

**QUESTION 1.** In practice, what are the kinds of public documents (e.g., commercial documents, birth certificates) for which the competent authority(ies) in your state is (are) most commonly called upon to issue apostilles?

**ANSWER:** In Colombia, the public documents which are most frequently called upon to issue apostilles are birth certificates, certificates, report cards and diplomas of highschool, college and specialized studies as well as judicial and police certificates (criminal record).

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**QUESTION 2.** Do you have statistics at your disposal with respect to the number of apostilles issued by your competent authorities (by type of document, if possible)?

**ANSWER:** On average, fifteen hundred (1.500) apostilles are issued daily.

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**QUESTION 3.** Pursuant to the application by the European community for membership of the Hague Conference, it will need to be determined to what extent the Hague Conventions, and in particular the "Apostille" Convention, should or could be extended to regional economic-integration organizations. Do you consider that it would be necessary or appropriate to adopt a protocol favouring the adoption of a clause similar to that of Article 18 of the Hague Convention on the law applicable to certain rights in respect of securities held with an intermediary?

**ANSWER:**

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**QUESTION 4.** Would you be in favour of the adoption of a protocol designed to enable a State with several units to extend the application of the Convention to one or several of its territorial units?

**ANSWER:** Taking into consideration aspects of costs, logistics, security and trustworthiness of the documents, it is considered relevant to maintain the issuance of the apostille in only one national unit.

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**QUESTION 5.** Can you specify the price charged by the competent authorities in your country for issuance of the apostille?

**ANSWER:** The price of the apostille is twenty thousand pesos (\$20.000), equivalent to approximately seven US dollars (USD\$7).

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**QUESTION 6.** In practice, have you encountered difficulties connected with the formal requirements provided for under the Convention?

**ANSWER:** Up to this date, no difficulties have presented themselves with regard to the formal requirements of the Convention.

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**QUESTION 7.** Practical information relating to the methods used to affix the apostille would be very useful. In particular, how do you proceed when the public document to receive the apostille has several pages?

**ANSWER:** The format of the apostille of Colombia is a sticker, which is fixed manually to the document.

On a document consisting of several pages, the apostille is issued on the page which bears the signature to be legalized, which generally can be found on the first or last page of the document. In the case of documents in which each and every page has been signed, the apostille is fixed to the last page. On the apostille itself the number of pages of which the document consists, is specified.

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**QUESTION 8.** Is consultation of the register or card index for verification requested frequently?

**ANSWER:** The archives of the register of signatures are sporadically consulted. This method is only used when it concerns documents for which the apostille is rarely solicited.

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**QUESTION 9.** Do you use signatures by mechanical means, stamp and/or electronics, to fill in apostilles? If so, have security measures been taken to avoid any fraud? If so, which?

**ANSWER:** The signatures are stamped onto the apostille directly by the authorized civil servants.

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**QUESTION 10.** Do you use an electronic medium to keep the “register or card index” provided for under Article 7 of the Convention? If so, do you also keep a paper copy of the entries and if not, do you contemplate doing so? What are your reasons?

**ANSWER:** The card index is filed in folders, in which the official letter is filed, which bears the signature of the civil servant of the office which legalizes the document, as well as an index card on which the heading and the signature of the civil servant are registered.

At the moment a system is being developed, which magnetically registers the signatures by way of a scanner, so the signatures can be compared when the document has been received.

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**QUESTION 11.** Do you issue apostilles for electronic documents? If so, can you provide us with details of the manner of that issuance and if not, do you think this possibility can be contemplated?

**ANSWER:** At the moment no apostilles are issued for electronic documents. The use of electronic ways to issue public as well as private documents, which is more extensive day by day, makes it necessary to take decisions in the near future in favour of the issuance of apostilles on electronic documents.

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