



Second Forum on Domestic Violence and the 1980 Child Abduction Convention

With a focus on the Operation of Article 13(1)(b)

Fortaleza, Brazil, 27-30 October 2025

Centro de Eventos do Ceará

PROGRAMME [last updated: 28 October 2025]

Monday 27 October 2025	
Time	Item
19:00 – 20:00	Welcome addresses 1. Mara Gabrilli, Senator, Brazil (<i>video</i>) 2. Elmano de Freitas, Ceará State Governor, Brazil 3. Enrique Ricardo Lewandowski, Minister of Justice, Brazil 4. Jorge Rodrigo Araújo Messias, Attorney General, Brazil 5. Márcia Loureiro, Secretary for Consular and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil (<i>video</i>) 6. Estelizabel Bezerra, National Secretary for Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Women, Brazil 7. Maria da Penha, Founder and President (<i>Fundadora e presidente vitalícia</i>), Instituto Maria da Penha, Brazil 8. Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences (<i>video</i>) 9. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General, HCCH
20:00 – 22:00	Opening reception and group photo

Tuesday 28 October 2025

Time	Item
8:00 – 9:00	Arrival and Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Opening remarks 1. Clarice Calixto, Solicitor General, Brazil 2. Jean Keiji Uema, National Secretary for Justice, Brazil 3. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General, HCCH
9:30 – 11:00	Session 1 – Sharing developments on domestic violence and Article 13(1)(b) since the First Forum in Sandton Moderator: Martina Erb-Klünemann (Germany), Judge at the Family Court, District Court of Hamm, Member of the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) 1. Judge Guilherme Calmon (Brazil), President, Regional Federal Court of the Second Region, Rio de Janeiro, Member of the IHNJ 2. Adrienne Barnett (United Kingdom), Reader in Law at Brunel University & Yuko Nishitani (Japan), Professor at Kyoto University Graduate School of Law (<i>online</i>) 3. Merle Weiner (United States of America), Philip H. Knight Professor, University of Oregon 4. Judge Baratang Constance Mocumie (South Africa), Justice at the Supreme Court of Appeal Member of the IHNJ (<i>online</i>) 5. Aagje Ieven (Belgium), Secretary General, Missing Children Europe 6. Lord Justice Cobb (United Kingdom), Court of Appeal of England and Wales 7. Chief Justice William Alstergren AO (Australia), Chief Justice's Chambers, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Melbourne, Member of the IHNJ (<i>online</i>) Q&A
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2 – Raising awareness about the impact of wrongful removal / retention and of the impact of domestic violence on a child Moderator: Laura Martinez-Mora , First Secretary, HCCH 1. Ms Pereira (Brazil), taking parent with lived experience of domestic violence 2. Video message from young adult with lived experience of domestic violence and return proceedings under the 1980 Convention 3. Jeffery Morehouse (United States of America), Executive Director and Co-Founder, Bring Abducted Children Home 4. Annelies Hendriks (Netherlands), Psychologist, Anaguía Practice for mediation, psychology and pedagogic consultation (<i>online</i>)

	5. Noelle Hunter, Clinical Assistant Professor, Founding Partner in the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction and Maayimuna N'Diaye (United States of America), University of Alabama in Huntsville 6. Jessica Raffal (Australia), Managing Lawyer ISS Australia (<i>online</i>) <i>Q&A (no direct questioning of persons with lived experience)</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Session 3 – Using support and awareness-raising to prevent international child abduction in situations involving domestic violence Moderator: Gustavo Teixeira Chadid (Brazil), Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil 1. Janaina Albuquerque (Brazil), Lawyer and legal coordinator at Revibra Presentations on domestic violence shelters and other support services: 2. Chisato Kitanaka (Japan) Co-chair, All Japan Women's Shelter Network (<i>online</i>) and Makiko Ishii (Japan) Lawyer, All Japan Women's Shelter Network (<i>online</i>) 3. Elsa Sobral Noura (France / Brazil), Deputy consul, Consulate General of France in Recife (<i>online</i>) 4. Braden Clark (New Zealand), New Zealand Hague Collective <i>Q&A</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Session 4 – Using legal mechanisms and access to justice to prevent international child abduction in situations involving domestic violence Moderator: Nadia Rusinova (Netherlands / Bulgaria), Lawyer, lecturer in European / International private law at the Hague University, consultant 1. Nishat Hyder-Rahman (Belgium), Postdoctoral Fellow, MSCA Impact Fellowship Programme, Vakgroep privaatrecht en economisch recht (PREC) Vrije Universiteit Brussel 2. The Honourable Associate Chief Justice Gwen B. Hatch (Canada), Court of King's Bench of Manitoba (Family Division), Winnipeg (Common Law), Member of the IHNJ 3. Yvette Cehel (Australia), lawyer & DV professional Women's Legal Services Australia 4. Javiera Verdugo Toro (Chile), Lawyer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chile (<i>online</i>) <i>Q&A</i>

Time	Item
9:00 – 10:30	Session 5 – Assessing allegations of domestic violence and determining grave risk under Article 13(1)(b) in international child abduction cases where domestic violence is raised <i>Panellists presentations will be based on a hypothetical case and targeted questions.</i> <i>Session to be followed by break-out groups</i> Moderator: Senior Judge Mary Sheffield (United States of America), Missouri Court of Appeals, Member of the IHNJ 1. Justice Steven Arnold Majiedt (South Africa), Justice of the Constitutional Court (<i>online</i>) 2. Judge Martina Erb-Klünemann (Germany), Judge at the Family Court, District Court of Hamm, Member of the IHNJ 3. Judge Marcela Trillini (Argentina), Judge at Family Court No 9, San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro, Member of the IHNJ 4. Vitor Veloso Barros e Santos (Brazil), Coordinator for International Law Disputes, Attorney General's Office 5. Lord Justice Moylan (United Kingdom), Court of Appeal of England and Wales, Head of International Family Justice for England and Wales, Member of the IHNJ Q&A
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Break-out groups following session 5 & reporting to plenary</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:15	Session 6 - Obtaining evidence of domestic violence in international child abduction cases where such allegations have been made <i>Panellists presentations will be based on a hypothetical case and targeted questions.</i> <i>To be followed by break-out groups</i> Moderator: Judge Myriam de Hemptinne (Belgium), Family and Juvenile Judge at the Court of Appeal of Brussels, Member of the IHNJ 1. Ben Keith (New Zealand), barrister at Woodward Street Chambers (<i>online</i>) 2. Rodrigo Santos Meira (Brazil), General Coordinator, ACAF (Central Authority) 3. Judge Joanna Guttzeit (Germany), Judge of the Family Court, Local Court of Pankow-Weißensee, Member of the IHNJ 4. Miguel Vara (Portugal), Head of the International Judicial Cooperation Division, Portuguese Central Authority 5. Nthabiseng Thokoane (South Africa), Chief Family Advocate, RSA Central Authority (<i>online</i>)

	6. Forum Shah (United Kingdom), Practitioner at Dawson Cornwell, London Q&A
15:15 – 16:30	Session 7 – Using protective measures (with references to the 1996 Child Protection Convention and other relevant mechanisms) <i>Panellists presentations will be based on a hypothetical case and targeted questions.</i> <i>To be followed by break-out groups</i> Moderator: Judge Annette C. Olland (Netherlands), Senior Judge, Family Law and International Child Protection Division, District Court of The Hague, Member of the IHNJ 1. Nieve Rubaja (Argentina), Professor of Private International Law and Family Law, University of Buenos Aires 2. Roz Osborne (United Kingdom), CEO of Global Action on Relocation & Return with Kids (GlobalARRK) & Ruth Dineen (United Kingdom), FiLiA Hague Mothers, International Coordinator 3. Judge Myriam de Hemptinne (Belgium), Family and Juvenile Judge at the Court of Appeal of Brussels, Member of the IHNJ 4. Justice Steven Arnold Majiedt (South Africa), Justice of the Constitutional Court (<i>online</i>) 5. Lady Morag Wise (United Kingdom), Judge of Scotland's Supreme Courts, President of the Scottish Tribunals, Member of the IHNJ 6. Alexandre Boiché (France), Practitioner at Alexandre Boiché & Associés Q&A
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 18:00	<i>Break-out groups following sessions 6 and 7</i>

Thursday 30 October 2025	
Time	Item
9:00 – 10:00	<i>Break-out groups following sessions 6 and 7 report to plenary</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Session 8 – The effects of return and non-return decisions Moderator: Noelle Hunter, Clinical Assistant Professor, Founding Partner in the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction (United States of America) 1. Philippe Lortie, First Secretary, HCCH 2. Juliana Wahlgren (Belgium / Brazil), Founding Director of Revibra Europe (<i>online</i>) 3. John Gomez (Japan), Chairperson of Kizuna Child-Parent Reunion 4. Alison Shalaby (United Kingdom), Chief Executive Officer at reunite International Child Abduction Centre (<i>online</i>)

	5. Judge Liina Naaber-Kivisoo (Estonia), President of the Viru County Court, Ida-Viru maakond, Member of the IHNJ <i>Q&A</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:30	Session 9 – Domestic violence in the Guide to Good Practice on Article 13(1)(b) - five years after Moderator: Ignacio Goicoechea, Representative ROLAC, HCCH 1. Boni de Moraes Soares (Brazil), National Solicitor for International Affairs 2. Lord Justice Andrew Moylan (United Kingdom), Court of Appeal of England and Wales, Head of International Family Justice for England and Wales, Member of the IHNJ 3. Leslie Kaufman (Israel), Central Authority under the 1980 Convention 4. Judge Graciela Tagle de Ferreyra (Argentina), Coordinator of the Office of International Judicial Cooperation of the High Court of Justice in the Province of Cordoba, Member of the IHNJ 5. Christian Höhn (Germany), Central Authority under the 1980 Convention (<i>online</i>) 6. Caroline Harnois (Canada), Lawyer at Lavery, Montreal <i>Q&A</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch break
15:00 – 16:30	Session 10 – Lessons learned and next steps <i>Open moderated discussion</i> Moderators: Lord Justice Andrew Moylan (United Kingdom), Court of Appeal of England and Wales, Head of International Family Justice for England and Wales, Member of the IHNJ and Justice Jhosep Y. Lopez (Philippines), Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 18:00	Closing