



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2022/56

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**Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings
(Equatorial Guinea v. France)**

Equatorial Guinea withdraws its request for the indication of provisional measures

Cancellation of the hearings due to open on 2 November 2022

THE HAGUE, 20 October 2022. The public hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Equatorial Guinea in the case concerning the *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*, which had been due to take place on Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 November 2022, have been cancelled.

The Court took this decision after receiving in the Registry, on 19 October 2022, a letter of the same date from the Agent of Equatorial Guinea, informing the Court that Equatorial Guinea had “decided to withdraw its Request for the indication of provisional measures in order to focus on the proceedings on the merits, so that the Court may settle the dispute at the earliest opportunity”.

History of the proceedings

The history of the proceedings can be found in [press release](#) No. 2022/47, 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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