



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)

New Zealand files a declaration of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute

THE HAGUE, 29 July 2022. Yesterday, New Zealand, invoking Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, filed in the Registry of the Court a declaration of intervention in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*.

Pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute, whenever the construction of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, each of these States has the right to intervene in the proceedings. In this case, the construction given by the judgment of the Court will be equally binding upon them.

To avail itself of the right of intervention conferred by Article 63 of the Statute, New Zealand relies on its status as a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”). It emphasizes in its declaration of intervention that “New Zealand considers that the legal issues raised by this case touch on some of the most fundamental principles and obligations of international law”, and states that, as acknowledged by the International Court of Justice, “the rights and obligations enshrined in the [Genocide] Convention are rights and obligations *erga omnes*”. According to New Zealand, “[i]t follows that all States Parties to the [Genocide] Convention have an interest in the proper interpretation, application and fulfilment of those obligations”.

In accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Court, Ukraine and the Russian Federation have been invited to furnish written observations on New Zealand’s declaration of intervention.

New Zealand’s declaration of intervention will be available on the Court’s [website](#) shortly.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in [press releases](#) Nos. 2022/4, 2022/6, 2022/7, 2022/11, 2022/25 and 2022/26, 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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