



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2014/24

16 July 2014

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

#### **Fixing of the time-limit for the filing of a written statement by Bolivia on the preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court raised by Chile**

THE HAGUE, 16 July 2014. By an Order of 15 July 2014, the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has fixed the time-limit for the filing, by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court raised by the Republic of Chile in the case concerning the Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (Bolivia v. Chile).

In his Order, the President recalls that earlier that day, Chile, referring to Article 79, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court, filed a preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the same Article, the proceedings on the merits have therefore been suspended. Pursuant to that paragraph, the President, by the said Order, has fixed 14 November 2014 as the time-limit within which Bolivia may present a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objection raised by Chile. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

#### **History of the proceedings**

On 24 April 2013, Bolivia filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against Chile concerning a dispute 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”.

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 Bolivia and a Counter-Memorial by Chile.

The Memorial of Bolivia was filed within the time-limit thus fixed.

Further details can be found in Press Releases Nos. 2013/11 and 2013/15, available on the Court’s website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) under the heading “Press Room”/“Press Releases”.

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

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The full text of the Order will be available shortly 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.

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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