



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean **(Bolivia v. Chile)**

Fixing of time-limits for the filing of the initial pleadings

THE HAGUE, 1 July 2013. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has fixed time-limits for the filing of initial pleadings in the case concerning Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (Bolivia v. Chile).

By an Order of 18 June 2013, the Court fixed 17 April 2014 and 18 February 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and a Counter-Memorial by the Republic of Chile.

The Court made the Order taking account of the agreement of the Parties. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

On 24 April 2013, the Plurinational State of Bolivia instituted proceedings against the Republic of Chile in relation to “Chile’s obligation to negotiate in good faith and effectively with Bolivia in order to reach an agreement granting Bolivia a fully sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean”.

Further details can be found in Press Release No. 2013/11, available on the Court’s website (www.icj-cij.org) under the heading “Press Room”/“Press Releases”.

Note: The Court’s press releases do not constitute official documents.

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.

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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