



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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The judges of the International Court of Justice elect the members of the Chamber of Summary Procedure, the Budgetary and Administrative Committee and two other committees of the Court

THE HAGUE, 6 February 2012. Today the judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) elected the members of the Chamber of Summary Procedure, the Budgetary and Administrative Committee and two other committees of the Court.

Chamber of Summary Procedure

Article 29 of the Court's Statute provides that, with a view to the speedy despatch of business, the Court shall form annually a Chamber composed of five judges which, at the request of the parties, may hear and determine cases by summary procedure. The Court also selects two judges for this Chamber for the purpose of replacing judges who find it impossible to sit.

Under the Rules of Court, the President and Vice-President are members of this Chamber *ex officio*, the other members and the substitutes being elected.

The composition of the Chamber of Summary Procedure is now the following:

Members:	President	Peter Tomka
	Vice-President	Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor
	Judges	Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf
		Xue Hanqin
		Joan E. Donoghue
Substitute members:	Judges	Leonid Skotnikov
		Giorgio Gaja

Committees of the Court

The following committees of the Court are now composed as hereunder:

— Budgetary and Administrative Committee:

President	Peter Tomka
Vice-President	Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor
Judges	Ronny Abraham
	Mohamed Bennouna
	Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf
	Xue Hanqin

— Rules Committee:

Judges	Ronny Abraham Kenneth Keith Leonid Skotnikov Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade Joan E. Donoghue Giorgio Gaja
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— Library Committee:

Judges	Mohamed Bennouna Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade Giorgio Gaja
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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. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

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 institution founded in 1899, which is independent of the United Nations).

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