

A milestone for the Child Abduction Convention: 100 Contracting Parties!

With the accession of Guyana, the HCCH Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (“Child Abduction Convention”) has reached the milestone of 100 Contracting Parties.

For acceding States, it is important to bear in mind that a bilateralisation regime applies. Under Article 38(4) of the Child Abduction Convention, an accession “will have effect only as regards the relations between the acceding State and such Contracting States as will have declared their acceptance of the accession. Such a declaration will also have to be made by any Member State ratifying, accepting or approving the Convention after an accession [see Art. 37 of the Convention]. Such declaration shall be deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; this Ministry shall forward, through diplomatic channels, a certified copy to each of the Contracting States.”

It is therefore of great importance that ratifying States and previous acceding States accept the accession of new States.

A useful excel sheet of the acceptances of accessions under this Convention is available [here](#).

The HCCH news item is available [here](#).