



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Composition of the Rules Committee and Library Committee of the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, 3 July 2015. Judges Hisashi Owada and Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade having recently been elected chairmen, respectively, of the Rules Committee and Library Committee of the International Court of Justice, the composition of those committees is currently as follows:

— Rules Committee:

Chairman	Judge Hisashi Owada
Judges	Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade
	Joan E. Donoghue
	Giorgio Gaja
	Patrick Lipton Robinson
	James Richard Crawford
	Kirill Gevorgian

— Library Committee:

Chairman	Judge Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade
Judges	Giorgio Gaja
	Dalveer Bhandari
	Kirill Gevorgian

It is recalled that following the triennial renewal of the Court on 6 February 2015, the Court likewise composed the Chamber of Summary Procedure and the Budgetary and Administrative Committee (see Press Release No. 2015/6).

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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