



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928  
Website: [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)

## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2013/14  
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### **Public hearings in the case concerning Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan: New Zealand intervening)**

#### **Public admission and media accreditation**

#### **Live and on-demand webcasts**

THE HAGUE, 12 June 2013. As announced in Press Release 2013/7 issued on 11 April 2013, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan: New Zealand intervening) from Wednesday 26 June to Tuesday 16 July 2013, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court.

#### **1. Access for members of the Diplomatic Corps**

Owing to the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, members of the Diplomatic Corps wishing to attend the hearings are kindly asked to inform the Information Department **before midnight on Sunday 23 June 2013**, by e-mail to [confirmation@icj-cij.org](mailto:confirmation@icj-cij.org). Diplomatic missions are kindly requested to limit their delegations to two persons.

Should members of the Diplomatic Corps decide at any point not to attend a hearing for which they have reserved a seat/s, they are kindly requested to inform the Information Department so that their seat/s can be reallocated.

#### **2. Access for media representatives**

Media representatives are subject to an online accreditation procedure, details of which can be found in the Media Advisory attached to this Press Release. The accreditation procedure will close **at midnight on Sunday 23 June 2013**.

#### **3. Access for members of the public**

Owing to the very limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, priority access will be given to members of the delegations of States that are parties to the case, and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

A small number of seats will be allocated daily to members of the public on a first come first served basis. **There will be no advance registration procedure**, all previously sent requests to attend these hearings will be ignored.

#### **4. Live and on-demand webcasts**

We strongly advise members of the public to watch the hearings on the Court's website, where they will be broadcast live and in full ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org), under the heading "Multimedia"), or on the online television channel "UN Web TV (<http://webtv.un.org/>)".

The hearings will subsequently also be available as a recorded webcast (VOD) on the United Nations Web TV website (<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/>).

#### **5. Schedule for and information on the hearings**

The schedule for the hearings is available on the Calendar on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)). Verbatim records of the hearings will be published daily on the Court's website (with translations to follow as soon as practicable thereafter). On the final day of the hearings, a Press Release will be issued presenting the submissions of the Parties (the Court's press releases do not constitute official documents).

#### **6. History of the proceedings**

The history of the proceedings can be found in Press Release No. 2013/7 of 11 April 2013, which is available on the Court's website.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the "World Court", it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

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The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial body composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

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Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)

Mr. Boris Heim, Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2337)

Ms Joanne Moore, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)

Ms Genoveva Madurga, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0)70 302 2396)

**Media advisory**

**Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan: New Zealand intervening)**

**Media accreditation procedure for the public hearings,  
26 June — 16 July 2013**

Media representatives are requested to fill out the online accreditation form, available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) under "Calendar". **Applications for accreditation must reach the Court by midnight on Sunday 23 June 2013.** Only online application forms will be accepted.

**Entry to the Peace Palace**

Media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m. for the hearings starting at 10 a.m., between 1.30 and 2.30 p.m. for the hearings starting at 3p.m. and between 3 and 4 p.m. for the hearings starting at 4.30 p.m. Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. The Press Room will be open every day one hour and a half prior to the start of the hearings. Media representatives must leave the Peace Palace grounds each day, no later than one hour after the end of the last hearing.

**Parking at the Peace Palace**

No parking is allowed in the Peace Palace grounds apart from satellite vehicles. Media wishing to park satellite vehicles are requested to fill in the appropriate fields in the online accreditation form. NB: Television media wishing to broadcast the hearings should contact the Information Department in advance.

**Access to the Courtroom**

Photographers and camera crews will only be permitted to enter the room for a few minutes at the start of each hearing. They will be accompanied by Registry staff members and must keep to the right side of the room. Media representatives will be able to follow the hearings from a press room (see below).

**Press rooms**

Proceedings will be transmitted live in English and French on a large screen in the usual Press Room. In the event of a large media presence, an additional temporary press room will be opened. These rooms will be equipped with Wi-Fi Internet access. Live video and audio feeds will also be available via the Press Room breakout box (PAL + NTSC video output). It is recalled that the Press Rooms will be open, every day, one hour and a half prior to the start of the hearings, and that media representatives must leave the Peace Palace grounds each day no later than one hour after the end of the last hearing.

**Media services**

For further practical information regarding the upcoming hearings, please visit the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)). Click on "Press Room", and then on "Media Services".