

The Secretary General



For the attention of the National Organs
of the Member States of the HCCH

Circular No 27(24)

Our Ref.: 20240326SP

The Hague, 26 March 2024

To whom it may concern,

Following the proposal of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands dated 26 March 2024, and in accordance with Article 2 of the Statute of the HCCH, I am pleased to open the six-month voting period on the admission of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a Member 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 line with Article 2(2), please kindly inform the Permanent Bureau of your Government's position regarding the Netherlands' proposal **before 26 September 2024**, which is the expiry date of the six-month period.

Hague Conference on Private International Law – Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé
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Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) - Bureau régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (BRAP)
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) - Bureau régional pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (BRALC)

The Kingdom of Bahrain is currently Party to the *Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* (Apostille Convention).

Moreover, the Kingdom of Bahrain has participated in Special Commission meetings of 2012 and 2016 on the practical operation of the Apostille Convention.

I take this opportunity respectfully to remind Member States of the HCCH Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028, adopted by the Council on General Affairs and Policy at its 2023 meeting, and which identifies universality and inclusiveness as essential elements for the HCCH's work to be truly effective at the global level.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'B' and a series of loops and dots, all resting on a horizontal line.

Dr Christophe Bernasconi

Copy for information to:

- the Diplomatic Missions of the Members
- the Contact Organ of the EU