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| Title | **Draft Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption PART III – CHECKLIST TO ASSIST DECISION-MAKING BY CENTRAL AUTHORITIES** |
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# CHECKLIST TO ASSIST DECISION-MAKING BY CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

1. The Checklist aims at assisting Central Authorities in taking decisions in individual cases involving children for whom an intercountry adoption is contemplated. In States where the Central Authority duties are performed in whole or in part by public authorities or AABs, it will also assist them in their decision-making process. The references to Central Authorities must therefore be read as including public authorities or AABs, where appropriate.
2. The Checklist is divided into seven distinct steps. Each step focuses on a specific aspect of the intercountry adoption process falling under the purview of either the State of origin or the receiving State. However, as part of the overall joint responsibility of ensuring that the adoption process fully conforms to the legal and procedural safeguards of the Convention, steps 5 and 6 should allow the Central Authorities to double-check that proper verifications and decisions have been made in both States before matching is proposed and agreement to proceed with an adoption is given.
3. For each step, the Checklist sets out what the Central Authority should watch out for when reviewing a child's and / or PAPs' situation and what actions it should take, including where further clarification may be needed. The Central Authority should satisfy itself of the regularity of the situation before turning its mind to the next aspect of the intercountry adoption process. This proactive step-by-step approach should allow for closer scrutiny of the child’s situation to more effectively prevent illicit activity from permeating or influencing the intercountry adoption process.

Where, at any step of the intercountry adoption process, reasonable doubts of illicit activity arise, Central Authorities should immediately suspend any further decision regarding the child’s life plan and refer to the *Model Procedure to Respond to Suspected and Actual Cases of Illicit Practices* and *Guidelines on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination to Prevent and Respond to Illicit Practices, including Patterns* for guidance on possible actions to be taken in light of the particular circumstances. Central Authorities should also refer to these tools where reasonable doubts of illicit activity arise after the adoption order and the certificate of conformity have been issued.

## Checklist

1. The manner in which Central Authority duties are performed may differ from one State to another depending on domestic rules and procedures and / or the specific aspect of the intercountry adoption process under review. In some instances, for example, the role of the Central Authority may be to verify that the competent authorities have properly documented their determinations or decisions in light of applicable best practices. In other instances, the Central Authority may be directly responsible for, or involved in, certain verifications. Central Authorities may therefore need to adapt the Checklist somewhat to facilitate its application in their jurisdiction.

States are kindly encouraged to also refer to the Fact Sheets which provide more detailed information to identify and prevent illicit practices. For each specific step, references are made to the specific correlated Fact Sheets. In addition, it is to be noted that other overarching Fact Sheets would be applicable to the entire procedure (*i.e.,* FS 1 – Abduction; FS 2 – Circumventing Convention; FS 4 – Documents; FS 11 – Financial Gain).

### Step 1 – Verification of the child’s identity by the Central Authority of the State of origin (see further FS 3 – Identity)

1. Ensuring that the identity of the child has been verified and documented based on reliable information. The identity of the child includes that of the parent(s).

#### What to watch out for

1. If **documentary evidence is provided** (*e.g.*, a birth registration or birth certificate), whether the document appears to be **authentic**. This could be done, for example, by verifying that:

* the form and content of the document are consistent with authentic national documents (by contacting the competent authority, where appropriate);
* there are no indications, such as the absence of variation in pen pressure or signs of electronic manipulation, that the document may have been forged or altered.

1. **In all cases**, whether reasonable steps were taken to **verify the information on the identity of the child and parent(s)** and whether such steps were documented. This could have been done, for example, by:

* conducting extensive interview(s) with the parent or person accompanying the child when that child was taken into care (“person”);
* requesting documentary evidence as to their identity, residence and / or employment;
* requesting written statement of the parent or person;
* seeking corroborative information from hospital birth records;
* seeking corroborative information from extended family and / or leader(s) of the local community.

1. **In the case of a child of unknown parents**, whether reasonable steps were taken to **verify the identity of the child** and whether such steps were documented. This could have been done, for example, by:

* seeking assistance from law enforcement;
* issuing media notices to find the parents or extended family, or to identify the child;
* seeking corroborative information from leader(s) of local community.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** the **birth of the child** has been registered, the **legal parentage** of the child has been recorded *and* the **identity of the child** has been verified based on reliable information that has been documented:

* go to step 2.

1. **If** the **birth of the child** has *not* been registered *and / or* their legal parentage has *not* been recorded *but* the **identity of the child** has been verified based on reliable information that has been recorded:

* request the registration of the child's birth and legal parentage;
* once registration is done, go to step 2.

1. **If** the **identity of the child** *cannot* be verified based on reliable information that has been documented:

* suspend any further decisions;
  + request that the competent authority(ies) undertake proper verifications to establish the identity of the child, register the birth of the child and legal parentage, and develop a suitable life plan for the child.

### Step 2 – Verification by the Central Authority of the State of origin of the determination of adoptability of the child made by the competent authority in the State of origin (see further FS 6 – Consent and FS 7 – Children of unknown parents)

1. Ensuring that the child is adoptable based either on valid consent(s) or a valid decision by the competent administrative or judicial authority.

### Step 2A – Where the adoptability is based on consent(s) to adoption – Verification of the consent(s)

1. Ensuring that the consent(s) were taken in accordance with the requirements of Article 4 of the Convention, under appropriate conditions and has / have not since been withdrawn.

#### What to watch out for

1. Whether the **authenticity of the consent(s)** can be verified and documented. This could be done, for example, by verifying that:

* the person who apparently took the consent(s) is effectively the competent authority in the State;
* there are no apparent misrepresentations about the identity of the child or their parent(s);
* the form and content of the document(s) are consistent with authentic national documents;
* there are no indications, such as the absence of variation in pen pressure or signs of electronic manipulation, that the document may have been forged or altered.

1. Whether the **conditions for obtaining the consent(s)** were appropriate and documented. This could be done, for example, by verifying that the competent authority that took the consent(s) documented the following:

* all persons, institutions or authorities whose consent(s) is / are legally required provided such consent(s);
* the person(s), institutions or authorities who signed the consent form(s) was / were actually the person(s), institutions or authorities whose consent(s) is / are legally required;
* the absence of indications that the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) may not have had the legal capacity to give consent;
* the absence of indications that the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) may not have had the intellectual capacity to understand the information they were given through counselling, including on the effect of their consent;
* the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) were given the opportunity to further reflect on the options for the child’s life plan after receiving counselling and before giving consent;
* the consent(s) has / have been given in the required legal form, and expressed or evidenced in writing;
* the consent of the mother (where that consent is required) has been given only after the birth of the child;
* the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) confirmed that the consents were not induced by payment or compensation of any kind; and
* except where the adoption is an intra-family adoption, the parent(s) confirmed that they have not had any contact with potential PAPs.

1. Whether there are any indications that:

* the consent(s) may have been induced by payment or compensation of any kind;
* the consent(s) may have since been withdrawn.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** the **authenticity** of the consent(s) has been verified *and* the consent(s) was / were taken under **appropriate conditions** *and* there are no indications that the consent(s) may have been **withdrawn**:

* go to step 3.

1. **If** there are indications that the consent(s): may *not* be **authentic** *or* may *not* have been taken under **appropriate conditions** *or* may have been **withdrawn**:

* suspend any further decisions and seek additional information;
* once additional information is received, if it is determined that:
  + the consent(s) is / are authentic, taken under appropriate conditions and not withdrawn:
    - go to step 3
  + the consent(s) is / are authentic but was / were not taken under appropriate conditions:
    - discuss with the competent authority(ies) whether it may be possible to obtain new consent(s) under appropriate conditions:
      * if such consent(s) is ⁄are obtained: go to step 3;
      * if such consent(s) cannot be obtained: request that the competent authority(ies) reassess the situation and take appropriate decisions regarding the child’s life plan.
  + the consent(s) is / are not authentic or the consent(s) has / have been withdrawn:
    - request that the competent authority(ies) reassess the situation and take appropriate decisions regarding the child’s life plan.
  + if, after reassessing the situation, the decision regarding the child’s life plan remains an intercountry adoption and the child’s adoptability is properly established either through new consent(s) or a valid judicial decision:
    - go to step 3

### Step 2B – Where the adoptability is based on an administrative or judicial decision – Verification of the decision

1. Ensuring that the administrative or judicial decision was issued by the competent authority, that the document is authentic, and that it does not contain misrepresentations about the identity of the child or their parent(s).

#### What to watch out for

1. Whether the **authenticity of the decision** can be verified and documented. This could be done, for example, by verifying that:

* the decision was effectively issued by the competent authority in the State (by contacting the officers of the court, if appropriate);
* the form and content of the document(s) are consistent with authentic national documents;
* there are no indications, such as signs of electronic manipulation, that the document may have been forged or altered.

1. Whether there are any indications that:

* the identity of the child or their parent(s) may have been misrepresented;
* the decision may have been induced by payment or compensation of any kind;
* where consent(s) to adoption were given, such consent(s) may have been taken under inappropriate conditions as described in paragraph 15.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** the **authenticity** of the administrative or judicial decision has been verified *and* there are *no* indications that the **identity of the child** **or their parent(s)** may have been misrepresented *or*, where consent(s) to adoption were given, such consent(s) may have been taken under **inappropriate conditions**:

* go to step 3.

1. If there are indications that the decision may *not* be **authentic** *or* that the **identity of the child** **or their parent(s)** may have been misrepresented *or* where consent(s) to adoption were given, such consent(s) may have been taken under **inappropriate conditions**:

* suspend any further decisions and seek additional information;
* once additional information is received, if it is determined that:
  + the decision is authentic, the identity of the child and parents have not been misrepresented and, the consent(s) were taken under appropriate conditions: go to step 3.
  + the decision is not authentic or the decision is authentic, *but* the identity of the child and parents has been misrepresented or, the consent(s) were taken under inappropriate conditions:
    - request that the competent authority(ies) reassess the situation and take appropriate decisions regarding the child’s life plan.
* If, after reassessing the situation, the identity of the child and parents is properly verified, the decision regarding the child’s life plan remains an intercountry adoption and the child’s adoptability is properly established either through valid consent(s) or a judicial decision:
  + go to step 3

### Step 3 – Verification of the principle of subsidiarity by the Central Authority of the State of origin (see also FS 5 – Subsidiarity)

1. Verifying that appropriate efforts were made in view of family reunification (level 1 of subsidiarity - this level should always be duly applied by the competent authority before the decision on adoptability is taken) and, where this was not possible, that national solutions (*e.g.*, kinship placement, foster placement and domestic adoption) (level 2 of subsidiarity) were duly considered within a reasonable delay. Step 3 refers to the verification by the Central Authority that the principle of subsidiarity was duly considered by the competent authorities at levels 1 and 2.

#### What to watch out for

1. Whether appropriate efforts to apply the **principle of subsidiarity** were made within a reasonable time and whether such efforts have been documented. This could be done, for example, by examining such indications as:

* whether the child is of a very young age;
* whether a parent or other family member is still involved in the child’s life, for both relative and non-relative adoptions;
* whether insufficient time was taken from the moment the child entered into care to effectively consider reunification or national solutions;
* whether, for relative adoptions:
  + an intercountry adoption appears to be pursued as an alternative to other immigration pathways;
  + pressures were made on the Central Authority or other competent authorities by family members in both the State of origin and the receiving State
* signs of possible inducement by payment or compensation of any kind;
* insufficient information or lack of proper assessment to support a special needs determination; and
* a special needs determination that is inconsistent with observations of the child’s development.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** appropriate efforts to apply the **principle of subsidiarity** have been made:

* go to step 5

1. **If** there are indications that appropriate efforts to apply the **principle of subsidiarity** within a **reasonable time** have *not* been made:

* suspend any further decisions and seek additional information;
* once additional information is received, if it is determined that:
  + appropriate efforts to apply the principle of subsidiarity have been made: go to step 5.
  + appropriate efforts to apply the principle of subsidiarity have not been made:
    - request that the competent authority(ies) make appropriate efforts to apply the principle of subsidiarity within a reasonable time and document such efforts;
    - if, after a proper application of the subsidiarity principle, the decision regarding the child’s life plan includes an intercountry adoption: go to step 5.

1. **If** there are indications of irregularities in the **assessment of the child’s needs**:

* suspend any further decisions and request a full assessment of the child’s needs by (a) qualified expert(s):
* once such assessment is received, if it is determined that:
  + the child has special needs: go to step 5.
  + the child’s needs are different from those described in the original assessment:
    - discuss with the competent authority(ies) whether a new application of the principle of subsidiarity would be in the child’s best interests;
    - if, after a new application of the subsidiarity principle, the decision regarding the child’s life plan includes an intercountry adoption: go to step 5.

### Step 4 – Verification by the Central Authority of the receiving State of the assessment of suitability and eligibility to adopt (see also FS 8 – PAPs)

1. Ensuring that the PAPs have undergone a proper assessment and have been found suitable and eligible to adopt internationally.

#### What to watch out for

1. Whether the PAPs have been duly assessed and found to be **eligible and suitable**. This could be done, for example, by verifying whether:

* the licensed professional was duly authorised and qualified to assess suitability and eligibility;
* the assessment appears to contain misrepresentations regarding the PAPs' identity, habitual residence, marital status or personal situation;
* the assessment or the required documentation provided by the PAPs (*e.g.*, identity documents; financial statements; medical reports) may have been forged or falsified;
* the licensed professional or a third party (*e.g.*, physician) may have accepted payments to produce a positive assessment or report; and
* the PAP(s) is / are requesting an assessment after having travelled to the State of origin to identify a child to adopt (independent or private adoption).

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** a proper assessment of **suitability and eligibility** has duly been conducted:

* go to step 6

1. **If** there are indications that a proper assessment of **suitability and eligibility** may not have been duly conducted:

* suspend any further decisions and, depending on the circumstances, consider:
  + refusing the adoption application or
  + requesting an updated assessment in light of any new information.
* if an updated assessment is requested and is satisfactory, go to step 6.

### Step 5 – Decision on Matching of the Central Authority (or competent authority) of the State of origin (see also FS 9 – Matching)

1. Identifying PAPs approved under Article 15 of the Convention to meet the child’s specific needs and transmitting the child proposal to the receiving State.

#### What to watch out for

1. Whether the PAPs have been duly approved under Article 15 of the Convention. This could be done, where necessary, by communicating directly with the Central Authority of the receiving State;
2. Whether the matching process may have been circumvented. This could be done, for example, by looking out for possible indications of:

* a private arrangement (through an individual, an AAB or a child institution) to match PAPs to the child;
* inducement by payment or compensation of any kind, including the origin of any funding or income received by the child institution; and
* the PAPs traveling to the State of origin, including to volunteer at a child institution, or being in contact with the parent(s) of the child, either directly or through an extended family member or friend living in the State of origin, before or after the consent(s) to adoption.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** the PAPs have been **duly approved** *and* there are no indications that the **matching process** may have been circumvented:

* proceed with matching with the approved PAPs, send proposal to Central Authority of the receiving State and wait for the response;
* if the response from the Central Authority of the receiving State is positive: go to step 7, if the adoption order is to be made in the State of origin.

1. **If** the PAPs have *not* been **duly approved**:

* consider matching the child with other duly-approved PAPs.

1. **If** the PAPs have been **duly approved** *but* there are indications that the **matching process** may have been circumvented;

* consider matching the child with other duly-approved PAPs while seeking additional information;
* once additional information is received, if it is determined that:
  + the matching process had *not* been circumvented: consider the PAPs for a match to this child or another child;
  + the matching process had been circumvented: consider whether the PAPs may nevertheless be duly matched with another child.

### Step 6 – Acceptance that the adoption proceeds by the Central Authorities of the State of origin and the receiving State

1. Ensuring that the conditions for accepting to proceed with the adoption are met before issuing the agreement under Article 17(c).

#### What to watch out for

1. For the receiving Sate specifically, whether the child proposal was made in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention. This could be done, where necessary, by communicating directly with the Central Authority of the State of origin;
2. Any indications of apparent irregularities that may affect the identity of the child, their adoptability or the intercountry adoption process generally. This could be done, for example, by carefully reviewing all documents to identify such issues as:

* possible indications that the documentary evidence (*e.g.*, a birth registration or birth certificate, death certificate(s)) may not be authentic;
* possible inconsistencies amongst the various documents regarding identifying information on the child or legal parents and / or regarding the child’s life story (*e.g.*, birth and or death certificates; consents to adoption; report on the child; medical reports; judicial decision on adoptability);
* in the case of a child of unknown parents, whether the applicable procedures of the State of origin to verify the identity of children in such cases does not appear to have been duly followed;
* possible inconsistencies between the form and content of the consent(s) and standard consents normally received from the State of origin;
* possible indications that there may have been contact between the parent(s) and the PAPs prior to the consent(s) being given; and
* possible indications of inducement by payment or compensation of any kind or of corruption.

1. Acceptance by the PAPs of the child proposal.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** there are **no indications** of apparent irregularities regarding the identity of the child, their adoptability or the intercountry process generally:

* agree that the adoption proceed and inform the Central Authority of the other State;
* go to step 7.

1. **If** there are **indications** of apparent irregularities regarding the **identity of the child**, their **adoptability or the intercountry process** generally:

* suspend any further decisions and seek additional information;
* once additional information is obtained, if it is determined that:
  + the apparent irregularities have been satisfactorily addressed:
    - agree that the adoption proceed and inform the Central Authority of the other State;
    - go to step 7;
  + the apparent irregularities have *not* been satisfactorily addressed:
    - withhold agreement that the adoption proceed and inform the Central Authority of the other State.

### Step 7 –Issuance of a certificate of conformity by the competent authority (in some States, the Central Authority) of the State where the adoption order was made

1. Verifying that the adoption was made in conformity with the Convention before issuing a certificate of conformity (Art. 23 of the Convention).

#### What to watch out for

1. Whether an adoption order was issued by the competent authority.
2. Whether indications about the adoption not having been made in **conformity with the Convention**, including concerns about the identity of the child and / or their adoptability, may have been raised since the agreements to proceed with the adoption were given.

#### What actions may be taken

1. **If** an adoption order has been issued and there are **no indications** that the adoption may not have been made in conformity with the Convention:

* issue the certificate of conformity.

1. **If** an adoption order has been issued *but* there are **indications** that it may *not* have been made in conformity with the Convention:

* withhold issuing the certificate of conformity and communicate with the CA of the other State concerned to discuss any concerns;
* if the concerns are satisfactorily addressed, issue the certificate of conformity.

## Checklist Work Sheet

### Step 1 – Verification of the child’s identity by the Central Authority of the State of origin

**documentary evidence is provided** (*e.g.*, a birth registration or birth certificate): steps were taken to verify and document its authenticity:

confirmation that the document corresponds to a valid registration;

AND / OR

absence of indications that the document may have been forged or altered.

**In all cases**: reasonable steps were taken to **verify and document** the information on **the identity of the child and parent(s)**:

extensive interview(s) with the parent or person accompanying the child when that child was taken into care (“person”) were conducted;

AND / OR

documentary evidence as to their identity, residence and / or employment was obtained;

AND / OR

written statement(s) of the parent or person were obtained;

AND / OR

corroborative information from hospital birth records was obtained;

AND / OR

corroborative information from extended family and / or leader(s) of the local community was obtained;

AND / OR

other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**In the case of a child of unknown parents**: reasonable steps were taken to **verify and document the identity of the child and parents**:

assistance from law enforcement was obtained;

AND / OR

media notices to find the parents or extended family, or to identify the child were issued;

AND / OR

corroborative information from leader(s) of local community was obtained;

AND / OR

other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

COMMENTS:

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### Step 2 – Verification by the Central Authority of the State of origin of the determination of adoptability of the child made by the competent authority of the State of origin

### Step 2A – In all cases where the adoptability is based on consent(s) to adoption

#### Verification of the consent(s):

the authenticity of the consent(s) was verified and documented:

the person who apparently took the consent(s) is effectively the competent authority in the State;

AND

there are no apparent misrepresentations about the identity of the child or their parent(s);

AND

the form and content of the document(s) are consistent with authentic national documents;

AND

there are no indications that the document may have been forged or altered.

the conditions for obtaining the consent(s) were appropriate and documented by the competent authority that took the consent(s):

the person(s) who signed the consent form(s) was / were actually the person(s) whose consent is legally required;

AND

the absence of indications that the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) may not have had the legal capacity to give consent;

AND

the absence of indications that the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) may not have had the intellectual capacity to understand the information they were given through counselling, including on the effect of their consent;

AND

the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) were given the opportunity to further reflect on the options for the child’s life plan after receiving counselling and before giving consent;

AND

the consent(s) has / have been given in the required legal form, and expressed or evidence in writing;

AND

the consent of the mother (where that consent is required) has been given only after the birth of the child;

AND

the parent(s) and child (where the child’s consent is required) confirmed that the consents were not induced by payment or compensation of any kind;

AND

except where the adoption is an intra-family adoption, the parent(s) confirmed that they have not had any contact with PAPs.

the absence of any indications that:

the consent(s) may have since been withdrawn.

COMMENTS:

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### Step 2B – In all cases where the adoptability is based on an administrative or judicial decision

#### Verification of the decision:

the authenticity of the decision was verified and documented:

the decision was effectively issued by the competent authority in the State;

AND

the form and content of the document(s) are consistent with authentic national documents;

AND

there are no indications that the document may have been forged or altered.

the absence of any indications that:

the identity of the child or their parent(s) may have been misrepresented;

AND

the decision may have been induced by payment or compensation of any kind;

AND

where consent(s) to adoption were given, such consent(s) may have been taken under inappropriate conditions.

COMMENTS:

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### Step 3 – Verification of the principle of subsidiarity by the Central Authority of the State of origin

appropriate efforts to apply the principle appear to have been made;

appropriate efforts to apply the principle do not appear to have been made because:

insufficient consideration seems to have been given to:

maintaining the child with birth parent(s);

domestic alternative care arrangements (placement into care of extended family; domestic adoption);

observations of the child’s development are inconsistent with special needs determination, where relevant.

AND

absence of indications of possible inducement by payment or compensation of any kind.

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4 – Verification by the Central Authority of the receiving State of the assessment of suitability and eligibility to adopt

the PAPs have been duly assessed and found to be eligible and suitable:

the licensed professional was duly authorised and qualified to assess suitability and eligibility;

AND

the assessment does not appear to contain misrepresentations regarding the PAPs' identity, habitual residence, marital status or personal situation;

AND

the assessment or the required documentation provided by the PAPs (*e.g.*, identity documents; financial statements; medical reports) do not appear to have been forged or falsified;

AND

absence of indications of possible inducement by payment or compensation of any kind;

AND

absence of indications of possible independent or private adoption.

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Step 5 – Decision on Matching of the Central Authority (or competent authority) of the State of origin

the PAPs have been duly approved under Article 15 of the Convention;

AND

absence of indications of:

a private arrangement to match PAPs to the child (including through voluntourism or direct or indirect contact with birth parents or extended family);

AND

possible inducement by payment or compensation of any kind;

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Step 6 – Acceptance that the adoption proceeds by the Central Authorities of the State of origin and the receiving State

for the receiving State specifically, the child proposal was made in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention;

AND

documentary evidence (*e.g.*, a birth registration or birth certificate, death certificate(s) and consent(s)) appear to be authentic;

AND

absence of indications of potential irregularities that may affect the identity of the child, their adoptability or the intercountry adoption process generally;

AND

absence of indications of possible contact between the parent(s) or care giver(s) and the PAPs prior to the consent(s) being given;

AND

absence of indications of possible inducement by payment or compensation of any kind or of corruption.

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Step 7 –Issuance of a certificate of conformity by the competent authority (in some States, the Central Authority) of the State where the adoption order was made

the adoption order was issued by the competent authority;

absence of indications that the adoption may not have been made in conformity with the Convention (*e.g.*, concerns about the identity of the child and / or their adoptability);

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_