

The Secretary General



For the attention of National Organs
of the Member States

Circular No 32(26)

Our Ref.: 20260609SP

The Hague, 9 June 2026

Dear Representatives of the National Organs,

Pursuant to the proposal of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands dated 9 June 2026, and in accordance with Article 2 of the Statute of the HCCH, I have the honour to open the six-month voting period on the admission of the Republic of Botswana as a Member State of the HCCH.

Article 2 of the Statute reads as follows:

1. Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law are the States which have already participated in one or more Sessions of the Conference and which accept the present Statute.
2. Any other State, the participation of which is from a juridical point of view of importance for the work of the Conference, may become a Member. The admission of new Member States shall be decided upon by the Governments of the participating States, upon the proposal of one or more of them, by a majority of the votes cast, within a period of six months from the date on which that proposal is submitted to the Governments.
3. The admission shall become effective upon the acceptance of the present Statute by the State concerned.

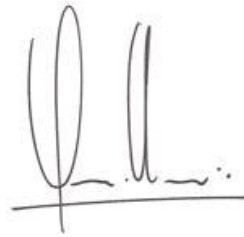
In accordance with Article 2(2), you are kindly requested to inform the Permanent Bureau of your Government's position on the proposal of the Netherlands by **9 December 2026 at 5.00 p.m.** (CET), marking the end of the six-month period. Please indicate clearly whether your Government's vote is in favour of, or opposed to, the proposed admission. The Permanent Bureau will acknowledge receipt of your vote, thereby confirming that it has been received. Kindly note that votes submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

The Republic of Botswana is currently a Contracting Party to six HCCH Conventions: the 1961 Form of Wills Convention, the 1961 Apostille Convention, the 1965 Service Convention, the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, the 1993 Adoption Convention, and the 2007 Child Support Convention.

The Republic of Botswana has participated in the 2023 Special Commission meeting on the practical operation of the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions and in the 2026 meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy.

I take this opportunity to recall the HCCH Strategic Plan 2023–2028, which identifies universality and inclusiveness as key strategic elements for the HCCH. I invite Member States to participate in this admission process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'B' and a horizontal line with a small flourish at the end.

Dr Christophe Bernasconi

Copy for information to the Diplomatic Missions of the Members