



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Frontier Dispute (Burkina Faso/Niger)

The Court nominates experts to assist the Parties in the demarcation of their frontier

THE HAGUE, 22 July 2013. By an Order of 12 July 2013, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, nominated three experts who will assist the Parties in the operation of demarcation of their common frontier in the disputed area, pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Special Agreement concluded between the Parties on 24 February 2009 and to paragraph 113 of the Judgment delivered by the Court on 16 April 2013 in the case concerning the Frontier Dispute (Burkina Faso/Niger).

The case has thus been completed and has been removed from the Court's List.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in the Annual Report of the Court 2011-2012 (paras. 219-221) and in Press Releases Nos. 2012/30 and 2013/8, which are available on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org).

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.

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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