



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2013/19  
16 September 2013

### **The Court will organize a conference entitled “The ICJ in the Service of Peace and Justice” on Monday, 23 September 2013**

#### **Conference programme**

THE HAGUE, 16 September 2013. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will organize a conference entitled “The ICJ in the Service of Peace and Justice” on Monday, 23 September 2013 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court.

The conference, which is to be held in celebration of the Centenary of the Peace Palace, will be structured around the following four topics:

1. A Century of International Justice and Prospects for the Future;
2. The International Court of Justice and the International Legal System;
3. The Role of the International Court of Justice for Enhancing the Rule of Law; and
4. The International Court of Justice and the United Nations: Relationship of the ICJ with other UN Organs.

A detailed programme of the conference is annexed to this press release.

The speakers who will discuss the first three topics have been invited by the Court, and the other speakers have been selected following a call for papers issued by the Court. It should be noted that the Court cannot be held responsible for the opinions expressed during the Conference.

Owing to the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, access is reserved for those diplomats, lawyers and journalists who have been invited by the Court.

However, it has been decided to make the debates available to the media and the general public, with extensive on-line and television coverage (live and on demand). Details of these arrangements will be announced in a forthcoming press release.

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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**THE ICJ IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE**

**Conference on the Occasion of the Centenary of the Peace Palace**

**Great Hall of Justice**

*Monday, 23 September 2013*

- 9.30 a.m. – 9.40 a.m.**      **Words of welcome** by H.E. Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- 9.40 a.m. – 11.10 a.m.**      **A Century of International Justice and Prospects for the Future**
- Moderator:            H.E. Judge Ronny Abraham, ICJ  
Speakers:            H.E. Judge Antônio A. Cançado Trindade, ICJ  
                              H.E. Judge Dean Spielmann, President of the European Court of Human Rights
- 11.10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**      **Coffee/tea break**
- 11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.**      **The International Court of Justice and the International Legal System**
- Moderator:            H.E. Judge Joan Donoghue, ICJ  
Speakers:            Professor Hugh Thirlway, visiting Professor of International Law at the University of Bristol  
                              Professor Marcelo Kohen, Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- 1.00 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.**      **Lunch break (buffet lunch)**
- 2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**      **The Role of the International Court of Justice for Enhancing the Rule of Law**
- Moderator:            H.E. Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf, ICJ  
Speakers:            Professor Mariko Kawano, Professor of International Law at Waseda University, Tokyo  
                              Professor Dr. Andreas Zimmermann, Director of the Potsdam Centre of Human Rights
- 4.00 p.m. – 4.20 p.m.**      **Coffee/tea break**
- 4.20 p.m. – 5.50 p.m.**      **The International Court of Justice and the United Nations: Relationship of the ICJ with other UN Organs**
- Moderator:            H.E. Judge Giorgio Gaja, ICJ  
Speakers:            Ms Chehrazad Krari-Lahya, University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) (selected on the basis of a call for papers)  
                              Ms Rosa Möhrlein, Radboud University Nijmegen (selected on the basis of a call for papers)
- 5.50 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.**      **Concluding remarks** by H.E. Judge Mohamed Bennouna, ICJ
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