

Meeting of American international child abduction expert judges
Buenos Aires, 19 September 2007

(translation by the Permanent Bureau)

CONCLUSIONS

JUDICIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND LIAISON JUDGES

- 1- The importance of judicial communications and of judges working in a network was confirmed, and illustrated using various specific cases described by the participants.
- 2- It was found that in addition to the work of the formally appointed liaison judges, several of the participants perform the function of liaison judges in their respective countries, acting informally.
- 3- The Meeting highlighted the extremely valuable experience of the network operating under those circumstances and the organising institutions undertook to give full support to the work being carried out in the region.
- 4- It was held that a framework document should be drawn up setting out indicatively the functions of liaison judges, which are obviously independent of their judicial functions.
- 5- In accordance with the objectives of the Abduction Conventions, intended to secure prompt safe return, the national liaison judge and the relevant Central Authority must act so that their work is co-ordinated and complimentary.
- 6- The Meeting confirmed that direct judicial communications are a suitable means of generating trust between the various jurisdictions, facilitating judicial information and coordinating protection work.



7- The Inter-American Children's Institute and the Hague Conference on Private International Law were asked to participate actively in promoting the appointment of liaison judges, in developing work in judges networks in the field of child protection on the American continent and in preparing the document proposed in Point 4.

8- The importance was stressed of using modern technology for direct communication between judges.

9- The Meeting considered it appropriate to provide judges acting in return cases with the available information and resources in order to facilitate their resolution.

MODEL LAW

1- The draft Model Law was presented together with the various observations made by a group of experts.

2- Following the debate the general principles of the draft and the structure of the procedure were agreed in general terms, discussion remaining open for the workshop to be held the following Friday.

1996 HAGUE CONVENTION ON CHILD PROTECTION

1- A Preliminary Study of the 1996 Convention was presented, drawing attention to the aspects complimentary to the Abduction Conventions and their potential usefulness in relation to child trafficking.

2- The participants were invited to make comments and suggestions, which would be aired at the roundtable planned for the following Friday.