



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### Amendment to Practice Direction III

THE HAGUE, 20 January 2021. As part of the ongoing review of its procedures and working methods, the International Court of Justice principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has amended Practice Direction III in order to establish a page limit on the annexes to written pleadings.

The amended rules enter into force as of today.

The text of Practice Direction III, as amended, reads as follows:

#### **“Practice Direction III<sup>1</sup>**

The parties are strongly urged to keep the written pleadings as concise as possible, in a manner compatible with the full presentation of their positions.

In view of an excessive tendency towards the proliferation and protraction of annexes to written pleadings, the parties are also urged to append to their pleadings only strictly selected documents. The number of pages of annexes attached by a party to its written pleadings shall not exceed 750 in total, unless the Court decides, upon request of a party, that a number in excess of that limit is warranted, in the particular circumstances of the case.”

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The integral text of the updated Practice Directions can be viewed on the Court’s [website](#) by clicking on “[Basic documents](#)”.

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment promulgated on 30 January 2009. Further amendment, establishing the page limit, promulgated on 20 January 2021, applicable to proceedings instituted after that date.

*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 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, 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.

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