



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Dispute between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea brought before the Court

THE HAGUE, 5 March 2021. Proceedings were instituted today before the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, by way of a Special Agreement between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which was signed in 2016 and entered into force in March 2020. The Special Agreement was notified to the Registrar of the Court by the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Carmelo Nvono Ncá.

In the Special Agreement, the Parties request the Court

“to determine whether the legal titles, treaties and international conventions invoked by the Parties have the force of law in the relations between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in so far as they concern the delimitation of their common maritime and land boundaries and sovereignty over the islands of Mbaníé/Mbañe, Cocotiers/Cocotereros and Conga”.

It is stated in the Special Agreement that

“[t]he Gabonese Republic recognizes as applicable to the dispute the special Convention on the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa, on the coasts of the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, signed in Paris on 27 June 1900, and the Convention demarcating the land and maritime frontiers of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, signed in Bata on 12 September 1974”,

and that “[t]he Republic of Equatorial Guinea recognizes as applicable to the dispute the special Convention on the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa, on the coasts of the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, signed in Paris on 27 June 1900”. The Special Agreement further states that both Gabon and Equatorial Guinea reserve the right to invoke other legal titles.

The Parties also set out in the Agreement their common views regarding written and oral proceedings before the Court.

The full text of the [Special Agreement](#) is available on the Court's website.

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and 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 Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, through judgments which have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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