



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Seventieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice

A solemn commemorative sitting will be held on Wednesday 20 April 2016 at the Peace Palace, in the presence of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands and the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Practical information for the media

THE HAGUE, 18 April 2016. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold a solemn sitting on Wednesday 20 April 2016, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace to celebrate its seventieth anniversary.

The ceremony will take place in the presence of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Albert Gerard Koenders, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and H.E. Mr. Antonio Gumende, Vice-President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Speeches will be delivered by H.E. Mr. Ronny Abraham, President of the Court, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Koenders and Mr. Gumende. The video recording of an address by H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi, President of the United Nations Security Council, will be shown on two large screens installed in the Hall.

Those invited to attend the solemn sitting include members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Dutch Government and other Dutch institutions, senior officials of international organizations based in The Hague and other distinguished guests.

Prior to the ceremony, the Court is holding a seminar at the Hague Academy of International Law, on 18 and 19 April 2016, to mark its jubilee.

Entrance to the seminar and solemn sitting is by invitation only. However, it will be possible to watch the sitting live (see "Multimedia" below).

Historical background

The Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice, which forms an integral part of the Charter, were signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 and came into

force on 24 October 1945. The first Members of the Court were elected on 6 February 1946 at the First Session of the General Assembly, held in London. They convened for the first time at the Peace Palace, The Hague, on 3 April 1946. On 6 April 1946, the new Court elected its President, Vice-President and Registrar. Its inaugural sitting took place on 18 April 1946.

Multimedia

The solemn sitting will be **streamed live** and on demand (VOD) on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org/multimedia) and on the United Nations online television channel, UN web TV.

Photographs of the sitting will be posted on the same day, as the event unfolds, on the ICJ and UN Photo websites; they will also be published on the Court's Twitter feed (@CIJ_ICJ) with the hashtag #ICJ70.

High-resolution video footage of the event will be available on the Court's website on the same day; the sitting will also be covered by the United Nations television broadcasting service (UNifeed, New York).

The **speeches** delivered on 20 April 2016 will be included in the 70th anniversary press pack (see below) following the conclusion of the solemn sitting.

Lastly, before 20 April 2016, the Court will make a **special 70th anniversary press pack** available to the media via its website. This pack will include photographs and videos, which can be downloaded free of charge, as well as general information on the Court in the six official languages of the United Nations. It will also contain the embed code enabling the media to show the live images of the event on their own websites. The publication of this press pack will be announced on the Court's Twitter feed with the hashtag #ICJ70.

The seminar on 18 and 19 April 2016 is being held under the Chatham House Rule and is not being filmed; however, the discussions will later be made available in printed form.

Facilities available to the media

Owing to space limitations, media representatives will not be able to attend the solemn sitting in the Great Hall of Justice. However, they will be able to cover the event thoroughly thanks to the comprehensive range of audio-visual and photographic opportunities which will be put in place for them.

1. Accredited media representatives should arrive between 8 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. (please note: latecomers will not be admitted).
2. There will be a limited amount of space reserved for photographers and cameramen (maximum of 20 individuals) at the entrance of the Peace Palace, enabling them to capture the arrival of VIPs and guests between 8.45 a.m. and 9.50 a.m.
3. Photographs free of copyright will be made available to the press during the event, through a pool system managed by the Court: these photographs can be downloaded from the special 70th anniversary press pack (see "Multimedia" above).
4. The sitting (10 a.m. to 11 a.m.) will be streamed live and in full on the Court's high-definition video system and on its website (see "Multimedia" above).
5. Media representatives will have access to the usual Press Room (holding between 30 and 40 individuals) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; it is equipped with a large screen.

6. Lastly, they will be able to use the Peace Palace cafeteria between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Please note: Only duly accredited media representatives with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds.

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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