

## **REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES (2014)**

*drawn up by the Permanent Bureau*

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## **RAPPORT SUR LES ACTIVITÉS D'ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE (2014)**

*établi par le Bureau Permanent*

*Preliminary Document No 10 of February 2015 for the attention  
of the Council of March 2015 on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference*

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## REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2014

This Report provides the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Hague Conference with an overview of technical assistance projects undertaken by the Permanent Bureau in 2014. The Report describes each project and its outcomes. It also identifies who supported the projects and whether support was provided in the form of funds or otherwise. It comprises all technical assistance projects provided:

- independent of other projects or programmes, and
- as a component of broader post-Convention services.

The Report also chronicles the prioritisation criteria applied with respect to each project.<sup>1</sup> These criteria are included for the benefit of Members; and to ensure consistency with the 2013 Report. Should Council approve these prioritisation principles (as part of the approval of the *Draft Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance*), future reporting on technical assistance will include further reporting elements, including criteria for the selection of projects.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter V of the *Draft Strategic Framework for Post-Convention Assistance* (amended during the meeting of the Technical Assistance Working Group held from 30 to 31 October 2014).

## 1. Child protection, family and property relations

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
13 May 2014	<p>Conference on “Cross-Border Family Matters and the Well-Being of the Child: Asia Pacific Perspectives” in Beijing, China.</p> <p>Approximately 110 judges, government officials, academics and experts from various Asia Pacific States (Australia, China [including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau], Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Singapore) as well as two specially invited experts from the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK) participated in the Conference.</p>	<p>To look into cross-border family law disputes, issues and problems arising from the operation and implementation in the Asia Pacific Region of the Hague Conventions relating to the well-being of the child, especially the Child Abduction Convention.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>To share the experience of various countries in resolving these matters in the best interests of the child.</p>	<p>Introduced Child Abduction Convention through speakers from the Permanent Bureau, the USA and the UK.</p> <p>Shared Chinese experiences, including the differences between the requirements and obligations imposed by the Child Abduction Convention and China's domestic legislation and practices.</p> <p>Exchanged experiences regarding the implementation of the Convention in other States.</p> <p>Raised awareness of the Child Abduction Convention.</p> <p>Promoted the Asia Pacific Regional Office as a regional forum for the exchange of information, experiences and practices of Asia Pacific States in cross-border child abduction cases and related issues.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued dialogue and experience-sharing meetings in this respect;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more of the States is either a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>Participating States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Conventions.</li> <li>The number of people and / or States impacted by the results of providing assistance.</li> <li>The interest in / support for providing assistance expressed by other Contracting States to the relevant Convention(s).</li> <li>The possibility of collaborating with other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</li> <li>The likelihood of the participating State(s) to take concrete steps towards proper implementation or to improve the operation of the relevant Hague Convention(s).</li> <li>The regional diversity of the States which receive technical assistance from the Permanent Bureau.</li> </ul>	<p>International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (IAML)</p> <p>Lipman Karas (private law practice)</p> <p>Withers (private law practice)</p> <p>Renmin University</p>

<sup>2</sup> Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to promote the Convention with non-contracting States in the Asia Pacific Region;</li> <li>• Enhance child protection measures in the Asia Pacific Region.</li> </ul>		
September 2010 through 2014	Post-Convention assistance to Haiti project on the Inter-country Adoption Convention <sup>3</sup> (multi-year assistance).	<p>General objective:</p> <p>To assist with the reinforcement of the legal and institutional child protection framework in Haiti.</p> <p>Specific objective:</p> <p>To reinforce the Haitian intercountry adoption system and the related procedures in order to facilitate implementation of the Inter-country Adoption Convention and compliance with its principles and to ensure that adoptions are carried out in the best interests of the child.</p>	<p>Joined the Inter-country Adoption Convention on 16 December 2013 (entry into force on 1 April 2014).</p> <p>The Haitian Central Authority published and disseminated an Informative Note relating to the management of the transitional phase of adoption.</p> <p>115 participants in two workshops aiming at raising awareness of the new Act reforming adoption in Haiti.</p> <p>Introduced a draft organic law (<i>Loi-cadre</i>) relating to the Haitian Central Authority for the Inter-country Adoption Convention (<i>Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches</i>) to the Government for adoption.</p> <p>Commenced preparation of a manual of procedure and the matching method.</p> <p>Commenced drafting several other tools, including a guide for information and awareness of biological parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>• Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>• The urgency of the request.</li> <li>• The offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States.</li> <li>• The possibility of receiving additional support / assistance from other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</li> <li>• The assistance reflects diversity of regions in which the Hague Conference operates.</li> <li>• The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government of France</p> <p>Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands</p> <p>UNICEF</p>

<sup>3</sup> Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
			<p>The Haitian Central Authority published and disseminated the Table of costs for the country.</p> <p>Developed, and presented to the technical and financial partners, an Action Plan for the protection of children separated from their families or at risk of separation (2014-2016).</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final report of the consultancy missions undertaken in 2013 and 2014 updating the recommendations of the confidential report produced after the mission of the Permanent Bureau to Haiti in March 2013;</li> <li>• Follow-up on the technical assistance provided for the reform of Haiti's intercountry adoption system in order to support the implementation of the activities set out in the Action Plan.</li> </ul>		
24 to 28 March 2014	Training for the members of the Guinean Intercountry Adoption Commission (IAC) on the	<p>General objective:</p> <p>To assist with the reinforcement of the legal and institutional child protection framework in Guinea.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To gather information on the protection of children deprived</li> </ul>	<p>Delivered a three-day workshop on the Intercountry Adoption Convention and its application to 12 members of the IAC.</p> <p>Delivered a report, including short-, medium- and long-term measures for the reform of the adoption system and for the implementation of the Intercountry Adoption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>• Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>• The urgency of the request.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
	Intercountry Adoption Convention <sup>4</sup> in Conakry, Guinea.	<p>of family in Guinea and, more specifically, on the adoption of children in the country and the application of the Intercountry Adoption Convention;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build the capacities of the authorities involved in the adoption process in Guinea.</li> </ul>	<p>Convention.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up on the technical assistance provided for the reform of Guinea's intercountry adoption system with the new Direction appointed on the matter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States.</li> <li>The possibility of receiving additional support / assistance from other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</li> <li>The assistance reflects diversity of regions in which the Hague Conference operates.</li> <li>The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	
25 to 27 November 2014	Follow-up on the Malagasy reform of the legislative texts relating to the Intercountry Adoption Convention <sup>5</sup> in Antananarivo, Madagascar.	<p>General objective:</p> <p>To assist with the reinforcement of the legal and institutional child protection framework in Madagascar.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To restate the good practices relating to the implementation and the practical operation of the Intercountry Adoption Convention.</li> </ul>	<p>Delivered presentation on good practices relating to the implementation and the practical operation of the Intercountry Adoption Convention in Africa and in Madagascar to approx. 150 people.</p> <p>Developed analysis of practices relating to adoption, to be used as the basis for the drafting of the manual of procedure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>The urgency of the request.</li> <li>The offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States.</li> </ul>	Government of France

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To participate in the review of the role of each actor involved in the adoption procedure in Madagascar and establish the outlines of a manual of procedure.</li> </ul>	<p>Formulation of possible / planned future outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up and comments on the drafting of the manual of procedure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The possibility of receiving additional support / assistance from other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</li> <li>The assistance reflects diversity of regions in which the Hague Conference operates.</li> <li>The lasting and substantive impact expected on the recipient State and the region, including possibility of the participating States to provide training to other States in need of assistance in the future.</li> <li>The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	
28 to 29 April 2014	Training for competent judges in the 4 <sup>th</sup> Federal Region of Brazil, in Florianopolis, Brazil.	To train competent judges on the Child Abduction Convention. <sup>6</sup>	<p>Delivered training to competent judges of the 4<sup>th</sup> Federal Region to improve judicial decision-making in child abduction cases.</p> <p>Concentration of competence within the 4<sup>th</sup> Federal Region a few months after the seminar.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>The urgency of the request.</li> </ul>	Brazil Regional Tribunal for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Region

<sup>6</sup> See note 2, *supra*.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	
11 to 14 July 2014	Training on the Child Abduction Convention for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington DC, USA.	<p>To train officers at the Secretariat of the Human Rights Commission on the Child Abduction Convention.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>To discuss with Commissioners the operation of the Child Abduction Convention in Latin America.</p> <p>Meeting with the <i>Rapporteur</i> on the rights of the child, Ms Rosa Maria Ortiz, to discuss international child protection matters related to Latin American States.</p>	<p>Delivered training to officers at the Secretariat to improve handling of child abduction cases.</p> <p>Presentation on the operation of the Child Abduction Convention in plenary session of the Commission.</p> <p>Discussed the Child Abduction Convention with Commissioners.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcomes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the OAS Human Rights Commission can better process an influx of complaints;</li> <li>Provide advanced training on the operation of the Convention (to take place in 2015), as requested by the Secretariat;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requesting State is Member of the Hague Conference; or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>The requesting State is in the process of preparing to join or is already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention(s).</li> <li>The urgency of the request.</li> </ul>	LATAM fund

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To bring to the attention of the Commission, the Child Protection Convention<sup>8</sup> and to seek ways in which the Commission could facilitate the implementation of the Convention in the region.</li> </ul>		
11 to 12 August 2014	Assistance for Honduran authorities to improve the operation of the Child Abduction Convention, <sup>9</sup> and prospective accession to the Child Protection Convention <sup>10</sup> in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.	<p>To train competent judges on the operation of the Child Abduction Convention.</p> <p>To assist Honduran authorities in improving the operation of the Child Abduction Convention. In particular, to plan the operation of a new institution that will take over the responsibilities of the Central Authority.</p> <p>To assist Honduran authorities in considering accession to the Inter-country Adoption Convention.<sup>11</sup></p>	<p>Delivered training to judges to improve handling of child abduction cases.</p> <p>Conducted meetings with the Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice and Child Protection Authority to discuss good practices that could be implemented in Honduras (<i>e.g.</i>, regulation of procedures, concentration of competence, guidelines for Central Authorities, and trainings).</p> <p>Achieved implementation of measures to better the operation of the Child Abduction Convention by Honduran Authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>The urgency of the request.</li> <li>The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	LATAM fund

<sup>8</sup> *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.*

<sup>9</sup> See note 2, *supra*.

<sup>10</sup> See note 10, *supra*.

<sup>11</sup> See note 3, *supra*.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
23 to 24 October 2014	Assistance for Costa Rican Authorities to improve the operation of the Child Abduction Convention, <sup>12</sup> in San Jose, Costa Rica.	<p>To train Central Authority officers on the operation of the Child Abduction Convention.</p> <p>To discuss with high judicial authorities the operation and interpretation of the Child Abduction Convention.</p>	<p>Delivered training to officers of the Central Authority.</p> <p>Meeting between Minister Perez Manrique and magistrates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instances.</p> <p>Improved the Central Authority's ability to deal with child abduction cases.</p> <p>Trained high judicial authorities in the good practices implemented by the Uruguayan judiciary to ensure better judicial decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>• Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>• The urgency of the request.</li> <li>• The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>• The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	<p>LATAM fund</p> <p>Uruguay Supreme Court</p>
3 to 4 November 2014	Training for judges of the Federal Court of Appeal, in Porto Alegre, Brazil.	To train judges of the Federal Court of Appeal on the interpretation and operation of the Child Abduction Convention. <sup>13</sup>	<p>Trained judges of the five Federal jurisdictions in the interpretation and operation of the Convention to improve judicial decision making in child abduction cases.</p> <p>Discussed with a judge from the Supreme Court options for further support to train Supreme Court judges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>• Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>• The urgency of the request.</li> <li>• The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>• The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted</li> </ul>	<p>LATAM fund</p> <p>Brazilian Central Authority</p>

<sup>12</sup> See note 2, *supra*.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
				Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.	
January 2012 to January 2014	"Enhancing judicial international co-operation in matters relating to maintenance obligations" (JUST/2010/JCIV/AG/0026), in the context of the European Union "Civil Justice" Programme.	To build on the capacity and knowledge of the Child Support Convention <sup>14</sup> and its Protocol, <sup>15</sup> to ensure proper implementation and operation throughout the European Union (EU), and in particular in eastern European States. To create practical resources to further the same goals.	<p>Published a practical Handbook for Competent Authorities on the EU Maintenance Regulation,<sup>16</sup> the Child Support Convention and its Protocol (in English, French, and Romanian).</p> <p>Delivered nine two-and-a-half day training modules on the three instruments, including hypothetical cases (to more than 160 judges and members of Central Authorities from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain).</p> <p>Published three information leaflets to raise public awareness on the international recovery of child support (in English, French, and Romanian).</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the Practical Handbook as the basis for a global Practical Handbook for competent authorities on the Child Support Convention and its Protocol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>• Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>• The urgency of the request.</li> <li>• The offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States.</li> <li>• The assistance reflects diversity of regions in which the Hague Conference operates.</li> <li>• The lasting and substantive impact expected on the recipient State and the region, including possibility of the participating States to provide training to other States in need of assistance in the future.</li> <li>• The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>• The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted</li> </ul>	<p>European Commission</p> <p>Romanian Ministry of Justice</p> <p><i>École Nationale de la Magistrature</i> (ENM), France</p>

<sup>14</sup> Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.

<sup>15</sup> Hague Protocol of 23 November 2007 on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations.

<sup>16</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination of training modules globally via the Hague Conference website.</li> </ul>	<p>Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</p>	
10 to 11 November 2014	Two-day intensive training of Norwegian Central Authority personnel on the Child Support Convention. <sup>17</sup>	To provide Norwegian officials responsible for the international collection of maintenance under the Child Support Convention with essential, problem-based training on the Convention in general and on the various applications under the Convention.	<p>Organised and conducted successful training event for Norwegian officials at the Permanent Bureau.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the training provided, Norwegian officials will share the presentations / hypothetical problems with caseworkers in Norway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>Requesting States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Convention.</li> <li>The urgency of the request.</li> <li>The offer of financial and / or in-kind support from Members or Contracting States.</li> <li>The assistance reflects diversity of regions in which the Hague Conference operates.</li> <li>The lasting and substantive impact expected on the recipient State and the region, including possibility of the participating States to provide training to other States in need of assistance in the future.</li> <li>The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which</li> </ul>	Government of Norway

<sup>17</sup> See note 15, *supra*.

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria	Donors / project support
				broad participation is reasonably expected.	

## 2. Legal co-operation and litigation

<p>24 to 25 September 2014</p>	<p>Mission to Dushanbe, Tajikistan.</p>	<p>To attend various meetings with high-level officials and officials from the International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group, mainly focusing on Tajikistan's forthcoming accession to the Apostille Convention<sup>18</sup>.</p>	<p>Attended various meetings mainly focusing on Tajikistan's forthcoming accession to the Apostille Convention.</p> <p>Attended a workshop and roundtable with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice to discuss the notion of public documents, exclusions, fees and the (e-)Register.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because of the technical assistance provided, Tajikistan plans to be in a position to accede to the Apostille Convention at the end of 2014.</li> </ul> <p>[Note: Tajikistan acceded to the Apostille Convention in February 2015]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Conventions.</li> <li>The number of people and / or States impacted by the results of providing assistance.</li> <li>The interest in / support for providing assistance expressed by other Contracting States to the relevant Convention(s).</li> <li>The possibility of collaborating with other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</li> <li>The likelihood of the participating State(s) to take concrete steps towards proper implementation or to improve the operation of the relevant Hague Convention(s).</li> <li>The regional diversity of the States which receive technical assistance from the Permanent Bureau.</li> <li>The lasting and substantive impact expected on the recipient State and the region, including possibility of the participating States to provide training to other States in need of assistance in the future.</li> </ul>	<p>International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group</p> <p>United Kingdom</p> <p>Switzerland</p>
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<sup>18</sup> *Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.*

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The post-Convention assistance will be provided in a cost-effective and efficient way.</li> <li>• The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li> </ul>	
26 September 2014	Mission to Almaty, Kazakhstan.	To attend a workshop (chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr B. Abdirayim, attended by representatives of all 16 Kazakh regions) on the operation of the Apostille Convention.	<p>Discussed current challenges and problems faced by the Kazakh authorities in applying the Convention (they issue approx. 41,000 Apostilles per year).</p> <p>Suggested possible solutions to those problems, discussing and explaining the notion of a public document, the exceptions, the role of notaries, fees, and the e-APP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating States are in the process of preparing to join or are already a Party to the relevant Hague Conventions.</li> <li>• The number of people and / or States impacted by the results of providing assistance.</li> <li>• The possibility of collaborating with other governmental, non-governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</li> <li>• The likelihood of the participating State(s) to take concrete steps towards proper implementation or to improve the operation of the relevant Hague Convention(s).</li> <li>• The regional diversity of the States which receive technical assistance from the Permanent Bureau.</li> <li>• The lasting and substantive impact expected on the recipient State and the region, including possibility of the participating States to provide training to other States in need of assistance in the future.</li> </ul>	Government of Kazakhstan

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The request pertains to a widely ratified or recently adopted Hague Convention for which broad participation is reasonably expected.</li></ul>	
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### 3. Commercial and finance law

No activities on technical assistance were carried out in this field during this period.

### 4. Activities involving multiple areas of Hague Conference work which include a technical assistance component

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria*	Donors / project support
12 August 2014	<p>The APEC Economic Committee (EC) Workshop on Ease of Doing Business through Hague Conventions, Beijing, China.</p> <p>The Workshop was co-organised by the Asia Pacific Regional Office in collaboration with the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong SAR and the People's Republic of China, under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Committee.</p> <p>40 delegates and participants from the APEC member economies and international organisations participated in the workshop.</p>	<p>To enhance understanding of the relevant Hague Conventions on how they may facilitate cross-border transactions and resolution of business disputes among APEC member economies.</p> <p>To build the specific capacity of APEC member economies, to consider accessions and to improve their current regimes by the use of modern technology.</p> <p>To contribute to the development of a network of the relevant APEC officers, with a view to facilitating long-term information and experience sharing.</p>	<p>Recognised and reaffirmed the value of the mechanisms established under the Apostille Convention,<sup>19</sup> Evidence Convention<sup>20</sup> and Service Convention,<sup>21</sup> as long-established, effective global means to facilitate cross-border investment, movement of goods and services.</p> <p>Reiterated the importance of an APEC-wide adoption of the above Conventions.</p> <p>Considered that the Choice of Court Convention<sup>22</sup> was a useful global instrument that would benefit the international business community and foster international trade and investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more of the States either is a Member of the Hague Conference or is committed to pursuing Membership.</li> <li>• One or more of the participating States is in the process of preparing to join or already are a Party to relevant Hague Convention(s).</li> <li>• The number of people and / or States impacted by the results of providing assistance.</li> <li>• The interest in / support for providing assistance expressed by other Contracting States to the relevant Convention(s).</li> <li>• The possibility of collaborating with other governmental, non-</li> </ul>	<p>Governments of the Hong Kong SAR and the People's Republic of China</p>

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Hague Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters.*

<sup>21</sup> *Hague Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters.*

<sup>22</sup> *Hague Convention of 30 June 2005 on Choice of Court Agreements.*

Date	Activity	Objective	Outcome	Applied prioritisation criteria*	Donors / project support
			<p>Acknowledged the benefits of harmonisation of the rules on recognition and enforcement of judgments and jurisdictional rules for parties engaged in cross-border trade and investment, welcoming the continuation of the Hague Judgments Project.</p> <p>Reiterated the proven value of technical assistance offered by the Permanent Bureau including through its Asia Pacific Regional Office to APEC members.</p> <p>Formulated possible / planned future outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible similar activities and further opportunities for enhanced collaboration between the Hague Conference and the APEC.</li> </ul>	<p>governmental, or intergovernmental entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likelihood the assistance will contribute to taking concrete steps towards proper implementation or to improve the operation of the relevant Hague Convention(s).</li> <li>The request pertains to a Hague Convention for which effective implementation and operation can reasonably be expected.</li> <li>The regional diversity of the States which receive technical assistance from the Permanent Bureau.</li> </ul>	