

ADOPTION

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**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE PRACTICAL OPERATION
OF THE 1993 HAGUE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION CONVENTION**

drawn up by the Permanent Bureau

*Preliminary Document No 2 of October 2014 for the attention of the
Special Commission of June 2015 on the practical operation of the
Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and
Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*

*Document préliminaire No 2 de octobre 2014 à l'intention de la
Commission spéciale de juin 2015 sur le fonctionnement pratique de la
Convention de La Haye du 29 mai 1993 sur la protection des enfants et
la coopération en matière d'adoption internationale*

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INTRODUCTION

This Questionnaire is the second and last to be prepared for the purposes of the upcoming meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Hague Convention.¹ The first Questionnaire (Prel. Doc. No 1 of July 2014) requested information from Contracting States concerning the impact which implementation of the 1993 Convention has had on laws and practices relating to intercountry adoption and child protection systems more generally over the past 20 years. That information was sought in order to inform the first day of the Special Commission meeting which will be dedicated to "20 years of the 1993 Convention". This second Questionnaire is the more usual questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Convention. It seeks to elicit information from States concerning their current practices and any problems and / or challenges they may have faced in relation to the implementation and operation of the Convention.

This Questionnaire is addressed to Contracting States to the 1993 Convention. As a result, non-Contracting States (whether Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law or not) should not feel bound to respond but may provide a response or any comment should they so wish. In addition, please note that questions are addressed to both States of origin and receiving States, save where a heading expressly provides otherwise.

Please send your response to this Questionnaire to secretariat@hcch.net, for the attention of Laura Martínez-Mora (Principal Legal Officer) and Hannah Baker (Senior Legal Officer) **by no later than 22 December 2014**. The Permanent Bureau will place all replies to this Questionnaire on the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net > unless expressly asked not to do so.

Please note: if information provided by your State in response to the first Questionnaire (Prel. Doc. No 1) or your State's Country Profile for the 1993 Hague Convention assists with your answer to any question herein, please cross-refer to these other responses. There is no need to repeat information.

Thank you for your kind co-operation as the Permanent Bureau prepares for the next Special Commission meeting in June 2015.

¹ This Fourth Meeting of the Special Commission will take place in June 2015. Full title: *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (hereinafter, "1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention", "1993 Hague Convention", "1993 Convention" or simply "the Convention").

Name of State:	The Macao Special Administrative Region, China
Date of entry into force of 1993 Hague Convention in your State:	1st January 2006
<u>Information for follow-up purposes</u>	
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I. **ADOPTABLE CHILDREN, ADOPTEES AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS**²

A. **Adoptable children and adoptees**

The profile of children in need of intercountry adoption

States of origin only

1. Please explain any *challenges* your State has encountered, and any *good practices*³ it has developed, in relation to the compilation and provision of information to receiving States regarding the:
 - (a) characteristics and needs of adoptable children in your State;⁴ and
 - (b) approximate number of children in need of intercountry adoption in your State.

In accordance with the provisions of article 162 of the Decree-Law 65/99/M of 25 October, "the placement for adoption outside Macao of child habitually resident in the Macao SAR is not permitted if the child can be placed for adoption within Macao." Therefore, the child habitually resident in the Macao SAR who is eligible for intercountry adoption is generally in special need conditions, such as physical disability and/or intellectual and developmental retardation. In the past 2 intercountry adoption cases(happened in 2002 and 2010), the children are with mild physical disabilities.

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Receiving States only

2. Please explain any challenges your State has encountered in ensuring that:

² Part I of this Questionnaire has been prepared in light of Conclusion and Recommendation No 10 from the 2010 Special Commission meeting which states: "The Special Commission recommended that the Permanent Bureau, in consultation with Contracting States and non-governmental organisations, collect information on the selection, counselling and preparation of prospective adoptive parents, with a view to the possible development of the Guide to Good Practice No 3. This may include a discussion on good practices in dealing with failed adoptions and the period of validity of the 'home study' report." Please note: hereinafter, Conclusions and Recommendations from past Special Commission meetings are referred to as "SC 20XX C&R No X". All Conclusions and Recommendations are available on the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net > under "Intercountry Adoption Section" then "Special Commissions".

³ In this Questionnaire, "good practices" should be given a broad meaning and should be taken to include any legislative reform, procedures or practices which your State might have implemented regarding the particular topic.

⁴ See SC 2005 C&R No 12 which states: "[t]he Special Commission recognises the importance of States of origin sending information to receiving States on the needs of children to better identify prospective adoptive parents". Please note that the Country Profile for States of origin requests that States of origin provide information concerning the profile of adoptable children (at question 9) and thus it may be that your State has encountered challenges in responding to this question which you wish to describe here.

- (a) the *nature* and *number* of applications for intercountry adoption which your State sends to States of origin appropriately match the profile of children in need of intercountry adoption in those States;⁵ and
- (b) the information provided by States of origin concerning the characteristics, needs and number of adoptable children is adequately taken into account in the counselling and preparation of prospective adoptive parents ("PAPs").⁶

Please also share any good practices your State has developed in this regard.

No such experience.

Adoptability

Both States of origin and receiving States

3. (a) Please briefly describe any difficulties your State has encountered in relation to the decision regarding a child's adoptability, including the transparency of any such decision and the independence of the body taking this decision.⁷

No difficulties has been encountered in relation to the decision regarding a child's adoptability because the SWB is responsible for the establishment of the adoptability of the child. The SWB will conduct an investigation and evaluation report which illustrates the benefit of adoption for the child. The decision of adoption is issued by the Court of First Instance of Macau which takes into account of the SWB's report.

- (b) Has your State encountered any particular difficulties with adoptability decisions in the context of *intra-family* intercountry adoptions? If so, please explain.

No difficulties has been encountered as mentioned above.

Reports on children

Both States of origin and receiving States

4. Please explain any challenges your State has encountered in preparing (States of origin) or obtaining (receiving States) full, accurate and up-to-date reports, including medical reports, on adoptable children in accordance with Article 16(1) a).⁸ Please specify any particular difficulties encountered in the case of children with "special needs".⁹

No difficulties has been encountered up-to-date.

Receiving States only

5. (a) If reports on children appear deficient or incomplete, what measures, if any, does your State take to remedy or ameliorate the situation?

No such experience.

⁵ See para. 553 of *Guide to Good Practice No 2 "Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies: General Principles and Guide to Good Practice"* ("GGP No 2") which states that receiving States should respect "the requirements of States of origin regarding the profile and number of adoptable children, as well as the desired profile of prospective adoptive parents".

⁶ See SC 2005 C&R No 13: "[t]he Special Commission recognises that as a matter of good practice, authorities in receiving States should co-operate with authorities in States of origin in order to better understand the needs of children in States of origin", and SC 2010 C&R No 8: "States of origin may assist receiving States in establishing their criteria for the selection of prospective adoptive parents by providing information about the characteristics and needs of adoptable children. This information will also contribute to the development of preparation materials on intercountry adoption directed to prospective adoptive parents, and to the management of their expectations."

⁷ See SC 2010 C&R No 1 b).

⁸ *E.g.*, concerning children's physical and psychological health, identity or social situation.

⁹ You may wish to cross-refer to your State's Country Profile at question 13 (States of origin) and question 11 (receiving States) concerning your State's definition of children with "special needs".

- (b) Please specify how, in your State's view, reports on children provided in accordance with Article 16(1) a) could be improved in general.

No such experience.

Matching

Both States of origin and receiving States

6. Has your State had any experience of cases in which PAPs are declared eligible and suited to adopt a particular profile of child(ren) but are subsequently matched with a child or children with different needs? (*E.g.*, PAPs are declared eligible and suited to adopt a child under the age of 5 but are subsequently matched with siblings aged 7 and 9.) If so, please explain, in your State's experience, the reasons for this and how your State has dealt with such cases.

No such experience.

Preparation and counselling of children

Both States of origin and receiving States

7. Please share (a) any *challenges* encountered in your State or in other Contracting States, and (b) any *good practices* implemented in your State or in other Contracting States, regarding the preparation of children for intercountry adoption, including counselling and informing children and ensuring that, having regard to their age and degree of maturity, their wishes and opinions have been adequately heard and taken into account.

A court hearing must be given to a child over the age of 7 and under the age of 12 years old, unless he/she is deprived of his/her mental capability or if, for any other reason, it is very difficult to hear him or her (Article 1836 (a) of the Macao Civil Code).

The Macao SAR law guarantees the participation of the child in the adoption process and gives due weight to his or her feelings, opinions and wishes, according to his age and maturity. In the Court hearing, the judge hears the child's opinion on the adoption and has the opportunity to explain him/her about the meaning and the effects of the adoption. Over the age of 12 years, the child's consent to be adopted is mandatory (Article 1833 (1) of the Macao Civil Code).

Moreover, the SWB keeps close contact with the social workers which counsel and inform the child to be adopted about the effects of the adoption and at the same time collects the child's opinions, feelings and wishes on the adoption.

B. Prospective adoptive parents ("PAPs")

Selection of PAPs: eligibility and suitability to adopt intercountry

Both States of origin and receiving States

8. Please explain any challenges your State has encountered, and any good practices it has developed, in relation to preparing (receiving States) or obtaining (States of origin) full, accurate and up-to-date reports on PAPs, as required by Article 15, including eligibility and suitability assessments of PAPs.

No such experience

States of origin only

9. (a) If reports on PAPs appear deficient or incomplete, what measures if any does your State take to remedy or ameliorate the situation?

The Social Welfare Bureau of the Macao SAR will send a list of the missing information to the CA of the Receiving State and request for their completion within a certain period of time.

- (b) Please specify how, in your State's view, reports on PAPs provided by receiving States in accordance with Article 15 could be improved in general.

No comment.

Counselling and preparation of PAPs

States of origin only

10. (a) Has your State encountered any difficulties resulting from inadequate counselling and preparation of PAPs by receiving States? If so, please provide examples and explain what measures your State takes to remedy or ameliorate the situation in these cases.

There was once when the PAPs travelled to Macao SAR to meet with the child to be adopted and to build the relationship with the child to be adopted. It happened to find out that the PAPs did not have the idea about the duration of the trip for finishing the entrustment process. The PAPs also didn't know that they have to get the permission from their immigration department for the child to be adopted to enter and reside in their country.

For the above situation, the case worker tried all the best to communicate with the relevant departments such as judiciary and the consulate of the PAPs country to settle about the matters in a limited time.

- (b) In your State's experience, what could be done to improve the counselling and preparation of PAPs in general?

The CA of the PAPs must thoroughly inform about the duration of all the proceedings of intercountry adoption, especially on the trip for finishing the entrustment process to the PAPs. The PAPs also have to first finished all the necessary procedures related to getting the permission from their immigration department for the child to be adopted to enter and reside in their country.

Receiving States only

11. What are the main challenges your State encounters when counselling and preparing PAPs for an intercountry adoption?¹⁰ Please share any good practices your State has developed to address these challenges.

No such experience.

12. The Special Commission has previously emphasised "the need for country specific preparation and for prospective adoptive parents to have some knowledge of the culture of the child and his or her language in order to communicate with the child from the matching stage".¹¹ How does your State ensure that this recommendation is complied with? Does your State have any good practices to recommend in this regard?

¹⁰ You may wish to refer to your State's response to the Country Profile at question 15. *E.g.*, managing their expectations concerning the profile of adoptable children or waiting times, ensuring preparation materials / courses adequately prepare PAPs for the specific needs of an adoptable child.

¹¹ See SC 2010 C&R No 9.

-No comment.

13. How does your State deal with the waiting time between:

- (a) the eligibility and suitability assessment of PAPs and the transmission of their application to the State of origin?

No such experience.

and

- (b) the transmission of the PAPs' application to the State of origin and the receipt of the proposed match from the State of origin?¹² (*E.g.*, does your State routinely update the reports on PAPs in this period?¹³ Does your State, or the relevant adoption accredited body, engage in regular communication with the State of origin on this issue?)

No such experience.

C. Intercountry adoptions involving children with special needs¹⁴

Both States of origin and receiving States

14. (a) In your State's experience, what are the most common "special needs" of children adopted intercountry?

The most common "special need" of children adopted intercountry in the past 2 cases(happened in 2002 and 2010) are with mild physical disabilities.

- (b) If possible, please specify approximately what percentage of children adopted intercountry from or to your State¹⁵ have "special needs" (as defined by your State)?

100%

- (c) What measures, if any, has your State taken to adapt intercountry adoption procedures in light of the needs of these children?

In accordance with the provisions of article 162 of the Decree-Law 65/99/M of 25 October, "the placement for adoption outside Macao of child habitually resident in the Macao SAR is not permitted if the child can be placed for adoption within Macao." Also there is a very limited number of abandoned children for domestic adoption, therefore, no special measures has to be taken to adapt intercountry adoption procedures in light of the needs of children with "special need".

- (d) What are the main challenges which your State encounters in relation to the intercountry adoption of children with special needs? How does your State address those challenges?

No such experience.

Receiving States only

15. In relation to the intercountry adoption of children with special needs, how does your State ensure that:

- (a) the parenting abilities of PAPs and their ability to cope with the particular special needs are appropriately assessed?

No such experience.

¹² Your State may engage in a "reversal of the flow of files" with States of origin or other procedures such that waiting times are minimised: see further *Guide to Good Practice No 1 "The Implementation and Operation of the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention"* ("GGP No 1") at Chapter 7.3.3, para. 394.

¹³ You may wish to refer to your State's response to the Country Profile at question 17 d).

¹⁴ See note 9 above regarding your State's definition of "special needs".

¹⁵ Depending upon whether your State is a State of origin or a receiving State.

- (b) any PAPs selected are suitably prepared for such adoptions and for the specific needs of each child?

No such experience.

- (c) adoptive families are provided with appropriate post-adoption support in light of the child's special needs?

No such experience.

D. Post-adoption services for adoptees and adoptive parents

Both States of origin and receiving States

16. How, if at all, has your State implemented the recommendation of the 2010 Special Commission meeting that States should "provide different forms of assistance and counselling for different stages of the child's development to adulthood, including preparation for origin searches and reunions of the adoptees with members of their biological families"?¹⁶

N/A

Receiving States only

17. Please specify any challenges your State has encountered in ensuring that adequate support is in place for adoptive parents and adoptees following an intercountry adoption, including where parents have adopted a child with special needs.¹⁷ Please also share any good practices your State has developed to overcome these challenges.

N/A

E. Breakdown of intercountry adoptions

Both States of origin and receiving States

18. If your State has had experience of intercountry adoptions which have broken down subsequent to the adoption (sometimes referred to as "failed" or "disrupted" adoptions), please explain, in general terms:

- (a) what have been the main causes of the breakdowns in these cases (*e.g.*, deficient reports on the child, including failure to identify specific physical or psychological health needs in the report, inadequate preparation of the child or PAPs, inadequate post-adoption support).

No such experience.

- (b) how your State has *addressed* these situations. Does your State have any good practices to share in this regard?

No such experience.

- (c) what steps, if any, your State has taken to try to *prevent* these situations occurring in future.

No such experience.

F. Open adoption

Both States of origin and receiving States

¹⁶ SC 2010 C&R No 29.

¹⁷ *E.g.*, difficulties coping with an increased demand for post-adoption services or with a need for more specialised services, or difficulties in determining how services should be funded. You may wish to cross-refer to your State's response to the Country Profile at Part IX concerning the services and support which your State provides.

19. Does the term “open adoption” (or similar) exist in your State’s domestic legislation or rules? If so, please explain how it is defined. If not, please explain what is understood in your State by the term “open adoption” or “openness in adoption”.

No it doesn't exist, even the idea does not exist, too.

In accordance with article 1837 of the Macao Civil Code (the identity secret),

(1) The identity of the adopter may not be revealed to the natural parents of the child adopted unless he expressly states that he is not opposed to this revelation.

(2) The natural parents of the child adopted may oppose, by express declaration, that their identity revealed to the adopter.

20. Please specify what type of openness in intercountry adoption is: (a) permitted according to your State’s domestic *legislation or rules*; and (b) promoted *in practice* in your State.¹⁸

N/A

21. If possible, please specify approximately what percentage of intercountry adoptions involving your State include some element of openness. Has this number increased in recent years and, if so, what, in your State’s view, are the reasons for this? What challenges have arisen as a result and how has your State sought to address these challenges?

N/A

G. Discussion at the upcoming Special Commission meeting

Both States of origin and receiving States

22. Which topics / issues does your State consider are the most important to discuss at the Special Commission in relation to the counselling and preparation of children and the selection,¹⁹ counselling and preparation of PAPs for intercountry adoption?

The good practices in dealing with failed adoption.

23. Does your State consider that there is any merit in developing a Guide to Good Practice on the selection, counselling and preparation of PAPs for intercountry adoption, as recommended by the last meeting of the Special Commission in 2010, and on the preparation and counselling of children?²⁰ If so, which particular issues would your State wish to see addressed in such a Guide?

No special consideration.

II. SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISING IN THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCEDURE

A. Article 17 agreements

¹⁸ *E.g.*, disclosure of identities of biological and adoptive families, post-adoption contact.

¹⁹ The “selection” of PAPs in this context is taken to mean the assessment of the PAPs’ eligibility and suitability to adopt intercountry.

²⁰ See SC 2010 C&R No 10 (*op. cit.* note 2).

Both States of origin and receiving States

24. Please indicate any operational difficulties which your State has experienced, either in your State or in other Contracting States, in relation to obtaining the agreements required in Article 17 and, in particular, Article 17 c).²¹

No such experience.

B. Recognition of adoptions made in accordance with the Convention (Chapter V)²²

Both States of origin and receiving States

25. (a) Previous Special Commission meetings²³ have repeatedly emphasised the importance of:

- clearly designating the authorities competent to issue Article 23 certificates and keeping this information updated;
- promptly issuing such certificates without delay following an adoption decision made in accordance with the Convention;
- providing parents with a copy of the Article 23 certificate before they come to take the child;
- providing a copy of the certificate to the Central Authority in the receiving State;
- using the "Model Form for the Certificate of Conformity of Intercountry Adoption"²⁴ to promote consistent practice; and
- where an Article 23 certificate is incomplete or defective, co-operating to regularise the situation.

Despite the above recommendations, has your State continued to experience difficulties with the issuance or receipt of certificates of conformity under Article 23?²⁵ If so, please explain the difficulties encountered, including how your State has sought to remedy or ameliorate the situation.

No difficulties have been experienced up-to-date.

- (b) Taking into account the previous recommendations made on this topic, does your State have any novel suggestions concerning how to improve practices regarding Article 23 certificates?²⁶

No suggestion.

C. Delays in intercountry adoption procedures

Both States of origin and receiving States

²¹ *E.g.*, lack of clarity concerning the body which should provide the Art. 17 c) agreement, breakdown of State-to-State communications concerning the agreement, lack of clarity concerning which State should provide its agreement first.

²² When answering this section, you may wish to cross-refer to your State's response to question 13 of Questionnaire No 1.

²³ *E.g.*, see SC 2000 C&Rs Nos 17 to 19, SC 2005 C&R No 3 and SC 2010 C&Rs Nos 15 to 17.

²⁴ See GGP No 1, Annex 7.

²⁵ *E.g.*, deficient or no certificates issued, delays in sending certificates, confusion concerning which authorities should issue the certificate, confusion concerning to whom the certificates should be sent.

²⁶ *E.g.*, how to better promote the use of the Recommended Form, ensure designations under Art. 23.

26. Does your State have any comments on the speed with which Convention adoptions are processed?²⁷ If your State has experienced any unnecessary delays, what has caused these delays and are they at a particular stage of the intercountry adoption procedure?

No comment.

27. Does your State have any good practices to share or recommendations as to how delays in the intercountry adoption procedure might be minimised, whilst still ensuring that the safeguards of the Convention are respected?

No such experience.

D. Co-operation issues

Both States of origin and receiving States

28. In your State's experience, is the day-to-day co-operation with other Contracting States working well (*e.g.*, sending and receiving documents,²⁸ prompt responses to enquiries and questions, openness to discussing problems and finding solutions)? Please specify any difficulties and concerns.

Yes, it is working well.

29. At the meeting of the Special Commission in 2000, "[t]he need for adequate resources and appropriately trained staff in Central Authorities was accepted, as well as the importance of ensuring a reasonable level of continuity in their operations."²⁹ Has your State continued to encounter difficulties in this regard, whether in your State or in other Contracting States?

No, we have not.

30. Has your State made or received from other Central Authorities any "general evaluation reports" about experiences with intercountry adoption as specified in Article 9 d)?

If so, have these reports proved useful? Please explain to what use they have been put and the follow up undertaken.

If not, does your State consider that the preparation of such reports should be encouraged as helpful in promoting the regular review of practices and co-operation between States?

No, we have not made or received any.

No comments on the mentioned issue because in accordance with the provisions of article 162 of Decree-Law 65/99/M of 25 October, "the placement for adoption outside Macao of child habitually resident in the Macao SAR is not permitted if the child can be placed for adoption within Macao." Also there is a very limited number of abandoned children for domestic adoption and intercountry, there are 2 intercountry adoption cases (happened in 2002 and 2010), and the children are with mild physical disabilities in the past.

²⁷ See SC 2005 C&R No 14: "[t]he Special Commission reminds States Parties to the Convention of their obligations under Article 35 to act expeditiously in the process of adoption, and notes in particular the need to avoid unnecessary delay in finding a permanent family for the child".

²⁸ *E.g.*, has your State encountered any difficulties due to other Contracting States requesting documents / information which your State is not permitted to provide according to your domestic legislation, or due to your State requesting documents / information from other Contracting States which they are not permitted to provide (such as identities of biological parents, statements of consent, judgments regarding the withdrawal of parental rights, medical reports on PAPs)?

²⁹ See SC 2000 C&R No 3.

III. SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. The subsidiarity principle (Art. 4 b))

Both States of origin and receiving States

31. Please describe the laws, procedures and practices in your State which seek to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between providing sufficient support to biological families to enable the family to be preserved or reunified where possible, while at the same time preventing excessive delay in declaring a child adoptable and finding a suitable alternative permanent family for the child if necessary.

The SWB will try to help the family for those who think of giving up their child for adoption through the provision of family support service, the promotion of family reunification and domestic alternative care solutions. The SWB will also provide counselling service for the mentioned family to decide carefully if the above provisions are not for the best interests of the child. Then the SWB will conduct an investigation and evaluation report which illustrates the benefit of adoption for the child, in accordance with article 1830 (1) of the Macao Civil Code (To be eligible for adoption in Macao), the child to be adopted must meet one of the conditions listed below:

- (1) being a minor (under 18 years old); or
- (2) being the biological child of the legal or de facto spouse of the prospective adopter; or
- (3) being a person who has been legally declared totally incapable by reasons of mental anomaly.

Moreover, according to article 1830 (2) of the Macao Civil Code, the child to be adopted shall be

- (1) under 16 years old when the request for adoption is instituted before the court; or
- (2) under 18 years old when the request for adoption is instituted before the court, provided that he/she is not emancipated at that time and has been taken care of by one or both of the prospective adoptive parents before attaining 16 years of age.

However, if the child to be adopted is the biological child of one of the legal or de facto spouse of the prospective adopter or if he/she has been legally declared totally incapable by reasons of mental anomaly, he/she is eligible for adoption regardless of his/her age as long as he/she has been taken care of by one or both of the prospective adoptive parents before attaining 16 years old (article 1830 (3) of the Macao Civil Code).

Additionally, according to article 1831 of the Macao Civil Code, the child to be adopted must be in one of the following circumstances:

- (1) His/her parents are unknown or deceased;
- (2) Prior consent for adoption has been obtained;
- (3) He/she was abandoned by his/her parents;
- (4) He/she has parents who, by action or negligence, have endangered his or her safety, health, moral upbringing and education in a way that it might seriously damage the typical parent-child affection relationship; or
- (5) He/she is under the care of an institution or person other than her/his parents, provided that his/her parent's conduct revealed a blatant lack of care or interest in his/her regard, which is to the extent of jeopardizing the typical parent-child affection relationship for at least 6 months before the request for an entrustment has been submitted.

In the circumstances described in paragraphs (1), (3), (4) and (5), however, an adoption order cannot be made if the child to be adopted is living with a legal guardian or with close relatives and under their dependence, except when any of these relatives or guardians jeopardize his/her safety, health, moral edification or education or if the Court deems the situation inadequate to ensure the interests of the child.

Therefore, the decision of adoption is issued by the Court of First Instance of Macau which takes into account of the SWB's report.

States of origin only

32. What are the main challenges in implementing and applying the subsidiarity principle in intercountry adoption cases in your State?

Not yet encountered any challenges.

33. In your State, is the subsidiarity principle applied in the same manner to:

- (i) *intra-family* intercountry adoptions; and
- (ii) intercountry adoptions concerning children with *special needs*?

If not, please describe any different procedures used and explain the reasons for the different procedures.

Yes, the subsidiarity principle is applied in the same manner.

Receiving States only

34. (a) In accordance with the principle of co-responsibility,³⁰ what information, if any, does your State routinely request *in each intercountry adoption case* to ensure that the subsidiarity principle has been respected in the State of origin?

No such experience.

- (b) Is it possible and / or common in your State for a proposed matching of child and PAPs to be rejected on the basis that the relevant competent authority / body is not satisfied that the subsidiarity principle has been respected in the particular case?

No such experience.

35. In some States of origin, the child protection infrastructure necessary to implement the subsidiarity principle does not exist or is severely deficient, making proper implementation of the Convention in this respect challenging. Does your State undertake any programmes to assist States of origin with the development of their child protection systems³¹ in order for them to better implement the subsidiarity principle either:

- (a) at State level (*e.g.*, in the form of development aid or technical assistance)?
N/A

and / or

- (b) through other bodies such as non-governmental organisations (which are not adoption accredited bodies)?
N/A

If so, please specify how it is ensured that any such programmes do not compromise the integrity of intercountry adoption procedures and / or result in a dependence upon these forms of assistance:

³⁰ See, *e.g.*, Chapter 12 of GGP No 2.

³¹ See SC 2000 C&R No 10, which stated that "[r]eceiving countries are encouraged to support efforts in countries of origin to improve national child protection services... However, this support should not be offered or sought in a manner which compromises the integrity of the intercountry adoption process", as well as SC 2010 C&R No 6. See also para. 553 of GGP No 2 which states that receiving States have "an additional responsibility to assist States of origin to improve their child protection and adoption systems. This is essential if all of the Convention's safeguards are to be applied...".

N/A

B. Mobility and globalisationBoth States of origin and receiving States

36. How, if at all, does your State define "habitual residence" for the purposes of the Convention? What factors are considered when determining where persons are habitually resident for Convention purposes?

We don't define "habitual residence" for the purposes of the Convention. The permanent or non-permanent residency (i.e. Macao SAR ID card) are the factors considered when determining where persons are habitually resident of Macao SAR for Convention purposes.

37. What are the most common scenarios in which your State has encountered difficulties in determining the "habitual residence" of PAPs and / or a child?

The most common difficulty in determine the "habitual residence" of a child is that for the child abandoned by his or her parents who are not holding a permanent or non-permanent residency and disappeared.

38. Please describe any restriction that your State places on individuals' ability to adopt intercountry based on their:

- (a) nationality; and / or
- (b) immigration status (*i.e.*, permission to reside in your State).

a. No restriction on individual's ability to adopt intercountry based on their nationality.

b. For those who are permitted to reside in Macao, however, are not holding a permanent or non-permanent residency are not able to apply for domestic or intercountry adoption in Macao directly by themselves. They must apply adoption through the locally authorized department of the country or region of their origin.

39. How does your State deal with situations in which PAPs, habitually resident in one State, move to another Contracting State after initiating intercountry adoption proceedings (in accordance with Art. 14) but *while the adoption process is ongoing*? Does your State's response vary if the move is instead to a non-Contracting State?

No such experience.

40. How does your State deal with situations in which PAPs are either non-nationals living in your State, or nationals of your State living in another State, and:

- (a) your State does not consider the PAPs to be habitually resident in your State and the other State also does not consider them to be habitually resident in their State (*i.e.*, the PAPs are in a situation where they cannot make an application to adopt intercountry)?

If the foreign PAPs who are permitted to reside in the Macao SAR but not holding a permanent or non-permanent residency (i.e. Macao SAR ID card), they cannot apply for either domestic or intercountry adoption in Macao directly by themselves. They must apply adoption through the locally authorized department of the country or region of their origin. Therefore, the only way to deal with this situation is for them to obtain the Macao permanent or non-permanent residency.

or

- (b) both your State and the other State consider the PAPs to be habitually resident in their State?

Both Macao and other State will consider the PAPs to be habitually resident only when those are Macao permanent resident but habitually resident in the receiving State. For this kind of situation the PAPs can choose to apply for adoption through the domestic adoption procedures, or

through the intercountry adoption procedures. Once the PAPs choose to apply through the domestic procedures, the PAPs must be able to cooperate with the SWB throughout the assessment stage by providing all kind information (in particular, the information used to assess the background of the PAPs, the family situation and living conditions, etc.), that will be able to let the SWB to have an in-depth understanding of the circumstances of the PAPs and evaluate; otherwise, the PAPs are suggested to apply through the intercountry adoption procedure in respect of the provisions of the 1993 Hague Convention and the current adoption laws of the Macao SAR (including the Civil Code and the Decree-Law 65/99/M). However, in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 and 15 of the Convention, persons habitually resident in a Contracting State, who wish to adopt a child habitually resident in another Contracting State, shall apply to the Central Authority in the State of their habitual residence in general.

Example: PAPs are nationals of State A but, due to the nature of their work, have to move regularly to live in other countries for varying periods. Recently, they moved to State B for a one-year work contract. They now wish to adopt a child from State C.

(a) State A says these PAPs are not habitually resident in State A as they are not currently living there. State B also determines that they are not habitually resident in State B since they will leave the State at the end of one year.

OR

(b) State A says the PAPs are habitually resident in State A as they are abroad for a limited, finite period and State A is the only country in which they have the intention to reside long-term. State B also determines that these PAPs are habitually resident in State B as they are currently living in State B.

- Please insert text here -

41. How does your State deal with situations in which PAPs are nationals of your State, are habitually resident in another State and wish to adopt a child from a third State? What role, if any, does your State play in the intercountry adoption in this scenario (e.g., is your State involved in securing the nationality of your State for the child, any other role)?

No such experience in the above mentioned scenario.

C. Use of modern technologies³² in intercountry adoption³³

In general

Both States of origin and receiving States

42. Please briefly describe any laws, regulations or policy guidelines which exist in your State concerning the use of modern technologies in the field of adoption.³⁴ Where possible, please provide a hyperlink to these laws, regulations or guidelines or provide a copy, with a translation into English or French.

N/A

43. Does your State regularly use modern technologies in the field of intercountry adoption, both generally, as well as in individual intercountry adoption cases?³⁵

³² In this document "modern technologies" is taken to mean the Internet and modern communication methods, such as e-mail, video-conferencing and social media.

³³ If your State responded to the 2013 ISS/IRC Questionnaire on new technologies and adoption (ISS/IRC Circular No 118), you may wish to refer to this response in your answers to this section.

³⁴ E.g., legislation might concern data protection and rules concerning the online storage of data in adoption cases, the use of photo-listings, the use of the Internet in searching for origins or the use of DNA testing in adoption cases.

³⁵ E.g., Internet and websites, e-mail, video-conferencing facilities such as Skype, online posting of informational videos, social media, etc.

If so, please describe which technologies are used, at what stage(s) of the intercountry adoption procedure and how the use of these technologies affects your daily work.

If not, please explain the reasons for this (*e.g.*, no access to modern technologies due to resource constraints, infrastructure problems or an absence of training).

The regularly used modern technologies in the field of intercountry adoption, as well as in individual intercountry adoption cases are Internet and email. The use of internet is to share or show the information in the field of intercountry adoption such as application procedures and requirements. The email is used for communication on individual adoption inquiries or cases follow-ups with the CA or the person who wants to adopt.

44. In your State's experience, what (a) benefits³⁶ and (b) risks have modern technologies brought to the field of intercountry adoption? Please describe how your State attempts to manage any perceived risks.

The benefits are to speed up the processing time for individual adoption cases and easier to obtain related information in the field of intercountry adoption from other States; however, there will be the risk for losing the confidentiality and sometimes not easy to confirm about the genuineness of the information.

For the protection of the confidentiality and the confirmation of genuineness, the use of regular mail to send in the documents with affidavit is still the main practice in the field of intercountry adoption especially for individual adoption cases.

45. Please briefly explain any specific courses, training or information which is / are provided on the use of modern technologies in the adoption process to:

- (a) the authorities and bodies involved in intercountry adoption in your State.³⁷
N/A

and / or

- (b) PAPs, biological families and adoptable children (or adoptees, if the information is provided subsequent to the adoption)³⁸ – *e.g.*, are the risks of the use of these technologies part of the programmes of counselling and preparation of PAPs, adoptable children or biological families and is any post-adoption support provided in relation to these issues?³⁹
N/A

In either case, where possible, please provide hyperlinks to or copies of any information or training material provided (*e.g.*, publications, leaflets, websites), along with a translation into English or French.

46. Does your State use and / or accept from other States scanned documents in intercountry adoption cases (*e.g.*, scanned and e-mailed Art. 17 c) agreements, Art. 23 certificates)?
No.

If so:

- (a) Please specify which documents are sent or accepted in scanned format:
- Please insert text here -

³⁶ *E.g.*, websites for provision of information, fast sending of applications and reports, facilitation of contact between accredited bodies and PAPs during their stay abroad, facilitation of contact with representatives of accredited bodies, video-conferences to provide information concerning the health of children.

³⁷ *E.g.*, in relation to its use by adoptees or families to search for origins, or in relation to the use of online databases of adoptable children.

³⁸ Depending upon whether your State is a receiving State or a State of origin (or both).

³⁹ *E.g.*, concerning making contact via the Internet, posting confidential information on social media websites or using social media to search for origins.

- (b) Are these scanned versions used or accepted *instead of* the original documents or *in addition to* the original versions (*i.e.*, the original documents follow later by post)?
- Please insert text here -
- (c) Is any authentication of the scanned document required (*e.g.*, legalisation or apostillisation)?⁴⁰
- Please insert text here -
- (d) How are scanned documents stored and how is the security of the information guaranteed?
- Please insert text here -

If not, please explain the reasons for this:

For the protection of the confidentialities and the confirmation of genuinesses, the use of regular mail to send in the documents with affidavit is still the main practice in the field of intercountry adoption especially for individual adoption cases.

Using modern technologies to assist with finding a suitable family for a child

Both States of origin and receiving States

47. Does your State use, or permit others to create and use, online “photo-listings”⁴¹ of adoptable children?

N/A.

If so, please explain:

- (a) whether these listings include profiles of *all* adoptable children in your State or only certain categories of children (*e.g.*, children with special needs):
- Please insert text here -
- (b) which authorities or bodies create / operate these online listings in your State (*i.e.*, is this under State control or the control of other adoption actors?):
- Please insert text here -
- (c) who is permitted to access the listings:
- Please insert text here -
- (d) what safeguards have been implemented to protect the privacy of the children concerned (*e.g.* restricted access for Central Authorities and accredited bodies only):
- Please insert text here -
- (e) how it is ensured that the use of such listings is in conformity with the matching process set forth in the Convention (*i.e.*, matching by the competent authority in the State of origin after the suitability and eligibility of the PAPs has been determined):
- Please insert text here -

Using modern technologies to search for origins

Both States of origin and receiving States

⁴⁰ See the *Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* (the “Apostille Convention”, concluded 5 October 1961).

⁴¹ In this document, “photo-listings” means databases which include photographs and descriptions of the background and characteristics of adoptable children. They often have limited, protected access (*e.g.*, for Central Authorities and accredited bodies only) and may be used to search for families for children who are hard to place.

48. Do the relevant competent authorities in your State use social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) to help adoptees search for their origins? If so, are there any guidelines or good practices regarding the use of social media by authorities / bodies for this purpose?

N/A

49. Has your State had any cases in which PAPs / adoptees and birth families have contacted each other via social media or other modern methods of communication after an adoption and without the involvement of professionals? If so, please specify the situations which have arisen, the challenges faced and how these challenges have been overcome.

N/A

D. Illicit practices⁴²

In general

Both States of origin and receiving States

50. Please describe the practices relating to the abduction, sale of or traffic in children or other illicit practices which your State has experienced most frequently in the context of intercountry adoption since the last Special Commission meeting (2010), regardless of whether these practices have taken place in your State or in another Contracting State.

No such experience in the context of intercountry adoption. However, the Criminal Code of Macao provides for criminal offences that explicitly relate to the protection of children (alongside with other traditional criminal offences, as for example, slavery, kidnapping, procurement, whereby whenever the offence is committed against a child, the corresponding penalties are aggravated).

Abduction (in the sense of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction) is an autonomous criminal offence (referred to as ‘subtraction of minor’) provided for under Article 241 of the Criminal Code of Macao and punishable with a penalty of up to 3 years of imprisonment.

Trafficking in children and sale of children also constitute criminal offences. Under the law on the fight against trafficking in persons, Law 6/2008, of 23 June, a new provision was added to the Criminal Code of Macao, Article 153-A. The law criminalizes autonomously trafficking in persons, with special emphasis in relation to children, as well as the sale of children for adoption and the removal of human organs or tissues.

In this Article, the element of ‘means’ is not required when the crime is committed against a child (i.e., up to 18 years old), the penalty is more severe (5 to 15 years of imprisonment), and a specific aggravation in relation to the trafficking in children under 14 years old is determined (i.e., the penalty of 5 to 15 years of imprisonment is aggravated by one third in its minimum and maximum limits).

Besides, several conducts related to unlawful adoption of children were also explicitly criminalized under paragraph 4 of Article 153-A. More precisely, the giving or receiving of payments or any other benefits to surrender, cede or acquire a minor or to obtain or give the consent to the adoption of a minor, which are punishable with a penalty of 1 to 5 years of imprisonment.

⁴² In this Questionnaire, the term “illicit practices” is used in the same sense as in the “Discussion Paper Co-operation between Central Authorities to develop a common approach to preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption cases” (October 2012), available on the specialised “Intercountry Adoption Section” of the Hague Conference website: *i.e.*, it “refers to situations where a child has been adopted without respect for the rights of the child or for the safeguards of the Hague Convention. Such situations may arise where an individual or body has, directly or indirectly, misrepresented information to the biological parents, falsified documents about the child’s origins, engaged in the abduction, sale or trafficking of a child for the purpose of intercountry adoption, or otherwise used fraudulent methods to facilitate an adoption, regardless of the benefit obtained (financial gain or other).”

Article 153-A applies to all individuals as well as legal persons (Article 5 of the referred law), regardless of the place where the offences were committed. Indeed, Law 6/2008 also amended other Articles of the Criminal Code of Macao and of the Criminal Procedure Code of Macao. Under such provisions, the scope of application of the Macao SAR's criminal law was expanded to facts outside the Macao SAR in relation to those offences and the protection of child victims during the judicial proceedings related to them was reinforced.

51. Please provide details of any specific examples in which your State has worked either alone or in co-operation with other Contracting States in order to prevent and / or address practices relating to the abduction, sale of or traffic in children or other illicit practices in the context of intercountry adoption. Was Article 33 ever relied upon in such cases? If so, please describe what measures were taken and the outcome.

Please refer to the previous response to what regards Article 153-A, paragraph 4, of the Criminal Code of Macao, as well as to the scope of application of that Article.

It is worth mentioning that the Government of the Macao SAR has signed an Agreement on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons with the Government of Mongolia.

Moreover, the "Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee" was established to combat human trafficking, and a 24-hour hotline was set up for reporting trafficking cases. The SWB has been assisting and offering shelters to all identified victims in cooperation with local NGOs. The Macao SAR Government has set up a formal victim identification process, operational referral process, and standardized screening questionnaire that guide law enforcement, immigration, and social services personnel. Besides, trafficking awareness trainings have been provided to all judiciary police and public security police officers.

On the other hand, regarding illicit acts by governmental personnel in the context of intercountry adoption, it should be stressed that the 2003 Convention against Corruption is applicable in the Macao SAR. The internal rules on corruption are very strict, covering not only active and passive corruption in the public sector, but also in the private sector, with penalties ranging from 6 months to 8 years of imprisonment (Articles 337 to 339 of the Criminal Code of Macao and Articles 3 to 6 of Law 19/2009, of 17 August).

An autonomous entity, the Commission against Corruption, which also functions as Ombudsman, has been granted investigation powers (including in the criminal proceedings 'inquiry' stage) on matters of corruption, without prejudice to the relevant powers of the Procurators and other competent entities. In this respect, it is important to clarify that in the Macao SAR legal system, Procurators are magistrates, independent and free from any interference. Their functions are, inter alia, the upholding of legality, representation of minors and other persons with diminished legal capacity in all actions necessary for the exercise of their rights and interests. In criminal matters, they have the competence to promote/institute criminal proceedings and to supervise the investigation and inquiry stages of those proceedings.

52. Has your State ever suspended or restricted its intercountry adoption programme (e.g., introducing a moratorium, refusing to work with a particular Contracting State) because of concerns about the risk of abduction, sale of or traffic in children or other illicit practices? If so, did the suspension or restriction assist with efforts to combat these practices? What challenges did your State encounter in seeking to resume intercountry adoptions or lift any restrictions once practices had been improved?

No, we haven't.

E. Other international placements of children which result in adoption

Kafala resulting in adoption

Receiving States only

53. Are persons, habitually resident in your State who have a child placed into their care under kafala in another State, permitted to subsequently adopt the child in your State?⁴³

Example: a child, habitually resident in State A, is placed into the care of a couple under the regime of kafala by the court in State A. The couple habitually resides in State B (your State) and the understanding is that they will return immediately to State B to live with the child. Under your State's laws, are the couple permitted to subsequently adopt the child in your State, State B?

N/A

If so, please explain:

- (a) the reasons for this:
- Please insert text here -
- (b) the procedure, including any involvement of the State of origin:
- Please insert text here -
and
- (c) whether this would be a "simple" or a "full" adoption:
- Please insert text here -

Respite care abroad resulting in adoption⁴⁴Both States of origin and receiving States

54. If your State is involved in respite care programmes⁴⁵ for children, please explain:
- (a) whether such programmes specifically aim to be a precursor to adoption for some children (e.g., for children with special needs):
N/A
- (b) whether such programmes have, in fact, resulted in the adoption of children and, if so, approximately what percentage of children involved in the programmes are adopted:
N/A
and
- (c) where a child is adopted following such a programme, how it is ensured that the safeguards of the Convention have been respected (bearing in mind that it is likely that the child remains "habitually resident" in his / her State of origin and thus the adoption falls within the scope of the Convention according to Art. 2):⁴⁶
N/A

⁴³ **N.B. the provision of care by kafala falls within the scope of the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (the "1996 Convention") (Art. 3 e) of the 1996 Convention) and thus kafala placements benefit from its unified rules on jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of measures between Contracting States. In addition, the 1996 Convention contains mandatory co-operation provisions with which Contracting States must comply when a cross-border kafala placement is contemplated between them (Art. 33 of the 1996 Convention). For further information concerning kafala and the 1996 Convention, see the [Practical Handbook on the 1996 Convention](#) available on the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >.**

⁴⁴ See GGP No 1 at paras 561 to 563.

⁴⁵ *I.e.*, programmes in which children from certain States of origin, often children living in institutional or other non-family based alternative care, are hosted temporarily by families in other States for "holidays" to improve the child's mental and physical well-being.

⁴⁶ *E.g.*, how it is ensured that: the child is legally and psycho-socially adoptable; the subsidiarity principle is respected; the eligibility and suitability of the PAs is appropriately assessed; the Convention requirements concerning professional "matching" are met; and the child and parents are appropriately prepared, informed and counselled for the adoption.

Foster care resulting in adoption

Both States of origin and receiving States

55. Is your State aware of cases in which a domestic foster care placement has been used in order to circumvent Convention intercountry adoption procedures? If so, please provide details, including the challenges which these cases have presented and any good practices your State has developed to deal with such cases.

Example: a couple, usually resident in State A, travels to State B and applies to foster a child. They intend to apply to adopt this child in State B and to return shortly thereafter to live in State A.

N/A

F. Triangular adoptions⁴⁷

Both States of origin and receiving States

56. Does your State allow PAPs wishing to adopt intercountry to use an accredited body located in a *third* State to mediate the adoption (*i.e.*, an accredited body *not* located in the State of origin or in the receiving State)? If so, please briefly describe any conditions imposed by your State,⁴⁸ the procedure used and any challenges encountered. Please also share any good practices your State has developed in relation to such cases.

No, we don't allow.

G. International surrogacy arrangements⁴⁹ and intercountry adoption⁵⁰

Both States of origin and receiving States

57. Following the recommendations of the 2010 Special Commission meeting,⁵¹ has your State experienced any cases of international surrogacy arrangements in which use of the 1993 Hague Convention has been sought in order to remedy the situation of the legal status of the child? If so, please explain the circumstances in which this occurred, how it was ensured that the safeguards of the Convention were respected, and the outcome for the child and family.

In accordance with the provisions of Macao adoption law, the article 1726 of Macao Civil Code, Breeding agreements or pregnancy for others, "any agreements leading to procreation or gestation for third party are void." Therefore, we have not have such experience.

IV. SERVICES AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE HAGUE CONFERENCE

Both States of origin and receiving States

⁴⁷ For a definition of "triangular adoption", please see GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.7.

⁴⁸ See the good practices recommended at para. 555 of GGP No 1.

⁴⁹ The term "international surrogacy arrangement" is used in this Questionnaire to mean "a surrogacy arrangement entered into by intending parent(s) resident in one State and a surrogate resident (or sometimes merely present) in a different State". (See further the Glossary attached to the "Report on the desirability and feasibility of further work on the Parentage / Surrogacy Project" (Prel. Doc. No 3B of March 2014).)

⁵⁰ Please note that the issue of international surrogacy arrangements is being studied separately by the Hague Conference in the context of its "Parentage / Surrogacy Project": for further information on this Project, please see the specialised section of the Hague Conference website, under "Parentage / Surrogacy Project". These questions therefore only relate to the use of the 1993 Convention and related bodies / authorities in these cases.

⁵¹ See SC 2010 C&R Nos 25 to 26 in which it was stated that the Special Commission "viewed as inappropriate the use of the Convention in cases of international surrogacy".

58. Are the following documents used in your State as tools to assist with the operation of the Convention and / or to periodically review your State's intercountry adoption system and processes:
- (a) the Conclusions and Recommendations of previous Special Commission meetings:
Yes.
 - (b) Guide to Good Practice No 1 *"The Implementation and Operation of the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention"*:
Yes.
 - (c) Guide to Good Practice No 2 *"Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies"*:
Yes.
 - (d) the tools⁵² developed by the Experts' Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption:
Yes,
 - (e) the "Discussion Paper on Co-operation between Central Authorities to develop a common approach to preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption cases":⁵³
Yes,

Please explain how these tools are currently promoted in your State and how they could, in your State's view, be more effectively promoted at the regional and / or international level:

The above tools are as the reference materials for personnels who are working for those related cases. It can also use as the training materials for the related personnels, however, if those materials can be in more languages, e.g. the official language: Chinese and Portugese of our State, that will be more effectively promoted.

59. In light of the fact that the importance of ICATAP (the "Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme" of the Hague Conference) to the proper implementation and operation of the 1993 Convention has been reiterated by Special Commission meetings and by meetings of the Council on General Affairs and Policy for many years, does your State have any suggestions as to how to secure more regular and consistent funding for this work at the Permanent Bureau, including for the key position of the ICATAP Co-ordinator?

No comment.

Is there any other comment your State wishes to make concerning the implementation and / or operation of the 1993 Convention?

No comment.

⁵² See the tools developed by the "Experts' Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption", available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website, under "Expert and Working Groups": *i.e.*, the harmonised Terminology adopted by the Experts' Group on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption, the Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption, the Summary list of good practices on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption and the Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption.

⁵³ Available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website, under "Expert and Working Groups".