

- d* have ensured, having regard to the age and degree of maturity of the child, that
- (1) he or she has been counselled and duly informed of the effects of the adoption and of his or her consent to the adoption, where such consent is required,
 - (2) consideration has been given to the child's wishes and opinions,
 - (3) the child's consent to the adoption, where such consent is required, has been given freely, in the required legal form, and expressed or evidenced in writing, and
 - (4) such consent has not been induced by payment or compensation of any kind.

Article 5

An adoption within the scope of the Convention shall take place only if the competent authorities of the receiving State -

- a* have determined that the prospective adoptive parents are eligible and suited to adopt;
- b* have ensured that the prospective adoptive parents have been counselled as may be necessary; and
- c* have determined that the child is or will be authorized to enter and reside permanently in that State.

CHAPTER III - CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND ACCREDITED BODIES

Article 6

- 1 A Contracting State shall designate a Central Authority to discharge the duties which are imposed by the Convention upon such authorities.
- 2 Federal States, States with more than one system of law or States having autonomous territorial units shall be free to appoint more than one Central Authority and to specify the territorial or personal extent of their functions. Where a State has appointed more than one Central Authority, it shall designate the Central Authority to which any communication may be addressed for transmission to the appropriate Central Authority within that State.

Article 7

- 1 Central Authorities shall co-operate with each other and promote co-operation amongst the competent authorities in their States to protect children and to achieve the other objects of the Convention.
- 2 They shall take directly all appropriate measures to -
 - a* provide information as to the laws of their States concerning adoption and other general information, such as statistics and standard forms;