

Royaume du Maroc

GERMAN FOUNDATION
FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
COOPERATION



La cour de cassation

Cross Border Co-operation in Civil and Commercial Matters through Hague Conventions

**10 to 11 November 2014,
Rabat, Morocco**

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From 10 to 11 November 2014, approximately 65 experts from Morocco, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania and Tunisia – all States from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region – as well as other participants from Germany, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom and Canada, met in Rabat, Morocco to discuss the relevance and possible implementation of selected Hague Conventions in the field of international child protection (1980 Child Abduction, 1996 Child Protection, and 2007 Child Support Conventions), international civil procedure (1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 2005 Choice of Court Conventions) and the production of public documents abroad (Apostille Convention).¹ The experts included Ministry officials, judges and academics as well as members of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hague Conference) and the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ).

The participants thanked the Moroccan Court of Cassation and the Ministry of Justice for the generous hospitality. They also expressed gratitude to the IRZ for organising this event and to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference for its active support and all the valuable information provided throughout the event. The participants also thanked all speakers for their informative and helpful presentations.

The participants warmly welcomed the recent admission of Tunisia as a new Member of the Hague Conference. They encouraged relevant authorities of the States represented which are not yet Members of the

¹ For the programme and list of speakers, see [Annex I](#).

Hague Conference to explore the possibility of becoming Members and increase their active participation in the work of the Hague Conference.

The participants unanimously adopted the following Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. The participants recognised the importance of the work of the Hague Conference in harmonising private international law rules at the global level, and the relevance of the work for the MENA Region. The participants recognised the value of the work of the Hague Conference in furthering international co-operation in civil and commercial matters. In doing so the Hague Conference establishes a framework that assists with the implementation of human rights (such as those included in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989), and facilitates cross-border trade and foreign direct investment by providing legal certainty and predictability and by simplifying administrative formalities.
2. The participants recognised that the presentations and ensuing discussions provided them with a better understanding of the content and purpose of the Conventions, including their practical operation in Contracting States. They welcomed the combination of the general presentations provided by the Permanent Bureau and specific presentations during which experts from Contracting States explained the reasons their States have joined a Convention, the issues taken into account for its implementation and the experience with its practical operation.
3. The participants further agreed to share the information and other benefits gained at the Seminar with responsible bodies and authorities in their respective States so as to continue the consideration of the Conventions and to assess the possibility of joining them.
4. The participants emphasised the importance of information and training sessions for government officials, judges, practitioners and other relevant professionals in order to assist with the effective implementation and sound operation of the Conventions. The participants recognised the value of such assistance being provided by the Permanent Bureau in co-operation with relevant experts from interested States, Contracting States, and relevant national, regional and international bodies.
5. The participants expressed their interest in other (regional) seminars of this kind in the future to take stock of relevant developments pertaining to pursuing Membership in the Hague Conference and / or joining one or more Hague Conventions.