

30th anniversary of the 1993 Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

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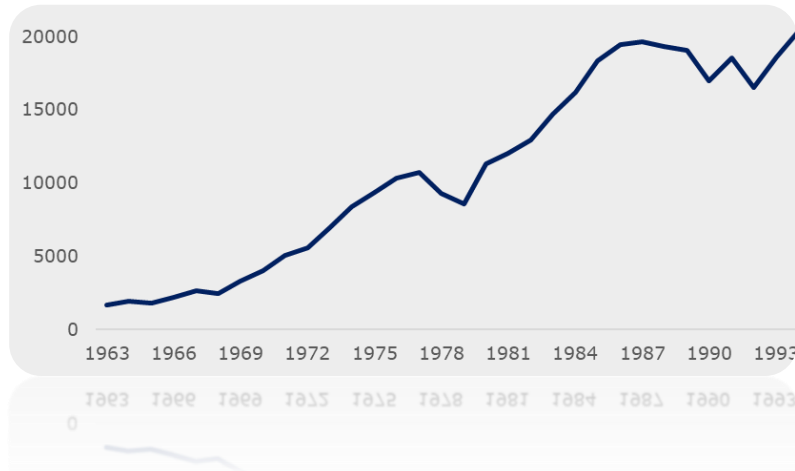
Secretary (Lawyer), Permanent Bureau, HCCH

1993 Adoption Convention

- The **reasons** for a Convention
- **Objectives**
- **States** parties
- Main **achievements** and outstanding **challenges**
- Preventing and addressing **illicit practices** in intercountry adoption
- **Post adoption** matters

Reasons for a Convention – late 1960'

Increasing number of
intercountry adoptions



Absence of guarantees,
procedures, monitoring



Many abuses

Objectives

→ Minimum **safeguards** for ICA



Some examples of minimum safeguards

Child is **adoptable**

Free and informed
consent

Adoptive candidates
eligible and **suitable**

Placement in **best
interests** of the child

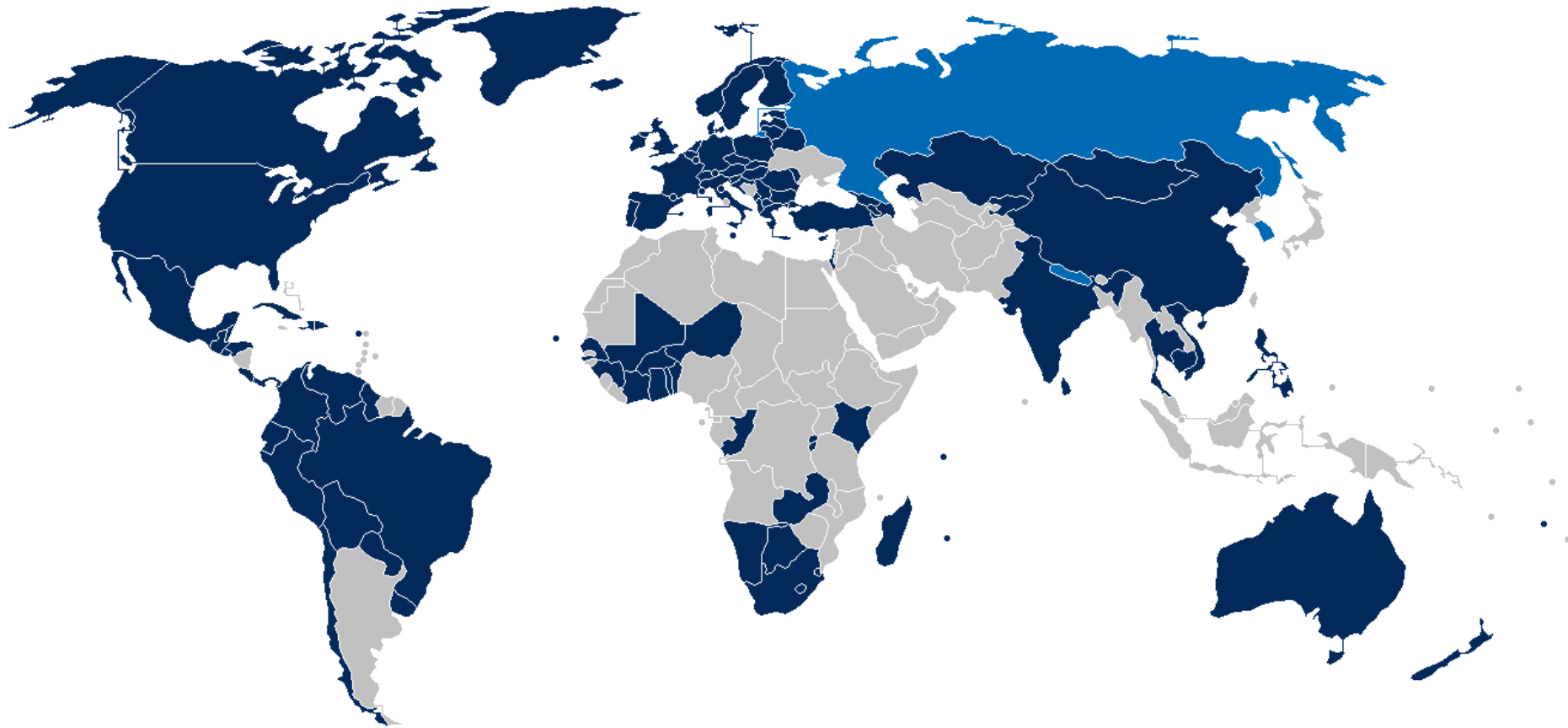
Involvement of **State of
origin** and **receiving
State**

Preserve **information +
access to information**

Objectives

- Minimum **safeguards** for ICA
- System of **co-operation**
- **Prevention** of abuses
- Automatic **recognition** of adoption
- **UNCRC** – Art. 21

States Parties to the Convention



States parties

105

States that only
signed the
Convention

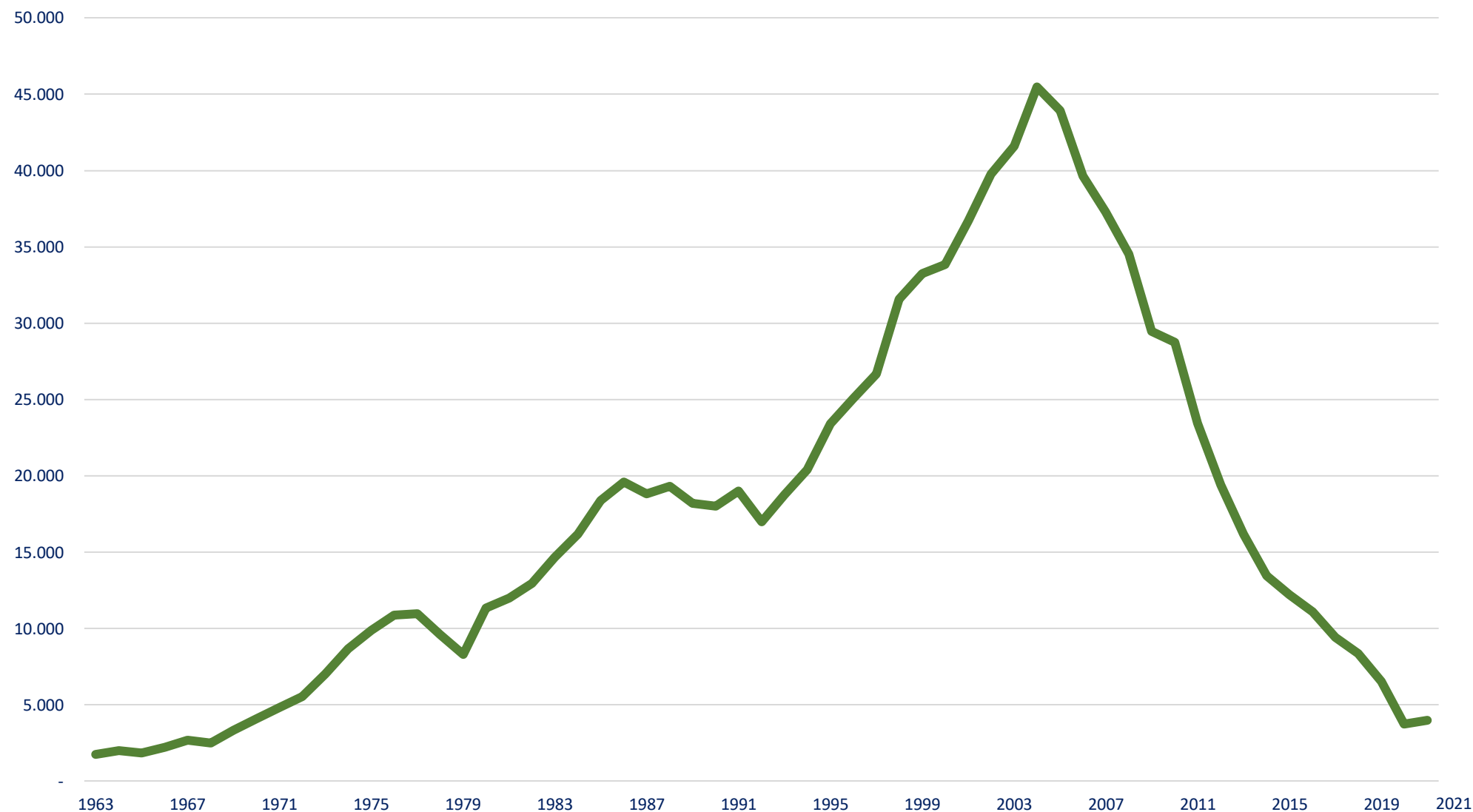
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Major States of origin and total number of ICAs*

1998	2004	2011	2018	2021
China Russia Vietnam South Korea COLOMBIA India Guatemala ROMANIA Brazil Ethiopia	China (13 412) Russia (9 440) Guatemala (3 425) South Korea (2 239) Ukraine (2 119) COLOMBIA (1 749) Ethiopia (1 534) Haiti (1 170) INDIA (1 067) Kazakhstan (899)	CHINA (4 373) Ethiopia (3 455) Russia (3 424) COLOMBIA (1 599) Ukraine (1 065) South Korea (950) Vietnam (704) INDIA (627) PHILIPPINES (490) Congo RD (354)	CHINA (1 792) INDIA (639) COLOMBIA (568) HAITI (383) South Korea (321) Ukraine (321) VIETNAM (305) BULGARIA (302) Russia (282) Ethiopia (254)	COLOMBIA (498) INDIA (467) Ukraine (311) THAILAND (268) South Korea (222) BULGARIA (207) PHILIPPINES (158) HUNGARY (148) Nigeria (138) SOUTH AFRICA (128)
31 710 ICAs (21 receiving countries)	45 483 ICAs (24 receiving countries)	23 552 ICAs (24 receiving countries)	8 299 ICAs (24 receiving countries)	3 983 ICAs (27 receiving countries)

In capital letters and blue, States Parties to the 1993 Hague Convention (from the year of the entry into force).

Statistics 1963 - 2021



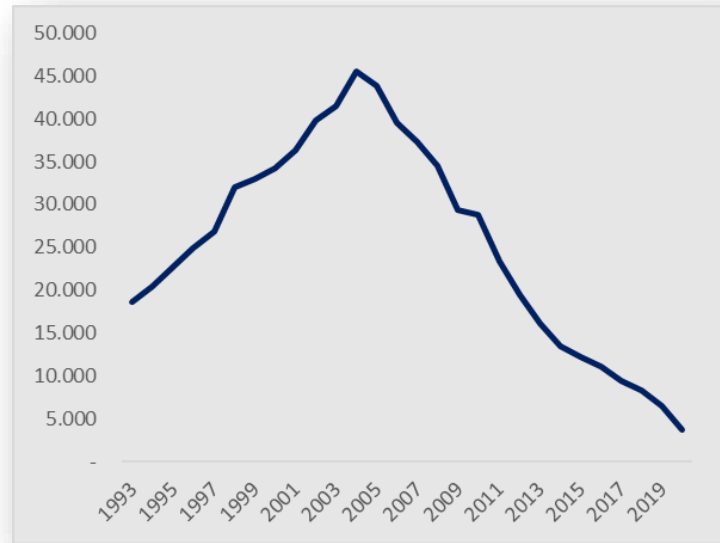
* Source: HCCH website and P. Selman, *Global Statistics for Intercountry Adoption: Receiving States and States of Origin 2004-2021*, Newcastle University, 2023. Data may be updated.

Being **party** to the Convention is **not enough**

Need to properly **implement** the Convention

After 30 years of the 1993 Convention

Decrease in the number of intercountry adoptions (ICA)



Change in the profile of children in need of ICA

After 30 years of the 1993 Convention

- Adoption of laws and regulations (**legal framework**)
- More rigorous **guarantees** and **procedures**
- Processing of ICA through competent **authorities**
- Improved **cooperation**
- Stricter **controls** and **supervision**



Some good practices

- Functioning **child protection system**
- Adequate **domestic legislation**
- Human and material **resources**
- **Training** of all actors
- **Cooperation**
- **Monitoring** and **supervision**
- **Timely** decisions
- **No** improper **financial** or other gain

Some challenges

- **Lack or deficient**
 - child protection system,
 - legislation,
 - resources, training,
 - cooperation
 - monitoring, supervision
- **Lack of political will**
- **Bureaucracy**
- **Time**
- **Money**

Timely decisions

Guarantees



Preventing and addressing illicit practices

Toolkit:

- Introduction
- Part I – **Fact Sheets** on Illicit Practices – to **identify** illicit practices
- Part II – **Checklist** to assist in **decision** making by Central Authorities
- Part III – **Model Procedure** to **respond** to illicit practices
- Part IV – **Guidelines** on enhancing **cooperation** and coordination

Intercountry Adoptions 1948-2023

Prof. Peter SELMAN: Approximately...

1,102,000

Post adoption MATTERS

- Services
- Access to origins
- Post-adoption reports
- Breakdowns



Adoptee

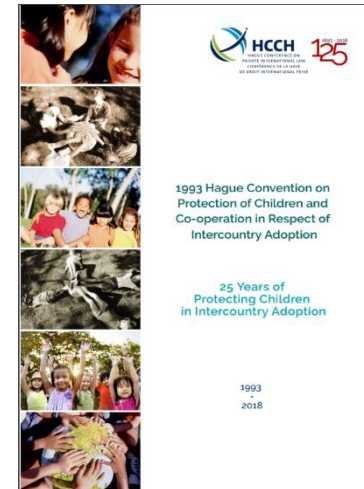
**(Prospective) adoptive
parents**

Birth family

www.hcch.net

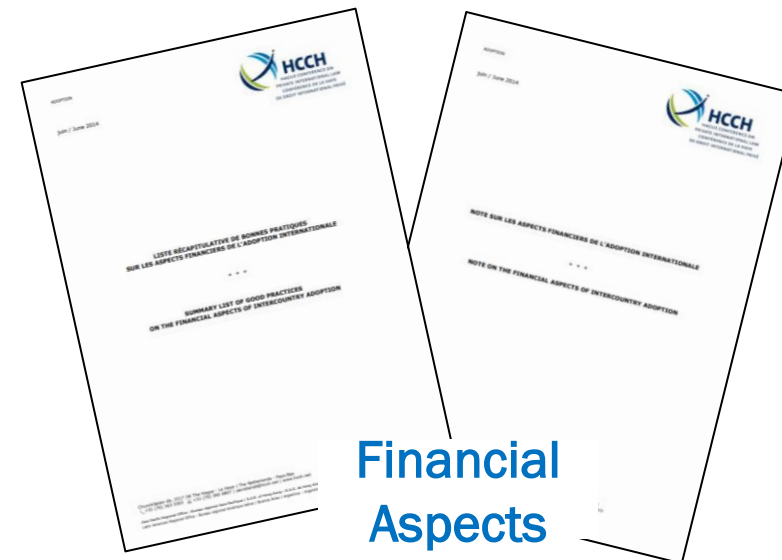


Guides to Good Practice



25 years of
the
Convention

Habitual
Residence



Financial
Aspects

Thank you
Merci
Muchas gracias

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