



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org) Twitter Account: [@CIJ\\_ICJ](https://twitter.com/CIJ_ICJ) YouTube Channel: [CIJ ICJ](https://www.youtube.com/CIJ_ICJ)

LinkedIn page: [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-court-of-justice)

---

## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2020/16

25 June 2020

### **Rules of Court regarding hearings and the reading of Judgments by video link**

THE HAGUE, 25 June 2020. As part of the ongoing review of its procedures and working methods, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has amended Articles 59 and 94 of its Rules.

The amendment to Article 59 makes clear that the Court may decide, for health, security or other compelling reasons, to hold a hearing entirely or in part by video link. This amendment is contained in a new paragraph 2 of Article 59; the previous Article 59 has been renumbered as Article 59, paragraph 1. The amendment to Article 94 is in existing paragraph 2 and provides that the reading of the Court's judgment in a case may also take place by video link, when this is necessary for health, security or other compelling reasons.

The amended rules enter into force as of today.

---

The texts of Articles 59 and 94 are appended to this press release.

The integral updated text of the Rules of Court can be viewed on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) by clicking on "basic documents".

---

*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, 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.

---

Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)

Ms Joanne Moore, Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2337)

Mr. Avo Sevag Garabet, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)

Ms Genoveva Madurga, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0)70 302 2396)

**Amendments to Articles 59 and 94 the Rules of Court**

**New paragraph 2 of Article 59**

The Court may decide, for health, security or other compelling reasons, to hold a hearing entirely or in part by video link. The parties shall be consulted on the organization of such a hearing.

\*

**Amended paragraph 2 of Article 94**

The judgment shall be read at a public sitting of the Court. The Court may decide, for health, security or other compelling reasons, that the judgment shall be read at a sitting of the Court accessible to the parties and the public by video link. The judgment shall become binding on the parties on the day of the reading.

---