



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

Fixing of time-limit for the filing of Colombia's Counter-Memorial

THE HAGUE, 21 March 2016. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has fixed the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the Republic of Colombia in the case concerning Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia).

In its Order dated 17 March 2016, the Court fixed 17 November 2016 as the time-limit for the filing of Colombia's Counter-Memorial.

This decision follows the Judgment delivered the same day, in which the Court found that it has jurisdiction, on the basis of Article XXXI of the Pact of Bogotá, to adjudicate upon the dispute between the Republic of Nicaragua and the Republic of Colombia concerning alleged violations by Colombia of the rights of Nicaragua in the maritime areas which the latter claims were recognized as being under its jurisdiction by the Judgment of 19 November 2012 in the case concerning Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia).

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings may be found in the Annual Report of the Court for 2014-2015 (paragraphs 162-174) and in Press Releases No. 2015/25 of 2 October 2015 and No. 2016/8 of 17 March 2016, all of which are available on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org).

The full text of the Order will be available shortly on the Court's website. However, written pleadings remain confidential until the Court decides to make them accessible to the public, generally at the opening of the oral proceedings.

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 international judicial body with an independent legal personality, established by the United Nations Security Council upon the request of the Lebanese Government and composed of Lebanese and international judges), 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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