

The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and has the honour to refer to the Questionnaire: Diplomas and other education documents within the framework of the Apostille Convention, Hague Convention of 5 October 1961, Abolishing the requirement of legalisation for foreign public documents (Hague Apostille Convention).

The Chief Registrar in South Africa has responded to the questionnaire as follows:

The Registrar can only authenticate the signature, i.e. annex an apostille, to a document which was signed by someone who is known to the Registrar.

For this reason the Chief Registrar in South Africa informs that any document has to be signed by a notary public before an apostille is issued.

The nature of the apostille is such that the Registrar cannot attach to a document which was issued or signed by someone he/she does not know. No document is apostilled on face value. The office of the Registrar keeps a roll of duly admitted notaries and translators and for that reason the Office of the Chief Registrar informs that any document has to be signed and certified by a notary of duly appointed translator.

The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands assurances of its highest consideration.