

The applicant shall, however, in all cases, have the right to address a request directly to the Central Authority.

Federal States shall be free to designate more than one Central Authority.

#### ARTICLE 19

To the extent that the internal law of a contracting State permits methods of transmission, other than those provided for in the preceding articles, of documents coming from abroad, for service within its territory, the present Convention shall not affect such provisions.

#### ARTICLE 20

The present Convention shall not prevent an agreement between any two or more contracting States to dispense with—

- (a) the necessity for duplicate copies of transmitted documents as required by the second paragraph of article 3,
- (b) the language requirements of the third paragraph of article 5 and article 7,
- (c) the provisions of the fourth paragraph of article 5,
- (d) the provisions of the second paragraph of article 12.

#### ARTICLE 21

Each contracting State shall, at the time of the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession, or at a later date, inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands of the following—

- (a) the designation of authorities, pursuant to articles 2 and 18,
- (b) the designation of the authority competent to complete the certificate pursuant to article 6,
- (c) the designation of the authority competent to receive documents transmitted by consular channels, pursuant to article 9.

Each contracting State shall similarly inform the Ministry, where appropriate, of—

- (a) opposition to the use of methods of transmission pursuant to articles 8 and 10,
- (b) declarations pursuant to the second paragraph of article 15 and the third paragraph of article 16,
- (c) all modifications of the above designations, oppositions and declarations.