

*The Secretary General*



Mr Stephen Mathias  
Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Organisation of the United Nations  
2 UN Plaza  
NEW YORK, NY 10017  
United States of America

20200115LJM02

The Hague, 20 January 2020

Dear Mr Mathias,

I write in reference to your correspondence of 19 December 2019, inviting the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution A/74/19, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", and available as document A/74/L.22.

It is my pleasure to share the enclosed contribution of the Permanent Bureau (PB) of the HCCH to the report.

In our earlier contributions, submitted in 2017 and 2018, we have provided updates on various HCCH instruments, in particular the HCCH Convention of 30 June 2005 on Choice of Court Agreements, and the then ongoing project – the Judgments Project – and their relevance in the field of oceans and the law of the sea. I wish now to draw your attention to the newly-adopted HCCH [Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters](#) (HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention), successfully adopted on 2 July 2019.

The H

nforcement of a judgment in

other jurisdictions. As such, it has the potential to significantly reduce transaction and litigation costs as well as risks associated with cross-border dealings. Through such judicial co-operation, the Convention will promote effective access to justice to all and facilitate rule-based international trade and investment, and mobility as a whole. These objectives are in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, to "[p]romote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

Hague Conference on Private International Law – Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé  
[secretariat@hcch.net](mailto:secretariat@hcch.net) | [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)

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)

As you will note from the enclosed contribution, the Convention applies to the vast majority of maritime-related judgments (the extent of the application of the Convention to maritime-related judgments has been thoroughly discussed throughout the negotiations).

Although not directly linked to the topic of the ICP21, "Sea-level rise and its impacts", the HCCH 2019 Judgments Convention will, as demonstrated by our contribution, be beneficial for parties involved in maritime-related disputes and will promote cross-border enforceability of marine pollution related judgments.

On behalf of the PB I would like to thank you for providing the HCCH with the opportunity to offer a contribution to this important work. The PB is grateful for the ongoing co-operation between the Office of Legal Affairs and the HCCH. We very much look forward to continuing this co-operation in the future.

I take this opportunity to renew to you, Mr Assistant Secretary-General, assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bernasconi', is written over a light blue rectangular stamp. The stamp contains a small, colorful, pixelated graphic. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Christophe Bernasconi



Secondly, it was considered, from a policy standpoint, that