



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean** **(Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)**

#### **Fixing of time-limits for the filing of the initial pleadings**

THE HAGUE, 3 April 2014. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has fixed time-limits for the filing of initial pleadings in the case concerning Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua).

By an Order of 1 April 2014, the Court fixed 3 February 2015 and 8 December 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by the Republic of Costa Rica and a Counter-Memorial by the Republic of Nicaragua.

The Court made the Order having regard to the views of the Parties. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

#### **History of the proceedings**

On 25 February 2014, the Republic of Costa Rica instituted proceedings against the Republic of Nicaragua with regard to a “[d]ispute concerning maritime delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean”.

In its Application, Costa Rica requests the Court

“to determine the complete course of a single maritime boundary between all the maritime areas appertaining, respectively, to Costa Rica and to Nicaragua in the Caribbean Sea and in the Pacific Ocean, on the basis of international law”.

The Applicant “further requests the Court to determine the precise geographical co-ordinates of the single maritime boundaries in the Caribbean Sea and in the Pacific Ocean”.

Further details can be found in Press Release No. 2014/11 of 26 February 2014, available on the Court’s website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) under the heading “Press Room”/“Press Releases”.

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Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

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The full text of the Order will be available shortly on the Court's website.

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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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