



HCCH

Connecter Protéger Coopérer Depuis 1893
Connecting Protecting Cooperating Since 1893
Conectando Protegiendo Cooperando Desde 1893

Annual Report 2025



About the HCCH

The HCCH (**H**ague **C**onference on Private International Law – **C**onférence de La **H**aye de droit international privé) is an inter-governmental organisation, the mandate of which is “the progressive unification of the rules of private international law” (Art. 1 of the Statute).

In today's world, individuals and businesses are often engaged in cross-border interactions, with work, commerce, study, shopping, travel, relationships and more increasingly taking place across multiple countries. These activities require a high degree of legal certainty and predictability to thrive. However, when taking place across borders the differences between countries' legal systems often leave gaps in the legal framework, resulting in uncertainty as to which authority has jurisdiction, which law is applicable, how decisions are recognised and enforced and what cooperation mechanisms are available to overcome challenges of cross-border judicial or administrative procedures.

The HCCH's mission is to resolve these questions by providing internationally agreed solutions, developed through the negotiation, adoption, and operation of international treaties, the HCCH Conventions, to which States may become Contracting Parties, and soft law instruments, which may guide States in developing their own legislative solutions. The ultimate goal of the organisation is to work for a world in which, despite the differences between legal systems, persons—individuals as well as companies—can enjoy a high degree of legal security.

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Secretary General's Message

Reflecting on the year 2025, it has, first of all, been heartening to see the HCCH network of legal cooperation further grow and evolve. At the meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) in March 2025, we saw the **Republic of Rwanda** becoming the newest—and 92nd—Member of the HCCH. Moreover, both the **Republic of Guatemala** and the **State of Qatar** have been admitted by affirmative vote and invited to deposit their instruments of acceptance of the Statute to become Members of the Organisation, while the **Republic of Indonesia** applied for Membership in December 2025.

In addition, through its accession to the Apostille Convention, the **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** has become the 159th Party connected to the work of the HCCH. This number includes the 92 Members of the HCCH, as well as the 67 Parties that are not (yet) Members of the HCCH, but that have established a connection to the work of the Organisation by signing, ratifying, or acceding to one or more of the HCCH Conventions. At a time when international cooperation cannot be taken for granted, it is important to see that the benefits of the HCCH's model of multilateral cooperation continue to be valued globally.

That said, the expansion and enhancement of the HCCH network cannot be measured solely by new Members or treaty actions. The work of the HCCH has again evolved in many other ways over the past year—further adding to its strength. To cite just a few examples: in International Family & Child Protection Law, a number of important international meetings were organised, including an international conference held in April to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the “Washington Declaration” on international family relocation. The discussions demonstrated the continued practical relevance of the Declaration all these years later.



“

“At the meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) in March 2025, we saw the **Republic of Rwanda** becoming the newest—and 92nd—Member of the HCCH.”

”

In June, the “Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention – with a focus on the operation of Article 13(1)(b)” was held in **Fortaleza, Brazil**. It was particularly meaningful and important to be able to build on the discussions initiated in **Sandton, South Africa**, last year. Meanwhile, the Working Group (WG) on Parentage/Surrogacy continued its important work and concluded its *Final Report on the Feasibility of a possible Convention on the Recognition of Judgments on Legal Parentage*, which will be presented to CGAP in 2026.

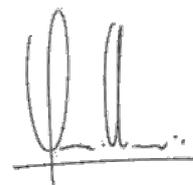
In the field of Transnational Litigation & Apostille, the WG on Jurisdiction met twice during the year, making further progress on the development of draft provisions on parallel proceedings and related actions. At the end of last year, the Permanent Bureau (PB) launched the first HCCH public consultation ever, calling on experts, practitioners, and judges to comment on the draft developed by the WG. The results of this consultation will inform the discussions at CGAP. Another notable accomplishment in this area has been the publication of the 5th editions of the Service and Evidence Handbooks. These fully updated new editions will be invaluable for all practitioners working with these two important and highly practical Conventions.

In the area of International Commercial, Digital, and Financial Law, important normative work initiated in recent years continued with further meetings of the Experts' Groups on Central Bank and Digital Currencies (CBDCs), Carbon Markets, as well as Digital Tokens. Moreover, the WG on Article 2 of the Trusts Convention has finalised its Note on the Application and Interpretation of Article 2, which will be submitted to CGAP for approval.

Clearly, across all three work divisions of the PB, much important work has been undertaken—far more than I could report here, let alone do justice to. Fortunately, this is exactly what the Annual Report is for, and I happily invite you to discover more about the HCCH's work over the past year in the pages that follow.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all experts and delegates contributing to the work of the HCCH, as well as my colleagues at the PB. The international legal network established by the HCCH is ultimately composed of people, and I am reminded that it has only been able to grow and deepen because of the commitment and dedication of everyone involved. Many thanks again.

“At a time when international cooperation cannot be taken for granted, it is important to see that the benefits of the HCCH's model of multilateral cooperation continue to be valued globally.”



Dr Christophe Bernasconi
Secretary General

Milestones

Jan

- Working Party on Mediation

Feb

- International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group (EG)
- Vol. XXVI of the *Judges' Newsletter* on International Child Protection
- WG on Jurisdiction

Mar

- CGAP
- Regional Workshop on Intercountry Adoption: Sharing Experiences on the Effective Implementation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in Asia
- WG on the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Country Profile and Model Form)
- EG on CBDCs

Apr

- Conference "15 Years of the HCCH Washington Declaration: Progress and Perspectives on International Family Relocation"
- WG on Parentage / Surrogacy
- WG on the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Country Profile and Model Form)

May

- WG on Trusts
- EG on Carbon Markets
- Brainstorming related to the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP)
- WG on the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Country Profile and Model Form)
- Fourth Global Meeting of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) and Judicial Roundtable
- Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR)
- WG on the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Country Profile and Model Form)

Jun

- WG on the 1996 Child Protection Convention (Country Profile and Model Form)
- Forum for African State Ambassadors
- WG on the Good Practices document (1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions)
- Working Party on Mediation
- EG on Digital Tokens
- HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2025

Jul

- Opening of the Regional Office for Africa (ROAF)
- WG on the Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention
- 5th editions of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Handbooks

Sep

- EG on CBDCs
- WG on the Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention

Oct

- WG on Trusts
- WG on the Good Practices document (1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions)
- EG on Carbon Markets
- Vol. XXVII of the *Judges' Newsletter* on International Child Protection
- WG on Jurisdiction
- Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention

Nov

- WG on Parentage / Surrogacy
- EG on Digital Tokens
- HCCH aBridged – Edition 2025
- WG on the Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention
- Working Party on Mediation

Dec

- WG on the Good Practices document (1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions)
- EG on Carbon Markets
- Book Launch (*The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: A Commentary*)

Facts & Figures 2025



19

Signatures,
Accessions
&
Ratifications

3 New Signatures

2005 Choice of Court and 2007 Child Support Conventions

6 New Ratifications

1993 Adoption, 1996 Child Protection, 2007 Child Support, and 2019 Judgments Conventions

10 New Accessions

1961 Apostille, 1970 Evidence, 1996 Child Protection, 2005 Choice of Court, 2007 Child Support, and 2019 Judgments Conventions



40+

Meetings

12+

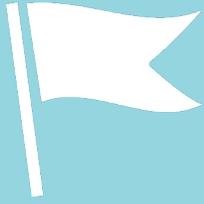
Public Events



5

New Publications

- 4 Experts' Group
- 6 Working Groups
- 2 Governing Bodies
- 1 Network



1 New Member
Rwanda

35

Staff members
from **23** States

(per 31 December 2025)

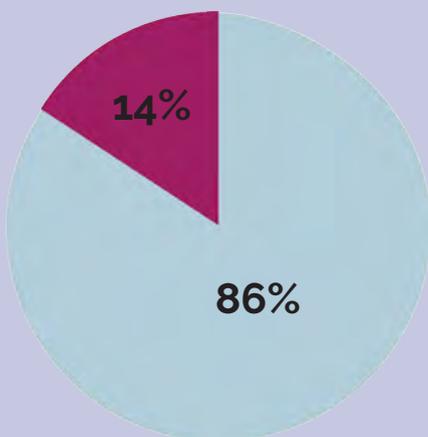


35

Interns
from **16** States

6

Secondees
from **3** States



 Budget
 Voluntary Contributions

€ 5,481,794

Budget for
Financial Year 2025-2026

€ 840,729.31

received in monetary
voluntary contributions
in 2025

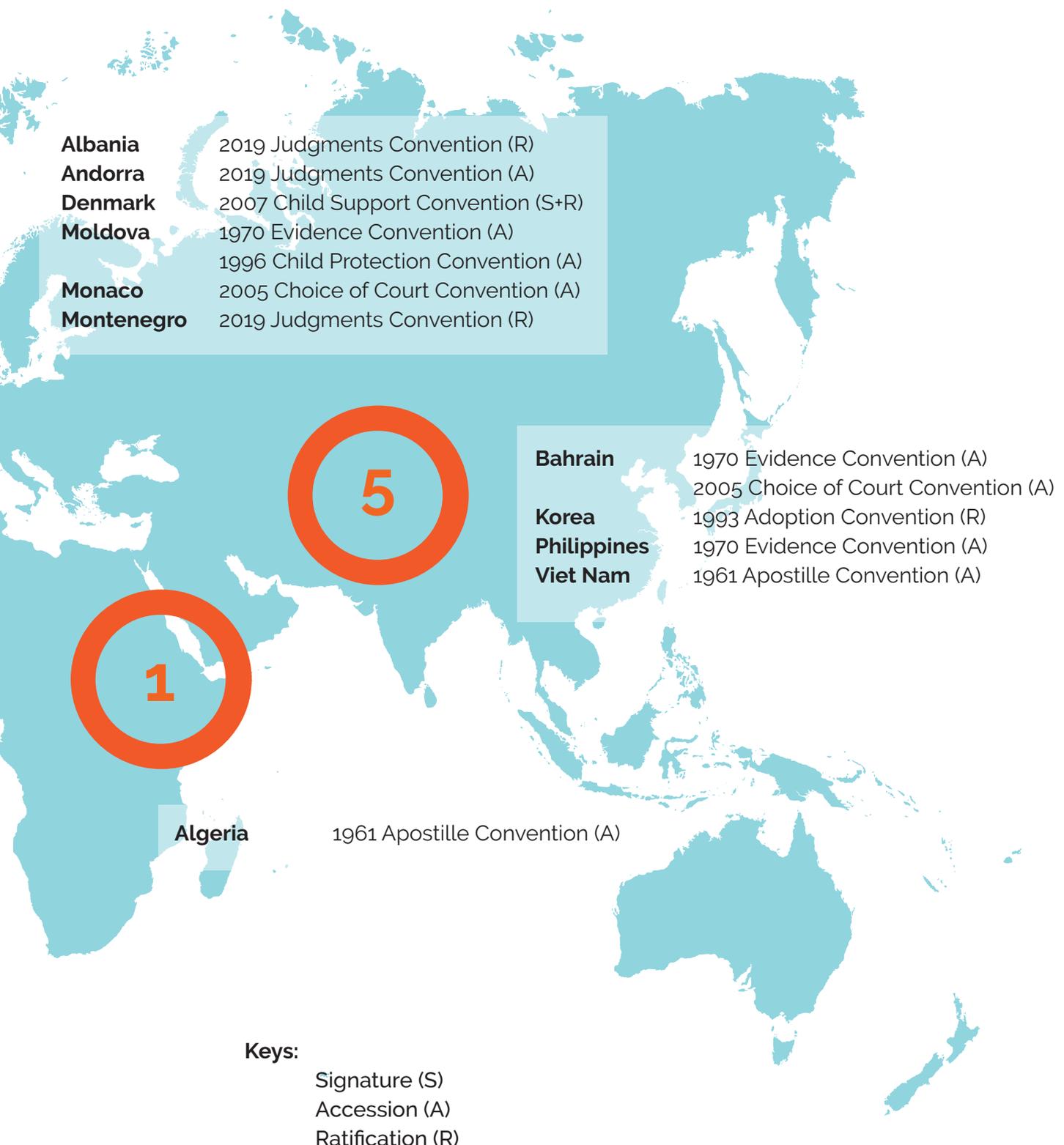
New Treaty Actions

The HCCH has 92 Members (91 Member States and the European Union (EU)) representing all major regions across the globe.

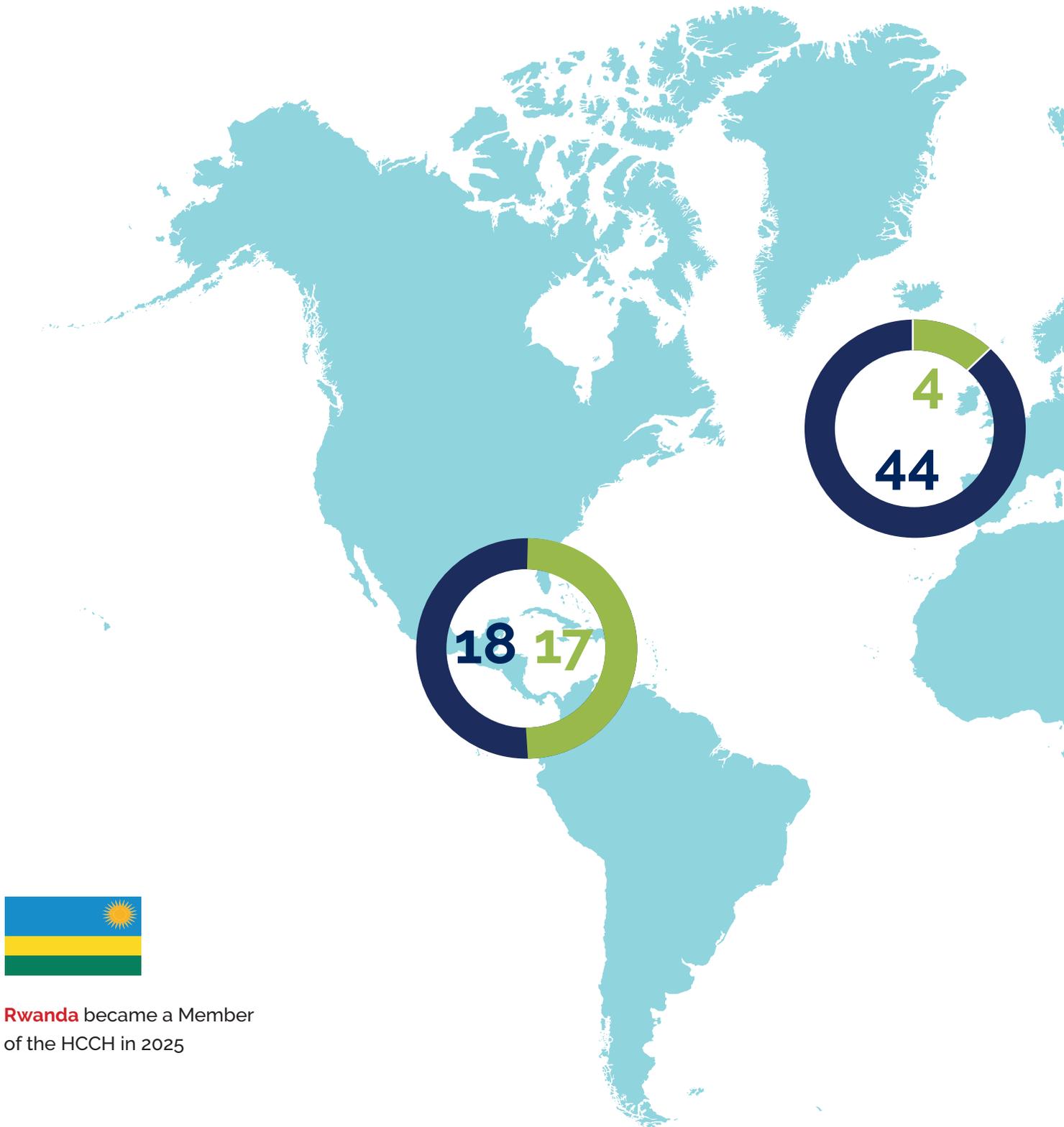
Members determine the Work Programme of the Organisation and play an active role in its legislative, post-Convention and governance work.



Contracting Parties to the HCCH Conventions benefit from an extensive legal cooperation network and uniform international standards. The Conventions are open to Members of the Organisation, but also to non-Members, of which many have either signed or become Contracting Parties to one or more HCCH Conventions. As a result, there are a total of over 150 States connected to the work of the Organisation worldwide.



Members & Other Connected States or Parties



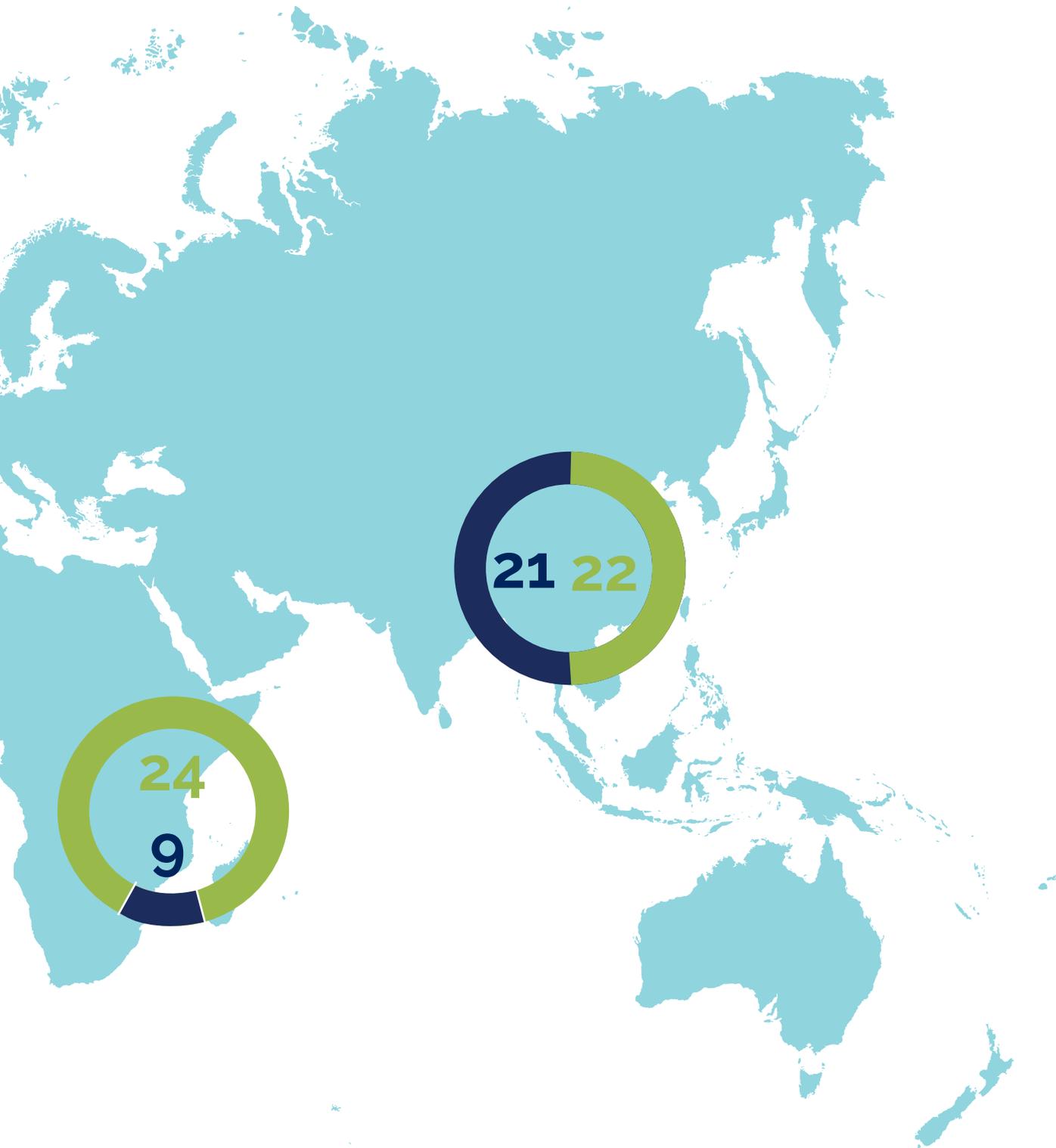
Rwanda became a Member of the HCCH in 2025



Members of the HCCH (92): 91 States, plus the EU



Other Connected States or Parties (67): Non-Members that are a Contracting Party (or signatory) to at least one HCCH Convention



Admitted States: **Bahrain**, **Colombia**, **Guatemala**, **Lebanon**, and **Qatar** have been admitted by affirmative vote and are invited to deposit their acceptance of the Statute to become Members.

Candidate State: **Indonesia** has applied for membership. The six-month voting period on the admission of Indonesia as a Member of the HCCH will close on 4 June 2026.





International Family & Child Protection Law



2025 at a Glance



- Six new Contracting Parties



- Meetings of the Working Party on Mediation, the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds, the WG on the 1996 Child Protection Convention, the WG on Parentage / Surrogacy, and the IHNJ
- Organisation of the “Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention – with a focus on the Operation of Article 13(1)(b)” and the Conference “15 Years of the HCCH Washington Declaration”



- New e-Country Profiles for key HCCH Conventions
- Publication of Vols XXVI and XXVII of the *Judges' Newsletter* on International Child Protection

1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions

New Contracting Parties

The 1996 Child Protection Convention gained two new Contracting Parties in 2025: the **Republic of Moldova** acceded to the Convention in March, and **Argentina** ratified it in September. As a result, the Convention now has 58 Contracting Parties. As for the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, it currently has 103 Contracting Parties.

The 1980 Child Abduction Convention seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of wrongful removal and retention across international boundaries, by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return and ensuring the protection of rights of access.



*Argentina ratifies the 1996 Child Protection Convention
(September 2025)*

Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention – with a focus on the Operation of Article 13(1)(b)

The “Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention – with a focus on the Operation of Article 13(1)(b)” was held in **Fortaleza** in October 2025, co-hosted by the HCCH and the **Government of Brazil**. With nearly 500 registered participants, 150 of which were in person, the Forum once again brought together representatives from all relevant perspectives to deepen the open, informal dialogue initiated at the first Forum in June 2024 regarding the operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in cases involving domestic violence. This time, participants focused their discussions on practical solutions—identifying concrete and workable approaches to ensure the effective operation of the Convention, in particular Article 13(1)(b), in cases where domestic violence has been alleged.



*Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention
(October 2025)*

Working Party on Mediation

The Working Party on Cross-Border Family Mediation in the Context of the Malta Process (Working Party on Mediation) met online on three occasions in 2025 continuing to provide a venue for dialogue and collaboration between Contracting States to the 1980 Child Abduction, 1996 Child Protection and 2007 Child Support Conventions and non-Contracting Shari'a Law States.



*Meeting of the Working Party on Mediation
(January 2025)*



*Ms Erica Neiglick (Sweden),
Co-Chair of the Working Party
on Mediation*



*Judge Tariq Mohamed Abu Tayeh
(Jordan), Co-Chair of the Working
Party on Mediation*

The 1996 Child Protection Convention provides a comprehensive framework to protect children in cross-border situations, with uniform private international law (PIL) rules that prevent conflicting decisions regarding civil measures of protection for children and their property.

WG on the Country Profile and Cooperation Request Model Form for the 1996 Child Protection Convention

The WG established to complete the Country Profile and work on the draft Cooperation Request Recommended Model Form for the 1996 Child Protection Convention held five online meetings across 2025, finalising the structure and contents of the draft Cooperation Request Model Form.



*Sixth Meeting of the WG on the Country Profile and Cooperation Request Model Form for the 1996 Child Protection Convention
(March 2025)*

Conference “15 Years of the HCCH Washington Declaration”

In April 2025, a major conference marking 15 years since the adoption of the HCCH 2010 Washington Declaration on International Family Relocation was held in **Washington, D.C.**, jointly organised by the **Embassy of Canada**, the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL), and the HCCH. The discussions underscored the enduring practical relevance of the 2010 Washington Declaration in promoting common principles for cross-border family relocation proceedings.



*Conference “15 Years of the HCCH Washington Declaration”
(April 2025)*

International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ)

The IHNJ, established in 1998, continues to serve as an essential mechanism for facilitating international cooperation and communication between judges in international family law cases. In May 2025, the Fourth Global Meeting of the IHNJ was held in Singapore, co-hosted by the **Singapore** Family Justice Courts and the HCCH. The meeting brought together over 50 judges representing 34 HCCH Members. Across 18 sessions, participants discussed the state of play of the IHNJ and ways to improve cooperation; exchanged views on the role of the IHNJ in supporting the operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions; and reviewed the use of relevant HCCH resources and guidance materials. The meeting was followed by the HCCH Judicial Roundtable, which offered a valuable opportunity for judges from the region to meet members of the IHNJ and for participants to learn more about the work of the HCCH and to exchange experiences relating to the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, the 1996 Child Protection Convention, the IHNJ, and direct judicial communications.



*Fourth Global Meeting of the IHNJ
(May 2025)*

International Child Abduction Database (INCADAT)

The PB continues to support the operation of INCADAT, the only global, free legal database on international child abduction law. Available in English, French, and Spanish, INCADAT is a comprehensive tool that facilitates the research of cases by providing case summaries and legal analyses within the scope of application of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention.

In 2025, the PB partnered with over 15 leading family law firms from various regions of the world to support and enhance the operation of INCADAT in coming years. As one of the first outcomes of this partnership, the PB engaged the services of multiple consultants to expand INCADAT's content through new cases, case summaries, and legal analyses (complementing the work conducted by the network of INCADAT correspondents, universities, and Central Authorities across the world). Furthermore, in July 2025, the PB announced the launch of INCADAT's notification service. This new feature enables users to receive email alerts when new cases are uploaded, helping them stay up-to-date on recent case law developments.

1993 Adoption Convention

New Contracting Party

The **Republic of Korea** ratified the 1993 Adoption Convention in June 2025, becoming its 107th Contracting Party.

The 1993 Adoption Convention provides safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect for their fundamental rights.



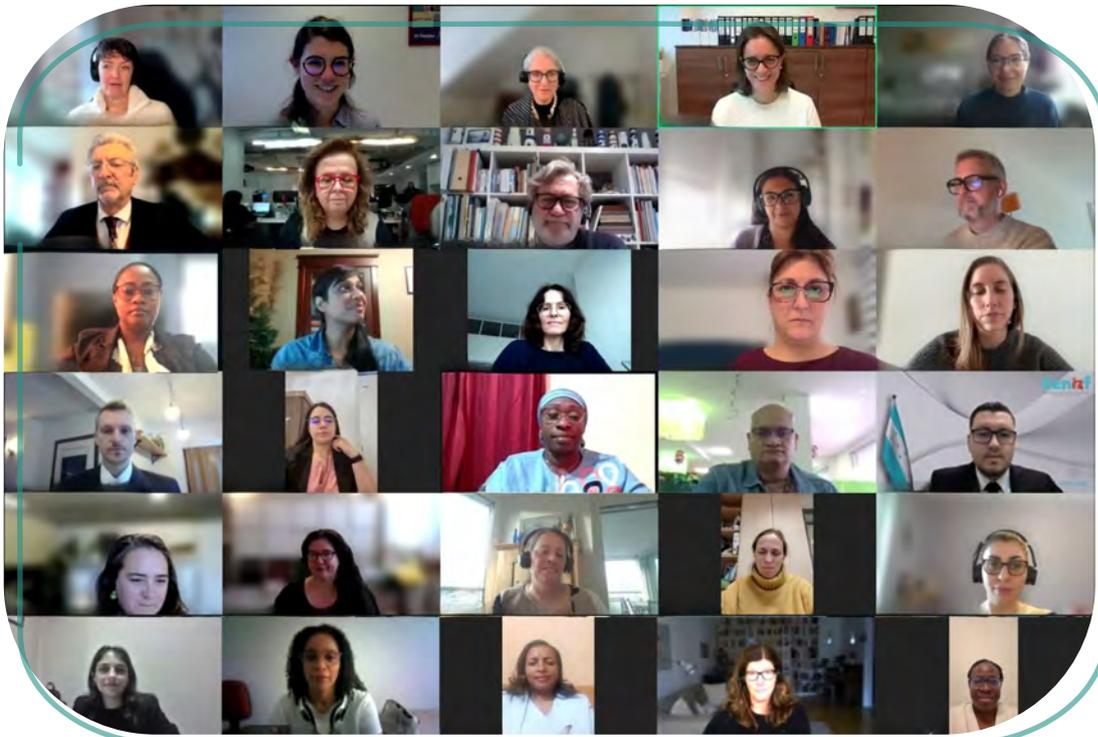
*The Republic of Korea ratifies the 1993 Adoption Convention
(June 2025)*

Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme (ICATAP)

As in previous years, the PB continued to provide post-Convention assistance on the implementation and operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention to Contracting Parties, funded through the generous support of the **Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and the Philippines**. Notably, the PB organised a "Regional Workshop on Intercountry Adoption: Sharing Experiences on the Effective Implementation of the 1993 Adoption Convention in Asia", held in **Manila**, and, with the assistance of consultants, provided further technical assistance to **Paraguay**, resulting in the development of rules and regulations as well as in the training of Central Authority staff members.



*Regional Workshop on 1993 Adoption Convention
(March 2025)*



*Post-Adoption Services Workshop
(December 2025)*

Post-Adoption Services Workshop

A third Post-Adoption Services Workshop was held online in December 2025, facilitated by the **Central Authority of Canada** under the 1993 Adoption Convention with the support of the PB. The workshop had over 120 participants from over 35 Contracting Parties to the 1993 Adoption Convention, representing both States of origin and receiving States. Building on the two prior State-led virtual workshops on post-adoption services, held in 2023 and 2024, participants this time focused on sharing best practices regarding adoption breakdowns.

2007 Child Support Convention and 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol

New Contracting Parties

In 2025, **Colombia**, **Denmark**, and **El Salvador** joined the 2007 Child Support Convention. With these new treaty actions, the 2007 Child Support Convention now has 56 Contracting Parties.

The 2007 Child Support Convention and 2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol seek to establish a modern, efficient and accessible international system for the cross-border recovery of child support and other forms of family maintenance.

Technical Assistance

In 2025, the PB provided technical assistance to **Azerbaijan** and **Kazakhstan** on the implementation and operation of the 2007 Child Support Convention through a three-day training which also covered the 1965 Service Convention.

iSupport

Throughout 2025, the PB continued to work on the maintenance and improvement of iSupport, the electronic case management and secure communication system for the cross-border recovery of maintenance obligations under the EU 2009 Maintenance Regulation and the 2007 Child Support Convention, as well as other international and bilateral instruments. iSupport is funded through voluntary contributions and directed by a Governing Body of participating HCCH Members. It is currently operational in **Germany, Hungary, and Sweden.**

Notable developments included the development of an Application Programming Interface for States to be able to connect their own national systems to iSupport, as well as the award of a new EU Action Grant for the period from September 2026 to August 2028. The EU Action Grant will support a project intended to facilitate the take up and installation of iSupport through training and support sessions, and to prepare for the advent of EU Regulation 2023/2844 (the Digitalisation of Judicial Cooperation Regulation).



Ms Karin Honorato dos Santos (Sweden), Chair of the iSupport Governing Body



Sixth Meeting of the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds (February 2025)

EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds

The EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds was established in 2019 in light of persisting challenges to the smooth cross-border transfer of child support payments, such as high transfer costs, the elimination of cheques in many States, and other difficulties of an organisational nature. The EG held its sixth meeting in February 2025, continuing its work discussing good practices in relation to the cross-border transfer of maintenance payments, with a view to identify solutions that are cost-effective, transparent, prompt, efficient, and accessible.



Mr Arnaldo José Alves Silveira (Brazil), Co-Chair of the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds



Ms Leanne Spillane (New Zealand), Co-Chair of the EG on the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds

Parentage / Surrogacy Project

The WG on Parentage / Surrogacy continued its consideration of draft provisions for a new instrument on legal parentage generally, including legal parentage resulting from an international surrogacy agreement, by holding its fourth and fifth meetings in April and November 2025, respectively. Following its fifth meeting, the WG submitted its *Final Report on the Feasibility of a possible Convention on the Recognition of Judgments on Legal Parentage* for consideration by CGAP in March 2026.



*Fifth meeting of the WG on Parentage / Surrogacy
(November 2025)*



*Prof Michael Hellner (Sweden),
Chair of the WG on Parentage /
Surrogacy*



New e-Country Profiles for key HCCH Conventions



The e-Country Profiles project concluded in 2025, resulting in the development and modernisation of online Country Profiles for a number of key HCCH Conventions:

- o 1965 Service Convention
- o 1970 Evidence Convention
- o 1980 Child Abduction Convention
- o 1993 Adoption Convention
- o 1996 Child Protection Convention
- o 2000 Protection of Adults Convention
- o 2007 Child Support Convention

Contracting Parties to these Conventions can now easily publish legal and practical information about their implementation of these instruments, making the e-Country Profiles a valuable tool for use by public authorities, legal practitioners and other interested parties.

The screenshot shows the HCCH website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for MEMBERS & PARTIES, INSTRUMENTS, PROJECTS, GOVERNANCE, and PUBLICATIONS & STUDIES. Below the navigation, there are links for RSS, Publication History, and Generate Reports. The main content area displays a table titled 'Available States' with the following data:

State	Last publication
Czechia - html (en, fr, es) - pdf (en, fr, es)	2025-10-29
New Zealand - html (en, fr, es) - pdf (en, fr, es)	2025-11-25





Transnational Litigation & Apostille



2025 at a Glance



- o 10 new Contracting Parties



- o Publication of the 5th editions of the Practical Handbooks on the Operation of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions



- o Organisation of HCCH a|Bridged – Edition 2025 (2019 Judgments Convention), the Book Launch “The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: A Commentary”, the HCCH-IDLO Dialogue and other events
- o Meetings of the WG on Jurisdiction, the WG on the Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention, and the WG on the Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

1961 Apostille Convention

New Contracting Parties

In 2025, **Algeria** and **Viet Nam** acceded to the 1961 Apostille Convention, which currently has 129 Contracting Parties.

The 1961 Apostille Convention facilitates the use of public documents abroad, replacing the traditional legalisation process with the issuance of a single Apostille certificate.



*Algeria accedes to the 1961 Apostille Convention
(November 2025)*

Key promotional activity: HCCH-IDLO Dialogue

In addition to a number of online and in-person meetings, seminars, and workshops held throughout 2025, the PB and the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) co-organised an online dialogue in October 2025 entitled "HCCH-IDLO Dialogue on Digitalisation of Public Services and Justice". The dialogue brought together perspectives from officials involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of projects aimed at facilitating the digitalisation of public services. It also provided an opportunity to discuss the operation of the e-APP and how it promotes and supports the use of technology under the 1961 Apostille Convention.

electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP)

The e-APP, which comprises two components: the issuance of electronic Apostilles (e-Apostilles) and the operation of electronic Registers (e-Registers) to verify both paper Apostilles and e-Apostilles, has continued to attract interest. In 2025, the PB was advised of nine Contracting Parties to the 1961 Apostille Convention which had implemented one or both components of the e-APP. **Bangladesh, France, Mongolia,** and **Panama** implemented both components; **Mexico,** the **People's Republic of China** (both **Mainland** and **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)**), and **Singapore** have commenced issuing e-Apostilles; and **Canada** and the state of **Nevada in the United States of America (USA)** have implemented an e-Register. With these developments, 59 out of the 129 Contracting Parties to the Convention have now implemented one or both e-APP components.

In 2025, the PB hosted an online brainstorming session to discuss the acceptance of e-Apostilles in circumstances where Contracting Parties, under their domestic law, cannot accept electronic public documents. During the session, representatives of 24 Contracting Parties and one non-Contracting Party to the 1961 Apostille Convention discussed and considered a range of initiatives that could be pursued to address this matter.

1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

New Contracting Parties

In 2025, **Bahrain, the Philippines,** and the **Republic of Moldova** acceded to the 1970 Evidence Convention, which currently has 69 Contracting Parties. The 1965 Service Convention currently has 84 Contracting Parties, while the 1980 Access to Justice Convention has 28.

The 1965 Service Convention and the 1970 Evidence Convention establish effective cross-border cooperation mechanisms to facilitate and streamline, respectively, the service of documents and the taking of evidence abroad.



*The Republic of Moldova accedes to the 1970 Evidence Convention
(July 2025)*



*The Philippines accedes to the 1970 Evidence Convention
(May 2025)*

Publication of the fifth editions of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Handbooks

In July 2025, the HCCH published the fifth editions of the *Practical Handbooks on the Operation of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions*. The Service and Evidence Handbooks are intended to assist users of the Conventions, including Central Authorities, government officials, courts, counsel and legal practitioners, by providing practical guidance on their implementation and operation. The new editions of the Handbooks incorporate recent developments, court decisions, and practical examples provided by experts from around the world, as well as updates from the meeting of the Special Commission held in July 2024, making them essential resources for anyone involved in the implementation and operation of the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions.



Key promotional activity: HCCH-ABLI Webinar

In July 2025, the PB and the Asian Business Law Institute (ABLI) co-organised a webinar, "Cross-border Commercial Dispute Resolution – Electronic Service of Documents and Remote Taking of Evidence". Building on the success of the earlier HCCH-ABLI joint webinar series, the session explored how information technology can streamline communication and workflows for Central Authorities, as well as support the electronic transmission of requests for cooperation.

New Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

In 2025, CGAP approved the establishment of a WG to finalise the Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions. The WG met online in June, October, and December 2025. The Good Practices document provides a compilation of recommended practices for Central Authorities and other designated Authorities operating under the Conventions. It will apply to those engaged in the preparation, transmission, receipt, and execution of requests for cooperation and will include measures to strengthen effective cross-border cooperation, including by streamlining procedures and encouraging the use of information technology.



Ms Ana Gvinjilia (Georgia), Chair of the WG dedicated to the Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions

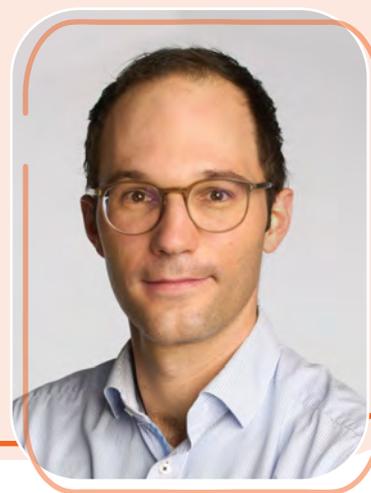


First Meeting of the WG dedicated to the Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions (June 2025)

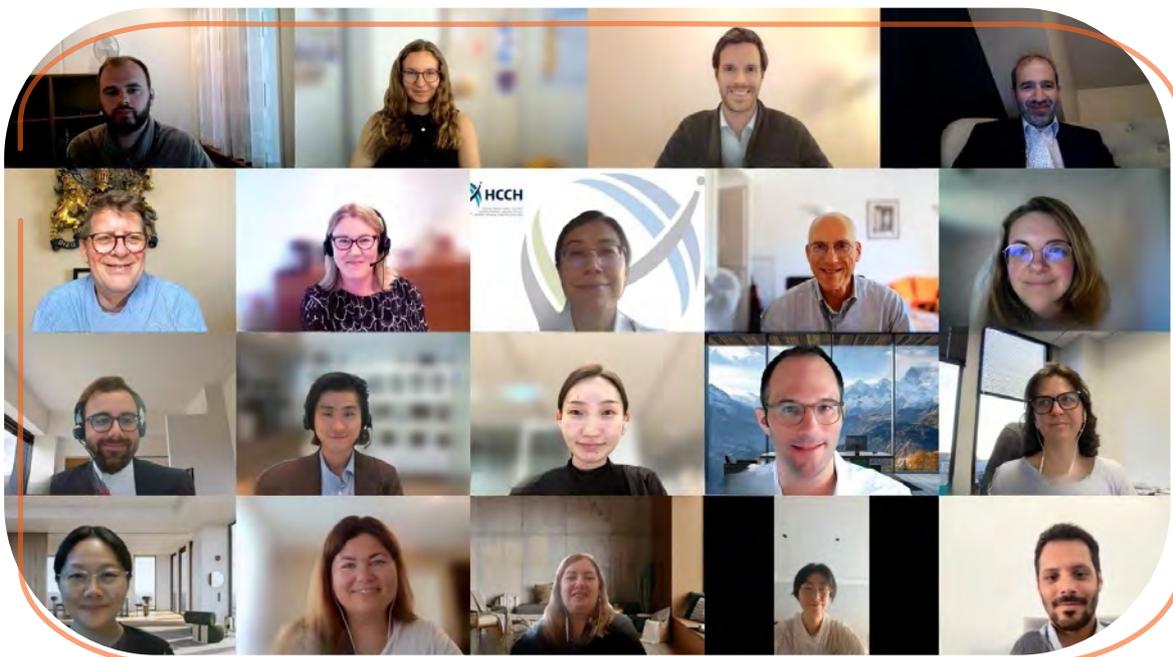
The 1980 Access to Justice Convention ensures that nationals or habitual residents of a Contracting Party to the Convention have non-discriminatory access to justice within all other Contracting Parties.

New Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention

In 2025, CGAP approved the establishment of a WG to finalise the Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention. The WG met online in July, September, and November 2025, finalising the three draft Model Forms: one for requesting permission to take evidence under Chapter II; a second for granting the necessary authorisation; and a third for requesting video-link assistance.



*Mr Niklaus Meier (Switzerland),
Chair of the WG dedicated to the
Model Forms for Chapter II of the
1970 Evidence Convention*



*First Meeting of the WG dedicated to the Model Forms for Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention
(July 2025)*

2005 Choice of Court Convention

New Contracting Parties

In 2025, **Bahrain** and **Monaco** acceded to the 2005 Choice of Court Convention. As a result, 38 States plus the EU are currently bound by the Convention. Additionally, in March 2025, **Costa Rica** signed the 2005 Choice of Court Convention.

The 2005 Choice of Court Convention aims to ensure the effectiveness of choice of court agreements, or “forum selection clauses”, between parties to international commercial transactions.



*Monaco accedes to the 2005 Choice of Court Convention
(November 2025)*

Book Launch (2005 Choice of Court Convention)

In December 2025, the PB hosted a book launch for the publication of *The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: A Commentary*, in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the 2005 Choice of Court Convention. This event brought together international experts to discuss the new publication and its insights on the 2005 Choice of Court Convention; it also included a panel discussion on the practical operation of the Convention more broadly. The book launch attracted close to 150 registered participants from 53 States.



*Book Launch - The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: A Commentary
(December 2025)*

2019 Judgments Convention

New Contracting Parties

In 2025, **Albania** and **Montenegro** ratified, and **Andorra** acceded to, the 2019 Judgments Convention. The Convention currently has effect between the EU, including all its Member States (except Denmark), Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay. It will enter into force for **Albania**, **Andorra**, and **Montenegro** in 2026.

The 2019 Judgments Convention facilitates the effective global circulation of judgments in civil or commercial matters.



*Andorra accedes to the 2019 Judgments Convention
(May 2025)*



*HCCH a|Bridged – Edition 2025
(November 2025)*

HCCH a|Bridged – Edition 2025

In November 2025, the PB hosted HCCH a|Bridged – Edition 2025, dedicated to the 2019 Judgments Convention. The event brought together over 190 registered participants from 57 States. The discussions underscored the potential of the 2019 Judgments Convention to be a true game-changer in transnational litigation, promoting access to justice and supporting international trade, investment and mobility.

Jurisdiction Project

The Jurisdiction Project forms part of the original Judgments Project, which has been an important focus of the HCCH's normative work aimed at addressing two key aspects of PIL in transnational civil or commercial litigation: the international jurisdiction of courts and the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments. Under the auspices of the Judgments Project, the HCCH successfully negotiated and concluded the 2005 Choice of Court Convention and the 2019 Judgments Convention. The HCCH now continues to explore matters related to the jurisdiction of courts in transnational civil or commercial litigation, including how harmonised rules in transnational litigation can reduce the risk of parallel litigation in multiple States.



*Prof Keisuke Takeshita (Japan),
Chair of the WG on Jurisdiction*

The WG on Matters Relating to Jurisdiction in Transnational Civil or Commercial Litigation (WG on Jurisdiction), established in 2021 and chaired by Professor Keisuke Takeshita (**Japan**), met twice in 2025. Pursuant to its mandate, the WG made further progress on the development of draft provisions on parallel proceedings and related actions, which may occur when separate proceedings are instituted before the courts of different States. The objective of this future instrument would be to enhance legal certainty, predictability, and access to justice by reducing litigation costs and mitigating inconsistent judgments in transnational litigation in civil or commercial matters.

In November 2025, the PB launched a public consultation on the Draft Text developed by the WG, inviting experts, practitioners and judges from diverse legal traditions with experience in cross-border litigation, and PIL more broadly, to participate. Responses received from this consultation will be submitted to all HCCH Members for consideration in advance of the next meeting of CGAP in March 2026, at which Members of the HCCH will decide on the next steps for the project.



*Ninth Meeting of the WG on Jurisdiction
(October 2025)*





International Commercial, Digital, & Financial Law



2025 at a Glance



- Establishment of the EG on Digital Tokens, the EG on Carbon Markets and the WG on Trusts



- Meetings of the EG on Carbon Markets, the EG on CBDCs, the EG on Digital Tokens, and the WG on Trusts



- Studies on the 2015 Choice of Law Principles and on the 2006 Securities Convention and Digital Developments in Respect of Securities Markets, in addition to other monitoring work on Restructuring and Insolvency, and on Intellectual Property



- Organisation of technical roundtables and participation in conferences and other events including the 30th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 4th Forum on Rule of Law in Digital Trade, and the UNCITRAL-UAE Global Summit on Digital Trade and Digital Platforms

1985 Trusts Convention

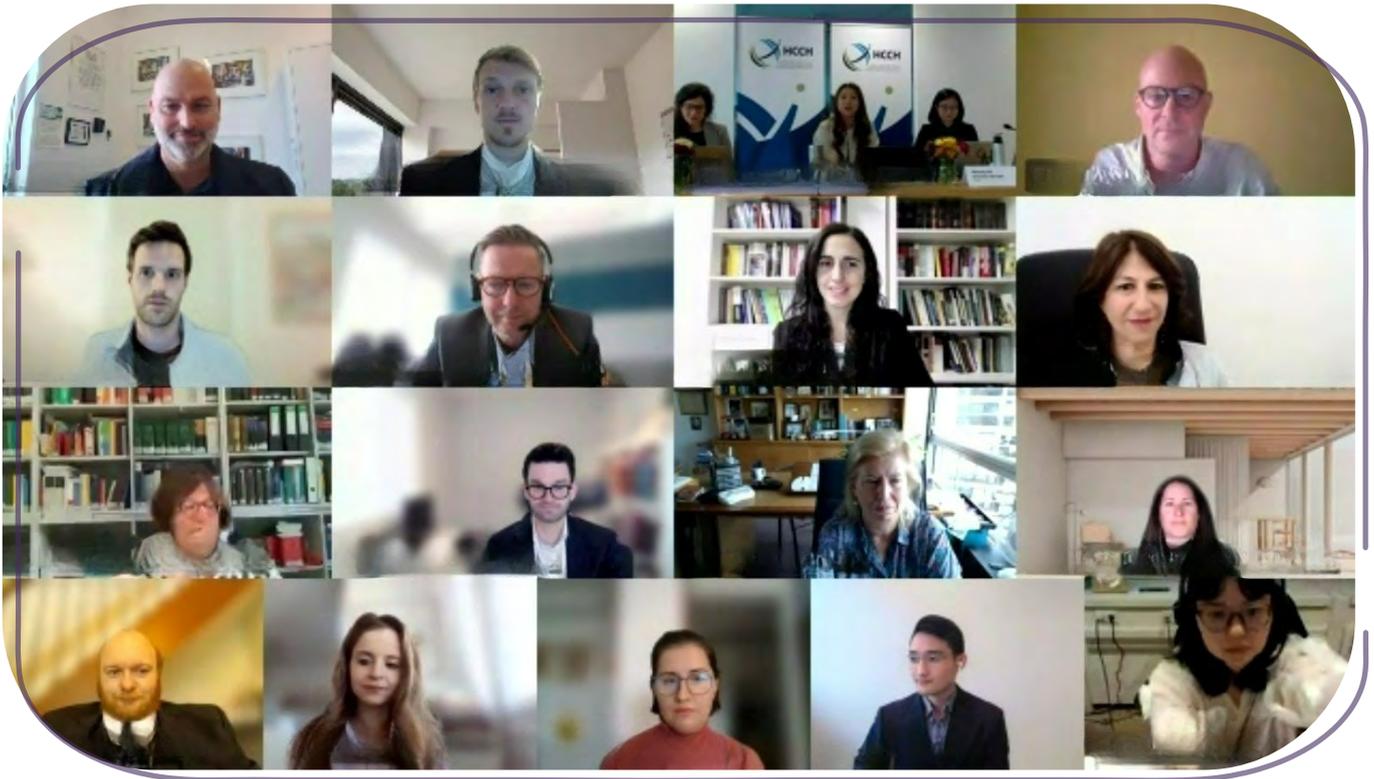
The 1985 Trusts Convention specifies the law applicable to trusts and governs the recognition of trusts among Contracting Parties.

In 2025, CGAP mandated the establishment of a WG to review and complete the PB's study on the application and interpretation of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention and on the institutions analogous to trusts, having due regard to any possible implications on non-Contracting Parties. The study focused on clarifying potential divergences in interpretation between the English and French versions of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention, and exploring which institutions in different jurisdictions may be potentially analogous to trusts for the purposes of the Convention.

The WG met online in May and October 2025, with intersessional work conducted in between, resulting in the finalisation of the draft *Note on the Application and Interpretation of Article 2 of the Convention of 1 July 1985 on the Law Applicable to Trusts and on their Recognition and on the Institutions Analogous to Trusts*. The draft Note was subsequently circulated to Members of the HCCH for comments ahead of its submission to CGAP for approval at its March 2026 meeting. Once published, the Note is intended to serve as reference material for legal practitioners dealing with issues relating to the application and interpretation of the 1985 Trusts Convention, and, in particular, the question of whether an institution may meet the criteria of Article 2 of the Convention.



*Dr Roberta Nocella (Italy),
Chair of the WG on Trusts*



*Second Meeting of the WG on Trusts
(October 2025)*

2006 Securities Convention and Digital Developments in Respect of Securities Markets

The PB has continued to work, in partnership with relevant subject-matter experts, on a secretariat study which aims to analyse the determination of jurisdiction and applicable law in the context of securities markets in light of developments in technology such as distributed ledger technology; to assess the ramifications of the growing attention that financial services and securities industries have accorded to developments in technology; and to identify opportunities, in the context of the digital economy and in the context of other normative work, for the desirability and feasibility of future normative guidance concerning securities, in addition to the 2006 Securities Convention.

The 2006 Securities Convention determines the law applicable to the perfection, priority, and other effects of securities held with an intermediary.

2015 Choice of Law Principles

2025 marked the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the 2015 Principles. Over the past decade, the Principles have continued to serve as an authoritative soft-law instrument promoting party autonomy, legal certainty, and predictability in international commercial transactions, while informing legislative reform, judicial reasoning, and arbitral practice in a growing number of jurisdictions. The Principles have also remained relevant as a point of reference in ongoing normative work within the HCCH. The PB has also continued to monitor developments relating to the 2015 Choice of Law Principles in order to identify areas for review and future work, and to work towards further increasing the widespread awareness and use of the 2015 Choice of Law Principles.

The 2015 Principles, the first “soft-law” instrument of the HCCH, are designed to promote party autonomy in international commercial contracts.

CBDCs Project

The EG on CBDCs, established in 2024, held its third and fourth meetings in 2025. Pursuant to its mandate, the EG made further progress on the study of the applicable law and jurisdiction issues raised by the cross-border use and transfers of CBDCs. The EG agreed by consensus that it should, in the intermediate term, draft Explanatory Guidance to set out key questions of jurisdiction and applicable law that arise in relation to the cross-border holdings and transfers of CBDCs, as well as to elucidate the characteristics of the diverse models of CBDCs that will have an impact on such questions. At the same time, the Explanatory Guidance will lay the foundation for, and point toward, the future development of an international instrument. The Explanatory Guidance is intended for use by both PIL experts as well as those involved in the development of CBDCs.



*Prof Caroline Kleiner (France),
Chair of the EG on CBDCs*



*Fourth Working Meeting of the EG on CBDCs
(September 2025)*

Carbon Markets Project

In 2025, CGAP mandated the establishment of an EG to study the PIL issues arising from carbon markets, with an initial focus on the possible inclusion of an applicable law provision in the draft UNIDROIT Principles on Verified Carbon Credits. The EG on Carbon Markets held three meetings across 2025 which focused on providing input to the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) project. The EG also discussed questions identified in an Issues Paper produced by the PB, which outlined the relevant PIL questions emerging within the broader context of global carbon markets. These included issues relating to safeguards relevant to the integrity of the credits, public policy and overriding mandatory rules, types of carbon projects and lifecycles, the determination of jurisdictional grounds and applicable international legal frameworks, the characterisation of credits in the carbon markets of diverse legal systems, and, in particular, the importance of a holistic consideration of jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement, and international cooperation mechanisms. The PB organised technical roundtables adjacent to the EG meetings which comprised a series of presentations highlighting both national, regional, and global authorities' approaches, and industry perspectives, relating to the PIL issues arising in the carbon markets. The PB further participated in several meetings and conferences related to carbon markets, including COP30 in Belém, where it co-hosted a series of side events.



*Mr Eduardo Silva Besa (Chile),
Chair of the EG on Carbon
Markets*



*Third Meeting of the EG on Carbon Markets
(December 2025)*

Digital Tokens Project

In 2025, CGAP mandated the establishment of an EG to study the PIL issues raised by digital tokens, in light of the outcomes of the study on the subject conducted in 2024. The EG on Digital Tokens held its first meeting in June 2025 and its second meeting in November 2025. The EG on Digital Tokens agreed to bifurcate its work into two workstreams. Under the EG's first workstream, the EG agreed to work on PIL provisions relating to electronic transferable records, fully aligned with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records. Under the EG's second workstream, participants discussed PIL matters relating to priority use cases of tokens, in particular stablecoins and Bitcoin. The EG also agreed that one important scope issue for both the applicable law and jurisdiction analysis was the need to define whether to focus on the item itself (digital tokens) or on the platform and the relationships embedded within the platform on which the tokens are held, used, or transacted with. The PB also organised technical roundtables adjacent to the EG meetings which comprised a series of presentations highlighting specific use cases of digital tokens and relevant updates of national legal frameworks.



*Prof Neil Cohen (USA), Chair of
the EG on Digital Tokens*



*Second Meeting of the EG on Digital Tokens
(November 2025)*

Digital Economy Project

Throughout 2025, the PB continued to monitor developments with respect to the digital economy, including digital platforms, artificial intelligence and automated contracting, immersive technologies, and decentralised autonomous organisations, with a view to identify PIL issues for potential future work. It also continued working with relevant international organisations on matters relating to the PIL aspects of the digital economy. In the context of this work, in 2025 the PB participated as an observer in UNCITRAL's WG IV (Electronic Commerce), as well as in the series of Colloquia organised by UNCITRAL in relation to digital payments, secured transactions and digital assets, and digital platforms, contributing to the PIL aspects of its work. The PB also participated in conferences and other events including the 4th Forum on Rule of Law in Digital Trade and the UNCITRAL-UAE Global Summit on Digital Trade and Digital Platforms.



UNCITRAL-UAE Global Summit on Digital Trade and Digital Platforms
(December 2025)



4th Forum on Rule of Law in Digital Trade
(September 2025)

Other Monitoring Work

The PB continues to monitor developments on the intersection of intellectual property and PIL, including through cooperation with the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and with respect to the PIL aspects of restructuring and insolvency, including issues relating to the treatment of digital transactions and digital assets in insolvency and restructuring proceedings.





Governance & Cooperation



2025 at a Glance



- CGAP held from 4 to 7 March 2025, with over 490 participants
- Approval of the establishment of ROAF and signature of the Host Seat Agreement with Morocco



- CDR approved the 2025–2026 Budget (€5,481,794)



- Extensive institutional cooperation with international, regional, and professional organisations across all regions

As an intergovernmental organisation, good governance is essential to the operation of the HCCH. Its unique global mandate also requires international cooperation with the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as ongoing dialogue with the general public.

Governance

Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP)

CGAP met from 4 to 7 March 2025 to review progress and set the Work Programme for the year ahead. Chaired by Dr Marcelo De Nardi (**Brazil**), the meeting had over 490 participants, representing the Members of the Organisation, as well as Observer States, intergovernmental organisations, and international non-governmental organisations.

As in previous years, CGAP reviewed ongoing legislative and post-Convention work, providing guidance and direction as outlined in the preceding sections. Highlights included the endorsement of the Conclusions & Recommendations of the 2024 meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, as well as the

mandate of further normative work in relation to jurisdiction, parentage / surrogacy, CBDCs, carbon markets (through a new EG), digital tokens (through a new EG), and the digital economy. CGAP also mandated the establishment of two WGs to finalise, respectively, the Model Forms pertaining to Chapter II of the 1970 Evidence Convention and the Good Practices document relevant to the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions, as well as of one WG to review and complete the PB's study on the application and interpretation of Article 2 of the 1985 Trusts Convention and on the institutions analogous to trusts.



*Dr Marcelo De Nardi (Brazil),
Chair of CGAP
(until March 2026)*

CGAP further welcomed the adoption of the fifth edition of the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the 1965 Service Convention* and approved the adoption of the fifth edition of the *Practical Handbook on the Operation of the 1970 Evidence Convention* as well as of the Country Profiles for the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions.

In terms of governance matters, CGAP warmly welcomed the proposal of the **Kingdom of Morocco** to host a Regional Office for Africa, and approved its opening in Rabat, Morocco.



*Ms Yael Weiner (Israel),
Vice-Chair of CGAP
(until March 2026)*



*2025 CGAP meeting
(March 2025)*

Council of Diplomatic Representatives (CDR)

The annual meeting of CDR, the Organisation's primary financial and budgetary authority, was held in May 2025, chaired by H.E. Mr Paul van den IJssel (**the Netherlands**).

Highlights of the meeting included the approval of the HCCH's budget for Financial Year 2025-2026, at a total of € 5,481,794, and the approval of amendments to the Regulations on Financial Matters and Budgetary Practices of the HCCH regarding the coverage of the audit costs of voluntary contributions.



*H. E. Mr Paul van den IJssel
(the Netherlands), Chair of CDR*



*Ms Marisar Ivy Cabatingan
(Philippines), Chair of the
Standing Committee of CDR
(until May 2025)*



*Mr Josué Roberto Liévano Paz
(El Salvador), Vice-Chair (from
May 2025 until July 2025) and
Acting Chair (from July 2025) of
the Standing Committee of CDR*



*Ms Paulina Dudzik (Poland),
Vice-Chair (until May 2025) and
Chair (from May 2025 until
July 2025) of the Standing
Committee of CDR*

Outreach & Institutional Cooperation

Cooperation with **multiple governments and other stakeholders** to promote awareness of the relevance of the work of the HCCH and the practical benefits of its instruments in all parts of the world, including through regional outreach activities in Francophone Africa. This includes a project undertaken by three States to promote the HCCH's work, encourage membership, and attract more countries to join its instruments, contributing to universality and broader global reach.



Cooperation with the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**, including through the organisation of a presentation at the workshop "Enhancing the APEC Collaborative Framework and Use of ODR".

Cooperation with the **Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)**, including through the organisation of the side event "HCCH: Global Law in Action – Serving AALCO States" at the 63rd Annual Session of AALCO.



Cooperation with the **Asian Academy of International Law**, including through the Hong Kong Training Programme on International Law Practice.

Cooperation with **ABLI** in the organisation of the webinar "Cross-border Commercial Dispute Resolution - Electronic Service of Documents and Remote Taking of Evidence".



Cooperation with the **Asociación Americana de Derecho Internacional Privado (ASADIP)**, including in the development of a virtual course on transnational access to justice and through participation in a panel discussion on carbon markets at the XVIII Conference of ASADIP.

Cooperation with the **Asociación Internacional de Juristas de Derecho de Familia (AIJUDEFA)**, including through participation and a presentation at the VI International Congress of AIJUDEFA.



Cooperation with the **Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy for Law**, including through participation and a presentation in its 8th Biennial Conference.

Cooperation with the **Central American and Caribbean Judicial Council**, including through participation in its newly-established Specialised Working Group on Transnational Access to Justice.





Cooperation with the **Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries** in the promotion of the HCCH Conventions and instruments.

Cooperation with the **Council of Europe** on the application of the 1980 Child Abduction, 1993 Adoption, and 1996 Child Protection Conventions, in particular concerning the children of Ukraine.



Cooperation with the **European Judicial Training Network** in the organisation of a training on the HCCH's core family law Conventions and projects for judges and court officials.

Cooperation with the **EU** on iSupport, on the development or modernisation of e-Country Profiles for several HCCH Conventions, as well as on the translation of key HCCH publications into EU languages.



Cooperation with the **IAFL**, including in the organisation of the conference "15 Years of the HCCH Washington Declaration: Progress and Perspectives on International Family Relocation".

Cooperation with the **International Bar Association**, including through participation in two panel discussions during the IBA Annual Conference.



Cooperation with the **IDLO** in the organisation of the seminar "HCCH-IDLO Dialogue on Accelerating Justice Delivery through Digitalisation of Public Service".

Cooperation with the **International Organization for Mediation (IOMed)** through participation in various meetings and events.



Cooperation with the **International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ)**, including through participation in the 7th Africa–Europe Meeting of Judicial Officers and in the Spring Council of the UIHJ.

Participation in the **Just Peace Month** organised by the Municipality of The Hague and the Hague Humanity Hub.



Cooperation with **Latin American Climate Lawyers Initiative for Mobilizing Action** and the **Ministério Público Federal of Brazil** in the organisation of a series of events on carbon markets at COP30.

Cooperation with the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** and other partners in the organisation of a capacity-building workshop on cross-border child custody.

ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



ORGANISATION DE
COOPÉRATION ET
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
ÉCONOMIQUES



Cooperation with the **Organization of American States**, in particular its International Law Department, including through participation in two events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Inter-American Specialized Conferences on Private International Law.

Cooperation with the **UNFCCC** on the PIL aspects of carbon markets.



Long-term cooperation with **UNIDROIT** and **UNCITRAL**, sister organisations of the HCCH, on a wide range of cross-cutting issues.

Cooperation with the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund** on family law and child protection matters falling within the scope of the HCCH Children's Conventions and the Surrogacy Project.



Cooperation with **WIPO** on the intersection between PIL and intellectual property law.

Cooperation with the **World Jurist Association** through participation in the panel discussion "Capacity Building for International Legal Co-operation" at the World Law Congress 2025.



Work of the Regional Offices

As an intergovernmental organisation of a universal nature, the HCCH seeks to include all regions of the world in its normative and non-normative work. Its Regional Offices—the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and, since 2025, the Regional Office for Africa—are essential in this regard, strengthening dialogue within their respective regions and providing post-Convention services tailored to regional needs.

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

Throughout 2025, ROLAC provided assistance to Central Authorities and other government representatives from States across Latin America and the Caribbean in the adoption, implementation, and operation of HCCH Conventions and instruments, as well as in the assessment process for joining HCCH Conventions or becoming an HCCH Member. To this end, among other activities, ROLAC held bilateral meetings with the authorities of over 15 States and facilitated meetings bringing together Central Authorities for specific Conventions; organised seven trainings on the implementation and operation of HCCH Conventions and instruments, focusing in particular on the HCCH Children's Conventions as well as the 1965 Service and 1970 Evidence Conventions; and continued its work on the development of a judicial training on transnational access to justice, to be offered across 15 jurisdictions through the Network of Judicial Schools of the Central American and Caribbean Judicial Council.



Mr Ignacio Goicoechea (ROLAC Representative) and Ms Florencia Castro (ROLAC Legal and Office Coordinator)

To support the active involvement of Latin America and the Caribbean in the HCCH's ongoing normative, post-Convention, and governance work, ROLAC organised several preparatory meetings for governments from the region ahead of significant HCCH meetings and events, aimed at providing information and facilitating the exchange of views. These included preparatory meetings for the annual CGAP meeting (two in total, one for National Organs and one for PIL associations), the second meeting of the EG on Carbon Markets, and the online brainstorming session on the e-APP. ROLAC also organised a Meeting for Latin American Central Authorities and Members of the IHNJ on the 1996 Child Protection Convention and three onboarding sessions for newly appointed members of the IHNJ.

As in previous years, ROLAC's Representative and its Legal and Office Coordinator participated in various meetings, seminars, and academic events across 2025, contributing as speakers to the annual meetings of AIJUDEFA and ASADIP as well as events organised by the Ibero-American Network of International Legal Cooperation, the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, and the CCJ Academy for Law.



*Mission to Ecuador
(December 2025)*



*Mission to El Salvador
(June 2025)*



*Training on the 1980 Child Abduction Convention in Argentina
(May 2025)*

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

In 2025, ROAP supported the continued engagement of States from the region through various activities. These included the organisation of three prominent regional events attracting a wide audience of experts: the HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2025, which featured wide-ranging discussions on the most recent developments relating to key HCCH Conventions and instruments, ongoing normative projects, and possible future work; the webinar "HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention: Bridging Global Justice", bringing together speakers from

China, Indonesia, and Poland to discuss the Convention's key features, application, and practical relevance; and the "Webinar on Parentage & Surrogacy (incl. current status of the HCCH project)", in which experts from **China, India, and Japan** provided regional perspectives on parentage and surrogacy.

ROAP also participated in a number of meetings and conferences throughout the year, with the aim of raising awareness of the work of the HCCH and of strengthening the Organisation's network of partners among governments and

other key stakeholders in the region. These included, for example, Hong Kong Legal Week 2025, the Annual Conference of the Chinese Society of Private International Law, and China Arbitration Week, as well as conferences and workshops organised by AALCO, APEC, the IOMed, and the Xiamen Academy of International Law.

As part of its ongoing engagement with students and academics, ROAP organised seminars and workshops at the Central Southern China University of Political Science and Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Northwest University of Political Science and Law, Peking University, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, Sichuan University, Xiamen University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, and Xiangtan University. It also organised internships for students and engaged with training programmes for legal professionals, namely the Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course and the Hong Kong Training Programme on International Law Practice.



From left to right: Mr Junbo Song (ROAP Legal Officer), Prof Yun Zhao (ROAP Representative) and Ms Shelby Chan (ROAP Office Manager)



HCCH Asia Pacific Week 2025 (June 2025)



Meeting with delegation from Pakistan (September 2025)



*Meeting with the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators and local barristers
(February 2025)*

Regional Office for Africa (ROAF)

In March 2025, CGAP approved the establishment of ROAF in Rabat, following a proposal submitted by the **Government of the Kingdom of Morocco**. A few months later, in June 2025, H.E. Mr Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates, and Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General of the HCCH, signed the Host Seat Agreement between Morocco and the HCCH, formally establishing the Regional Office. To mark this important milestone, a Forum for Ambassadors from African and Arab States was held in Rabat the following day, bringing together more than 50 Ambassadors accredited to Morocco. The premises of ROAF were officially opened in Rabat in July 2025. Following its inauguration, ROAF promptly commenced its activities, raising awareness of its establishment and disseminating information through diplomatic channels and the United Nations, and engaging with key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. In December 2025, ROAF concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Affairs Commission of the International Union of Notaries aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in the field of PIL.

Together with ROLAC, established in 2005, and ROAP, established in 2012, ROAF will contribute to the strategic objectives of the HCCH, above all by promoting the universality and inclusiveness of the Organisation. The Regional Office in Rabat will serve as a vital platform to disseminate and promote the work of the HCCH across the African continent. It will also strengthen Africa's voice within the HCCH and help foster an "Africa-for-Africa" approach, drawing on Morocco's rich experience as a Member of the HCCH (since 1993) and as a Contracting Party to seven HCCH Conventions.



*Signature of the Host Seat Agreement
(June 2025)*



*Opening of the premises of ROAF
(July 2025)*



The team of ROAF with the SG of the HCCH

The Staff & Interns

The Staff

Ms Maryze BERKHOUT <i>Head of Finance / Senior Human Resources Officer</i>	Dr Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR <i>Deputy Secretary General</i>
Dr Christophe BERNASCONI <i>Secretary General</i>	Mr Ignacio GOICOECHEA <i>Representative (ROLAC)</i>
Ms Sara BOUQARTACHA <i>Communications and Office Coordinator (ROAF)</i>	Mr Caio GOMES DE FREITAS <i>Legal Officer</i>
Ms Sandrine BRARD <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mr Stuart HAWKINS <i>Senior IT / Website Officer</i>
Ms Florencia CASTRO <i>Legal and Office Coordinator (ROLAC)</i>	Mr Ayoub KADDOURI <i>Legal Officer (ROAF)</i>
Ms Shelby CHAN <i>Office Manager (ROAP)</i>	Ms Nietta KEANE <i>Legal Officer</i>
Mr Harry CHENG <i>Legal Officer (until November 2025)</i>	Dr Louwrens KIESTRA <i>Legal Attaché to the Secretary General</i>
Ms Marie-Charlotte DARBAS <i>Information Manager</i>	Ms Anna KOELEWIJN <i>Head of Administration</i>
Ms Natasha D'SOUZA <i>Administrative Assistant (from November 2025)</i>	Mr Paul LEE <i>Assistant Legal Officer (Maternity Cover) (from March to October 2025)</i>
Ms Lydie DE LOOF <i>Senior Reviser (FR) / Publications Officer</i>	Mr Philippe LORTIE <i>First Secretary</i>
Ms Samia ES-SAYEDI <i>Legal Officer (ROAF)</i>	Mr Thomas MACHUELLE <i>Legal Translator / Reviser (FR)</i>
Ms Melissa FORD <i>Secretary</i>	Ms Laura MARTÍNEZ-MORA <i>First Secretary</i>
Ms Eugenia GENTILE <i>Finance / Human Resources Coordinator</i>	

Ms Laura MOLENAAR
Administrative Officer (until June 2025)

Mr Rachid OUADIFI
Representative (ROAF)

Ms Capucine PAGE
Senior Legal Officer

Ms Maja PASKALOVA UTKOVSKA
*Finance / Human Resources Assistant
(Maternity Cover) (from November 2025)*

Ms Sophie PINEAU
Personal Assistant to the Secretary General

Ms Mathilde PRÉNAS
Senior Administrative Assistant

Ms Raquel SALINAS PEIXOTO
Legal Officer

Ms Viviana STROEHER
*Finance / Human Resources Assistant
(Maternity Cover) (until April 2025)*

Ms Sabrina STUCKEN
Administrative Coordinator

Ms Giulia VALENTINI
Project / Communications Assistant

Ms Ana ZANETTIN
Legal Translator / Reviser (ES)

Dr Ning ZHAO
Principal Legal Officer

Prof Yun ZHAO
Representative (ROAP)

Consultants / Contractors to the HCCH

Consultants / Contractors supporting Normative and Post-Convention Work

Ms Eda AGUILAR SAMANAMUD
ICATAP (from March to May 2025)

Ms Christina BAGLIETTO
ICATAP (from March to May 2025)

Ms Zarifeh GHASEMI
INCADAT (from April to September 2025)

Ms Nieve RUBAJA
INCADAT (from June 2025)

Ms Eliana SANTOS
ICATAP Coordinator

Ms Victoria STEPHENS
INCADAT (from April 2025)

Consultants / Contractors supporting Governance and Operations

Ms Madelief ALSERDA
Library Assistant (until June 2025)

Ms Helene GUERIN
Publications (until June 2025)

Mr Willem-Paul HERBER
Accountant

Secondments to the PB

Ms Melinda CHIANG
*Barrister, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from 18LC
(from December 2024 to June 2025)*

Mr Minho DO
*Judge, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the
Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea (from August
2024 until August 2025)*

Ms Myriam de HEMPTINNE

*Judge, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the
Ministry of Justice of Belgium*

Mr Jisung KANG

*Judge, seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the
Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea (from August
2025 until August 2026)*

Ms Wendy HO

*Seconded to the PB (The Hague) from the Depart-
ment of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong
SAR (China) (from May to November 2025)*

Mr Junbo SONG

*Lawyer, seconded to the PB (ROAP) from the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of China*

iSupport

Mr Jean-Marc PELLET

iSupport Coordinator



Interns

In 2025, the PB had the pleasure of welcoming 35 interns from 16 different States at its headquarters in The Hague, at its Regional Offices, or online.

Head Office The Hague, the Netherlands

Ms Dilidaer AHEMAI (China)	Ms Louise RIOUAL (France)
Ms Emma CANAVAN (UK)	Ms Janet SANKALE (Kenya)
Ms Zarifeh GHASEMI (Iran)	Ms Bettina TOVALINO (Peru)
Ms Yukiho KASHIMOTO (Japan)	Ms Samantha VILLANUEVA (Philippines)
Ms Xinyu LI (China)	Ms Ying WEN (China)
Ms Benevolence MBANO (Zimbabwe)	Mr Jianfa WANG (China)
Ms Alice MILITARU (Romania)	Mr Jack ZHOU (Australia)
Ms Dari NOF (Israel)	
Ms Shuren OTGONJARGAL (Mongolia)	

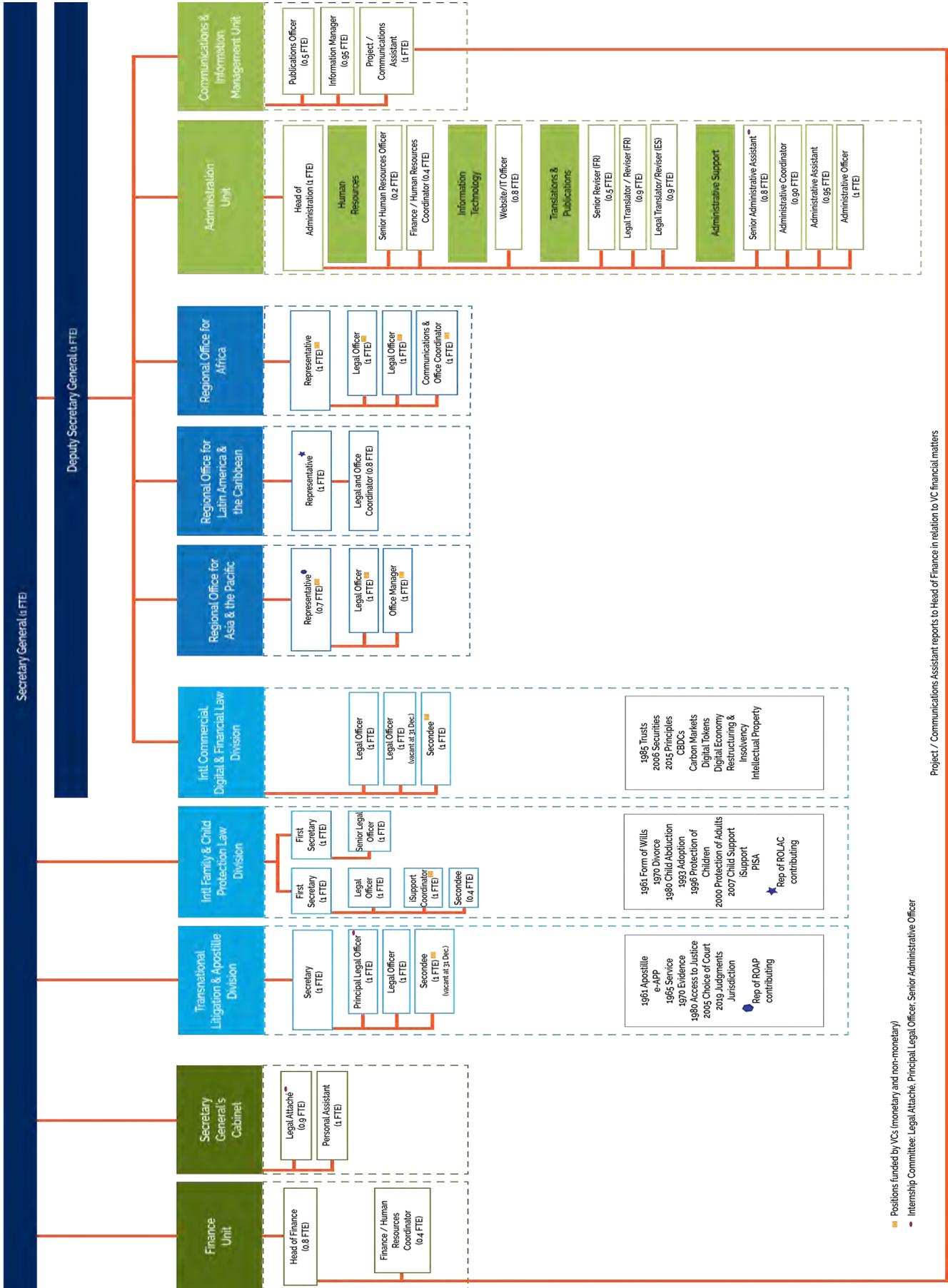
ROLAC Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ms Nicole ARAGÓN UGARTE (Costa Rica)
 Ms Laura Martina JEIFEITZ (Argentina)
 Ms Agustina ORTIZ DE ZÁRATE (Argentina)
 Ms Antonella SALERNO (Argentina)

ROAP Hong Kong SAR, China

Ms Cynthia Liavule ASWANI (Kenya)	Ms Yitong SHAN (China)
Ms Yingying CHEN (China)	Mr Yudai SOMEKAWA (Japan)
Mr Tsz Chung HO (China)	Ms Jianing XU (China)
Ms Kate Aubrey HOJILLA (Philippines)	Ms Zhubin XU (China)
Ms Christine Prisca NDOMBI (Kenya)	Ms Linghui YU (China)
Mr Chokchai NETHGAMSAWANG (Thailand)	Mr Qifei ZHANG (China)
Ms Maria Vinina Bonita PADILLA (Philippines)	
Ms Lang QIN (China)	
Mr Yulin QIN (China)	

Organisational Chart



■ Positions funded by VCs (monetary and non-monetary)
 ● Internship Committee: Legal Attache, Principal Legal Officer, Senior Administrative Officer

Project / Communications Assistant reports to Head of Finance in relation to VC financial matters

Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) Permanent Bureau

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