



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **The Court adopts measures to ensure the continued fulfilment of its mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic**

THE HAGUE, 23 April 2020. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, continues to perform its functions despite the containment measures put in place around the world to halt the spread of COVID-19.

Through the use of modern technologies, the Court has made the necessary arrangements to hold virtual meetings and adapted its working methods to the need to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent weeks, meetings of the Court's committees have taken place by videoconference. Yesterday, on 22 April 2020, the Court held the first virtual plenary meeting in its history. The President and the Registrar were present in the Deliberation Room of the Peace Palace, the seat of the Court, while the remaining Members of the Court participated in the meeting remotely, via videoconference (see the image below). During its meeting, the Court considered pending judicial matters and adopted an order on procedural issues.

The Court wishes to assure members of the international community that, in spite of the current circumstances, it will continue to discharge its judicial functions and to deal with matters newly submitted to it or already pending before it.

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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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*Image:* President Abdulqawi A. Yusuf chairs a virtual meeting of the Court on 22 April 2020 (ICJ-CIJ).

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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, 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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