



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)

## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2009/27

29 July 2009

**Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence  
by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo  
(Request for Advisory Opinion)**

**Public hearings to be held from 1 December 2009**

THE HAGUE, 29 July 2009. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings on the question of the Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo (request for advisory opinion).

The public hearings will open on 1 December 2009 at the Peace Palace, the seat of the Court. During these hearings, statements and comments may be presented orally by the United Nations and its Member States, whether or not they have filed written statements and, possibly, written comments. At the hearings, the authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo will be able to present an oral contribution.

The United Nations and its Member States and the authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo have until 15 September 2009 to indicate to the Court whether they wish to participate in the hearings. The number of participants in the oral proceedings and the detailed schedule for the public hearings will be communicated in due course.

### History of the proceedings

On 8 October 2008, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 63/3 (A/63/L.2) in which, referring to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, it requested the Court to render an advisory opinion on the following question:

“Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?”

Certified true copies of the English and French texts of that resolution were transmitted to the Court under cover of a letter from the Secretary-General of the United Nations dated 9 October 2008. Subsequently, the Secretary-General submitted to the Court a dossier containing all documents likely to throw light upon the question, pursuant to Article 65, paragraph 2, of the Statute. This dossier is available on the Court’s website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)).

By letters dated 10 October 2008, the Registrar gave notice of the request for an advisory opinion to all States entitled to appear before the Court, pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, of the Statute.

By an Order of 17 October 2008, the Court decided that “the United Nations and its Member States [were] considered likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion”. It fixed 17 April 2009 as the time-limit within which written statements on the question could be presented to the Court and 17 July 2009 as the time-limit within which States and organizations that had presented written statements could submit written comments on the other written statements.

The Court also decided that

“taking account of the fact that the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self Government of Kosovo of 17 February 2008 is the subject of the question submitted . . . for an advisory opinion, the authors of the above declaration [were] considered likely to be able to furnish information on the question”

and therefore decided “to invite them to make written contributions to the Court within the above time-limits”.

Thirty-six Member States of the United Nations filed written statements on the question of the Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo. These States are (in order of receipt): Czech Republic, France, Cyprus, China, Switzerland, Romania, Albania, Austria, Egypt, Germany, Slovakia, Russian Federation, Finland, Poland, Luxembourg, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, United Kingdom, United States of America, Serbia, Spain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Estonia, Norway, Netherlands, Slovenia, Latvia, Japan, Brazil, Ireland, Denmark, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Maldives, Sierra Leone, Bolivia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo filed a written contribution.

Fourteen States which presented written statements have also submitted written comments on the other written statements. These States are (in order of receipt): France, Norway, Cyprus, Serbia, Argentina, Germany, Netherlands, Albania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Bolivia, United Kingdom, United States of America and Spain.

The authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo have submitted a written contribution containing their comments on the written statements.

\*

It is recalled that the written proceedings (the texts of the written statements and written comments filed by Member States of the United Nations, and the texts of the written contributions filed by the authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo) remain confidential until the Court decides to make them accessible to the public, at the opening of the oral proceedings or at a later date.

---

Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)  
Messrs. Boris Heim and Maxime Schoupe, Information Officers (+31 (0)70 302 2337)  
Ms Joanne Moore, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)  
Ms Barbara Dalsbaek, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0) 70 302 2396)