Protection and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons) .

<sup>27</sup> “Illicit practices” in this Country Profile refers to “situations where a child has been adopted without respect for the rights of the child or for the safeguards of the Hague Convention. Such situations may arise where an individual or body has, directly or indirectly, misrepresented information to the biological parents, falsified documents about the child’s origins, engaged in the abduction, sale or trafficking of a child for the purpose of intercountry adoption, or otherwise used fraudulent methods to facilitate an adoption, regardless of the benefit obtained (financial gain or other)” (from p. 1 of the *Discussion Paper: Co-operation between Central Authorities to develop a common approach to preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption cases*, available on the [Adoption Section](http://www.hcch.net) of the HCCH website < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) >).

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

Please also specify which bodies / persons the laws target (e.g., accredited bodies (national or foreign), PAPs, directors of children's institutions).	The law targets both nationals and foreigners
b) Please explain how your State monitors respect for the above laws.	Citizens and foreigner alike are encouraged to be law abiding
c) If these laws are breached, what sanctions may be applied (e.g., imprisonment, fine, withdrawal of accreditation)?	imprisonment, fine and withdrawal of accreditation

38. Private and / or independent adoptions	
<p>Are private and / or independent adoptions permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>N.B. "Independent" and "private" adoptions are <u>not</u> consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Adoption Convention: see further GGP No 1 at Chapters 4.2.6 and 8.6.6.</i></p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Private adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in your State:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in your State:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Neither</u> private nor independent adoptions are permitted</p>

## PART XII: INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

39. The scope of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Art. 2)	
<p>a) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in your State, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: French national PAPs are habitually resident in Guinea and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in Guinea.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i> adoption in your State<sup>29</sup> and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply: this will be treated as a domestic adoption. the PAPs must be domiciled in Ghana for a period of 2 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child from another Contracting State to the 1993 Adoption Convention, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: French national PAPs are habitually resident in Guinea and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in India.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<sup>29</sup> According to the 1993 Adoption Convention (see Art. 2), this is a *domestic* adoption due to the fact that the habitual residence of the PAPs and the child is in the same Contracting State: see further, GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 14), Chapter 8.4.



<p>c) If nationals of your State, habitually resident in another Contracting State to the 1993 Adoption Convention, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in your State, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: Guinean national PAPs are habitually resident in Germany and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in Guinea.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i> adoption in your State<sup>30</sup> and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply: it is treated as a domestic adoption</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
--	---

### PART XIII: SELECTION OF PARTNERS FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION<sup>31</sup>

40. Selection of partners	
<p>a) With which receiving States does your State currently partner on intercountry adoption?</p>	<p>All Hague member countries</p>
<p>b) How does your State determine with which receiving States it will partner?</p> <p>In particular, please specify whether your State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p> <p><i>To see which States are Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption Convention, please refer to the <a href="#">Status Table</a> for the 1993 Adoption Convention (accessible via the <a href="#">Adoption Section</a> of the HCCH website &lt; <a href="http://www.hcch.net">www.hcch.net</a> &gt;).</i></p>	<p>My state partner with other contracting state to 29<sup>th</sup> May 1999 Hague convention</p>
<p>c) If your State also partners with <i>non-Contracting States</i>, please explain how it is ensured that the safeguards of the 1993 Adoption Convention are complied with in these cases.<sup>32</sup></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: our State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p>
<p>d) Are any formalities required in order to commence intercountry adoptions with a particular receiving State (<i>e.g.</i>, the conclusion of a formal agreement<sup>33</sup> with that receiving State)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain the content of any agreements or other formalities:<sup>34</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<sup>30</sup> According to the 1993 Adoption Convention (see Art. 2), this is an *intercountry* adoption due to the differing habitual residences of the PAPs and the child (despite their common nationality). The Convention procedures, standards and safeguards should therefore be applied to such adoptions: see further, GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 14), Chapter 8.4.

<sup>31</sup> In relation to the choice of foreign States as partners in intercountry adoption arrangements, see further GGP No 2 (*op. cit.* note 3), Chapter 3.5.

<sup>32</sup> See GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 14), Chapter 10.3 regarding the fact that “[i]t is generally accepted that States Party to the Convention should extend the application of its principles to non-Convention adoptions”.

<sup>33</sup> See note 2 above concerning Art. 39(2) and the requirement to transmit a copy of any such agreements to the depositary for the 1993 Adoption Convention.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*