



**United Nations**

# **Report of the International Court of Justice**

**1 August 2024–31 July 2025**

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**1 August 2024–31 July 2025**



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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

## Contents

Chapter	Page
I. Summary	5
II. Role and jurisdiction of the Court	13
III. Organization of the Court	15
A. Composition	15
B. Registrar and Deputy-Registrar	18
C. Privileges and immunities	18
D. Seat	18
IV. Registry	19
V. Judicial activity of the Court	22
A. Pending contentious proceedings during the period under review	22
1. <i>Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)</i>	22
2. <i>Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)</i>	24
3. <i>Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea)</i>	25
4. <i>Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)</i>	27
5. <i>Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)</i>	29
6. <i>Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)</i>	31
7. <i>Questions of Jurisdictional Immunities of the State and Measures of Constraint against State-Owned Property (Germany v. Italy)</i>	34
8. <i>Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)</i>	35
9. <i>Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)</i>	35
10. <i>Aerial Incident of 8 January 2020 (Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom v. Islamic Republic of Iran)</i>	36
11. <i>Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)</i>	37

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12.	<i>Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)</i> . . . . .	40
13.	<i>Embassy of Mexico in Quito (Mexico v. Ecuador)</i> . . . . .	40
14.	<i>Glas Espinel (Ecuador v. Mexico)</i> . . . . .	41
15.	<i>Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v. United Arab Emirates)</i> . . . . .	42
16.	<i>Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)</i> . . . . .	43
17.	<i>Kohler and Paris (France v. Islamic Republic of Iran)</i> . . . . .	43
18.	<i>Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)</i> . . . . .	44
B.	Pending advisory proceedings during the period under review . . . . .	44
1.	<i>Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change</i> . . . . .	44
2.	<i>Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87</i> . . . . .	48
3.	<i>Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory</i> . . . . .	49
VI.	Information on outreach activities and visits to the Court . . . . .	51
VII.	Publications . . . . .	54
VIII.	Finances of the Court. . . . .	55
IX.	Judges' pension scheme and health insurance . . . . .	58
Annex		
	International Court of Justice: organizational structure and post distribution of the Registry as at 31 July 2025. . . . .	60

# Chapter I

## Summary

### 1. Overview of the judicial work of the Court

1. During the period under review, the International Court of Justice handed down three judgments and one advisory opinion:

- *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)*, judgment on the preliminary objections raised by Azerbaijan delivered on 12 November 2024 (see paras. 105–119);
- *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)*, judgment on the preliminary objections raised by Armenia delivered on 12 November 2024 (see paras. 120–131);
- *Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea)*, judgment on the merits delivered on 19 May 2025 (see paras. 97–104).
- *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*, advisory opinion delivered on 23 July 2025 (see paras. 244–252).

2. In addition, the Court, or its President, rendered 16 orders (presented below in chronological order):

- (a) By an order dated 9 September 2024, the President of the Court extended the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of the Russian Federation in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)* (see paras. 132–154);
- (b) By an order dated 12 November 2024, the Court fixed the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Azerbaijan in the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)* (see paras. 105–119);
- (c) By a further order of the same date, the Court fixed the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Armenia in the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)* (see paras. 120–131);
- (d) By an order dated 21 November 2024, the Court extended the time limit for the filing of the Rejoinder of Myanmar in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)* (see paras. 83–96);
- (e) By an order dated 17 December 2024, the Court extended the time limits for the filing of the memorial of Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the counter-memorial of the Syrian Arab Republic in the case concerning *Application of the Convention against Torture and Other*

*Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)* (see paras. 170–175);

- (f) By a further order of the same date in the case concerning *Questions of Jurisdictional Immunities of the State and Measures of Constraint against State-Owned Property (Germany v. Italy)*, the Court suspended the proceedings in the case (see paras. 155–162);
- (g) By an order dated 23 December 2024 in the advisory proceedings on the *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, the President of the Court decided that the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the observer State of Palestine, were likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion and fixed the time limits for the presentation of written statements on that question (see paras. 261–266);
- (h) By an order dated 17 January 2025, the Vice-President of the Court, Acting President, fixed the time limit for the filing by Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of a written statement of their observations and submissions on the preliminary objections in the case concerning the *Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)* (see paras. 232–234);
- (i) By an order dated 27 February 2025, the Court extended the time limits for the filing of the reply of Equatorial Guinea and the rejoinder of France in the case concerning *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)* (see paras. 163–169);
- (j) By an order dated 14 April 2025, the Court extended the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Israel in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)* (see paras. 183–204);
- (k) By an order dated 1 May 2025, the Court reaffirmed its previous provisional measures and indicated a further provisional measure in the case concerning the *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)* (see paras. 66–82);
- (l) By an order dated 5 May 2025, in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v. United Arab Emirates)*, the Court rejected the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by the Sudan and ordered that the case be removed from the General List (see paras. 224–231);
- (m) By an order dated 19 June 2025, the Court fixed the time limits for the filing of the memorial of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the counter-memorial of Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom in the case concerning the *Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)* (see paras. 232–234);



- (n) By an order dated 17 July 2025, the Court fixed the time limits for the filing of the memorial of France and the counter-memorial of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the case concerning *Kohler and Paris (France v. Islamic Republic of Iran)* (see paras. 235–239);
  - (o) By an order dated 17 July 2025 in the case concerning *Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)*, the Court decided that the written pleadings would first be addressed to the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the application and fixed the time limits for the filing of the memorial of Belarus and the counter-memorial of Lithuania on those questions (see paras. 240–243);
  - (p) By an order dated 25 July 2025 in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)*, the Court decided that the declarations of intervention submitted by Slovenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium and Ireland were admissible insofar as they concerned the construction of provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (see paras. 83–96).
3. During the period under review, the Court held public hearings in the following five cases (in chronological order):
- (a) *Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/ Equatorial Guinea)*, hearings on the merits held from 30 September to 4 October 2024 (see paras. 97–104);
  - (b) *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change* (request for an advisory opinion), hearings held from 2 to 13 December 2024 (see paras. 244–252);
  - (c) *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v. United Arab Emirates)*, hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures filed by Sudan held on 10 April 2025 (see paras. 224–231);
  - (d) *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory* (request for an advisory opinion), hearings held from 28 April to 2 May 2025 (see paras. 261–266);
  - (e) *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*, hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures filed by Equatorial Guinea held on 15 July 2025 (see paras. 163–169).
4. During the period under review, the Court was seized of four new contentious cases and one request for an advisory opinion (in chronological order):
- (a) *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory* (see paras. 261–266);
  - (b) *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v. United Arab Emirates)* (see paras. 224–231);
  - (c) *Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)* (see paras. 232–234);

- (d) *Kohler and Paris (France v. Islamic Republic of Iran)* (see paras. 235–239);
  - (e) *Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)* (see paras. 240–243).
5. On 31 July 2025, the number of cases entered in the Court’s General List stood at 25 (23 contentious cases and 2 advisory proceedings):
- (a) *Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary/Slovakia)*;
  - (b) *Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)*;
  - (c) *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)* (see paras. 66–82);
  - (d) *Alleged Violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)*;
  - (e) *Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America)*;
  - (f) *Guatemala’s Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)*;
  - (g) *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)* (see paras. 83–96);
  - (h) *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)* (see paras. 105–119);
  - (i) *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)* (see paras. 120–131);
  - (j) *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)* (see paras. 132–154);
  - (k) *Questions of Jurisdictional Immunities of the State and Measures of Constraint against State-Owned Property (Germany v. Italy)* (see paras. 155–162);
  - (l) *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)* (see paras. 163–169);
  - (m) *Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)*;
  - (n) *Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)* (see paras. 170–175);
  - (o) *Alleged Violations of State Immunities (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada)*;
  - (p) *Aerial Incident of 8 January 2020 (Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom v. Islamic Republic of Iran)* (see paras. 176–182);
  - (q) *Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87* (request for an advisory opinion) (see paras. 253–260);
  - (r) *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)* (see paras. 183–204);

- (s) *Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)* (see paras. 205–212);
- (t) *Embassy of Mexico in Quito (Mexico v. Ecuador)* (see paras. 213–219);
- (u) *Glas Espinel (Ecuador v. Mexico)* (see paras. 220–223);
- (v) *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory* (request for an advisory opinion) (see paras. 261–266);
- (w) *Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)* (see paras. 232–234);
- (x) *Kohler and Paris (France v. Islamic Republic of Iran)* (see paras. 235–239);
- (y) *Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)* (see paras. 240–243).

6. The States parties to contentious cases pending before the Court on 31 July 2025 included four States from the Group of Asia-Pacific States, eight from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, three from the Group of African States, eight from the Group of Eastern European States and nine from the Group of Western European and other States.

7. In addition, during the period under review, 21 States filed requests for permission to intervene or declarations of intervention, or adjusted their declarations in pending contentious cases. Those States included nine from the Group of Western European and other States, five from the Group of Eastern European States, four from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, two from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and one from the Group of African States.

8. Furthermore, 109 States, as well as several international organizations, presented written statements, written comments or oral statements as part of the three sets of advisory proceedings before the Court during the period under review. Those States included 21 from the Group of Western European and other States, 8 from the Group of Eastern European States, 22 from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, 38 from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and 20 from the Group of African States.

9. Overall, 122 States were involved in contentious or advisory proceedings before the Court in one of the above-mentioned capacities during the period under review.

10. Cases submitted to the Court involve a wide range of issues, including territorial and maritime delimitation, human rights, reparation for internationally wrongful acts, environmental protection, the jurisdictional immunity of States, and the interpretation and application of international treaties concerning, among other things, diplomatic and consular relations, the elimination of racial discrimination, the prevention of genocide, the suppression of the financing of terrorism, the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the safety of civil aviation and the smuggling of migrants. The geographical spread of the cases brought before the Court and the diversity of their subject matter illustrate the universal and general character of the Court's jurisdiction.

11. The cases that States entrust to the Court for settlement frequently involve a number of phases as a result of the introduction of incidental proceedings, such as the

raising of preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court or the admissibility of the claim, the submission of requests for the indication of provisional measures, or the filing of requests for permission to intervene and declarations of intervention. During the period under consideration, the Court delivered two judgments on preliminary objections, two orders on requests for the indication or modification of provisional measures and one order on the admissibility of declarations of intervention.

## **2. Continuation of the Court's sustained level of activity**

12. The sustained increase in new cases submitted to the Court and the significant number of judgments and orders it delivered during the period under review reflect the institution's important role within the United Nations system. In addition to working on pending cases, the Court actively reviews its procedures and working methods on an ongoing basis.

13. In order to ensure the sound administration of justice, the Court sets itself a demanding schedule of hearings and deliberations, enabling it to consider several cases simultaneously and to deal with any associated incidental proceedings as promptly as possible.

14. It is worth recalling that having recourse to the principal judicial organ of the United Nations is a cost-effective solution. While the time frame for certain written proceedings may be relatively lengthy in view of the time required by the participating States for the preparation of their pleadings, it should be noted that, on average, despite the complexity of the cases involved, the period between the conclusion of the oral proceedings and the delivery of a judgment or an advisory opinion by the Court does not exceed six months.

## **3. Promotion of the rule of law**

15. The Court takes the opportunity offered by the submission of its annual report to comment on its role in promoting the rule of law, as the General Assembly invited it to do in its resolution [79/126](#) of 4 December 2024. The Court notes with appreciation that, in that resolution, the General Assembly again calls upon "States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with its Statute".

## **4. Judicial Fellowship Programme**

16. The Court is committed to improving young people's understanding of international law and the Court's procedures. Its annual Judicial Fellowship Programme enables interested universities to nominate recent law graduates to pursue their training in a professional context at the Court for a period of about 10 months, from early September to June or July of the following year. The Court normally accepts up to 15 participants each year from various universities across the world.

17. In 2021, the Court welcomed the establishment of the trust fund for the Judicial Fellowship Programme of the Court following the adoption by consensus, on 14 December 2020, of General Assembly resolution [75/129](#). As stated in the terms of reference of the trust fund, which are annexed to the resolution, the purpose of the fund is to "grant fellowship awards to selected candidates who are nationals of developing countries from universities based in developing countries, thereby guaranteeing the geographic and linguistic diversity of the participants in the Programme". The fund is aimed at enhancing the geographic and linguistic diversity of the participants in the Programme and providing a training opportunity that would not otherwise be available to certain young jurists from developing countries. Under

the initiative, the trust fund – rather than the relevant nominating university – will provide funding to a number of selected candidates.

18. The fund is administered by the Secretary-General and is open to contributions from States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and natural and juridical persons. In order to preserve its impartiality and independence, the Court does not directly engage with individual Member States to mobilize contributions to the trust fund, nor is it directly involved in the administration of the financial resources collected.

19. The first three judicial fellows sponsored by the trust fund joined the Court as part of the 2022–2023 cohort. Three judicial fellows were sponsored by the trust fund in 2023–2024 and four in 2024–2025.

20. For the 2025–2026 Judicial Fellowship Programme, the Court received 145 eligible applications from 92 nominating universities from all over the world, with 55 universities seeking sponsorship through the trust fund for the 71 candidates they nominated. Seventy-four candidates were nominated by universities that offered to provide financial support for those applicants. The number and diversity of the applications demonstrate the continuing interest in the Programme and its trust fund.

21. Of the 16 candidates selected by the Court to take part in the Programme in 2025–2026, four are nationals of developing countries who were nominated by universities located in developing countries (Guatemala, India, Pakistan and South Africa) and will receive an award from the trust fund.

22. On 31 July 2025, the trust fund stood at \$465,286. The Court greatly appreciates the generous contributions received to date and the interest shown in the Judicial Fellowship Programme by both contributors and nominating universities.

23. The Court is optimistic that the opportunities provided by the trust fund will continue to grow, allowing a wider pool of young lawyers to gain professional experience in public international law by participating in the work of the Court. The next call for applications for the Judicial Fellowship Programme will be published on the Court's website in the fourth quarter of 2025.

## **5. Budget of the Court**

### **(a) Budget for 2025**

24. By its resolution [79/257](#) of 24 December 2024, the General Assembly approved all the resources requested by the Court in its proposed programme budget for 2025. In so doing, the Assembly reversed the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/79/7](#)), wherein the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of only two of the seven established posts requested by the Court. The General Assembly also approved funding for six additional positions through general temporary assistance.

### **(b) Budget for 2026**

25. In early 2025, the Court submitted its proposed programme budget for 2026 to the United Nations Controller. In preparing its budget proposal for 2026, the Court sought to address the ongoing discrepancy between its increasing activity and the resources at its disposal by focusing on three main objectives: (i) further enhancing the support provided to the Court for its judicial functions; (ii) adapting to the risks created by the Court's heightened public profile; and (iii) strengthening the Registry's administrative functions. The proposed budget for 2026 amounts to \$36,837,000 before recosting, representing an overall increase of \$2,175,400 compared with the approved appropriations for 2025.

## **6. Renovation of the Peace Palace**

26. In 2020, the Court was informed by the host country that the latter planned to conduct a full renovation of the Peace Palace to remove any asbestos in the building, and that it was possible that the Court's Registry would have to be relocated during the renovation work.

27. In July 2022, the Court was informed that the host country was now contemplating a more limited approach. Under the plan put forward by the Netherlands authorities in the fourth quarter of 2022, as a first phase, asbestos would be removed from areas where it was known to be present, namely in the attic of the building (project A), and a thorough survey would be conducted to locate any other areas where asbestos might be found (project B). Based on the results of these further investigations, the Netherlands authorities would then decide on the best approach to resolve the issue, which might or might not include a full or partial relocation of the Court's Registry.

28. In February 2025, the Court concluded the Supplemental Implementation Agreement for the Asbestos Projects A and B in the Peace Palace with the State of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Carnegie Foundation and the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The Agreement sets out a governance framework for the implementation of the asbestos projects. Following the conclusion of the Agreement, the Court approved the start of the implementation of project B, which is now under way and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Consultations between the Court, the host country and the Carnegie Foundation regarding the implementation of project A are ongoing.

## Chapter II

### Role and jurisdiction of the Court

29. The International Court of Justice, which has its seat in The Hague, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the Charter of the United Nations in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946.

30. The basic documents governing the Court are the Charter and the Statute of the Court, which is annexed to the Charter. They are supplemented by the Rules of Court and the Practice Directions, as well as by the Resolution concerning the Internal Judicial Practice of the Court. These documents can be found on the Court's website, under the heading "Basic Documents". They are also available in paper form in the series *Acts and Documents concerning the Organization of the Court*, the eighth edition of which was published in 2024.

31. The International Court of Justice is the only international court of a universal character with general jurisdiction. This jurisdiction is twofold: contentious and advisory.

#### 1. Jurisdiction in contentious cases

32. Pursuant to its Statute, the Court's function is to decide in accordance with international law such disputes as are submitted to it by States in the exercise of their sovereignty.

33. In that respect, it should be noted that as at 31 July 2025, 193 States were parties to the Statute of the Court by virtue of their membership of the United Nations, and thus had access to it. In addition, on 4 July 2018 and 31 May 2024, the State of Palestine filed declarations with the Registry, whereby it accepted with immediate effect the competence of the Court for the settlement of all disputes that might arise or that had already arisen that were covered by article I of the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes (1961), and by article IX of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948).

34. As at 31 July 2025, 74 of the States parties to the Statute had made a declaration (some with reservations) recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the Court, as contemplated in Article 36, paragraphs 2 and 5, of the Statute. A list of those States and the texts of their declarations filed with the Secretary-General are available, for information purposes, on the Court's website, in the "Declarations recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory" section under "Jurisdiction".

35. In addition, more than 300 bilateral or multilateral treaties or conventions provide for the Court to have jurisdiction over various types of disputes between States. A representative list of those treaties and conventions can also be found on the Court's website, in the "Treaties" section under "Jurisdiction". The Court's jurisdiction may also be founded, in the case of a specific dispute, on a special agreement concluded between the States concerned. Lastly, when submitting a dispute to the Court, a State may propose to found the Court's jurisdiction on a consent yet to be given or manifested by the State against which the application is made, pursuant to Article 38, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Court. If the latter State gives its consent, the Court's jurisdiction is established and the new case is entered in the General List on the date on which consent is given (this situation is known as *forum prorogatum*).

#### 2. Jurisdiction in advisory proceedings

36. The Court may also give advisory opinions. In addition to the General Assembly and the Security Council, which are authorized to request advisory opinions of the

Court “on any legal questions” (Charter, Article 96, para. 1), three other United Nations organs (the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Interim Committee of the General Assembly), as well as the following specialized agencies and related organizations, are currently authorized to request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities (*ibid.*, para. 2):

- International Labour Organization;
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
- International Civil Aviation Organization;
- World Health Organization;
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- International Finance Corporation;
- International Development Association;
- International Monetary Fund;
- International Telecommunication Union;
- World Meteorological Organization;
- International Maritime Organization;
- World Intellectual Property Organization;
- International Fund for Agricultural Development;
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
- International Atomic Energy Agency.

37. A list of the international instruments that make provision for the advisory jurisdiction of the Court is published, for information purposes, in the Court’s *Yearbook* (see *Yearbook 2022–2023*, annex 20, available on the Court’s website under the heading “Publications”).



## Chapter III

### Organization of the Court

#### A. Composition

##### 1. Members of the Court

38. The International Court of Justice consists of 15 judges elected for a term of nine years by the General Assembly and the Security Council. One third of the Court's membership is renewed every three years.

39. On 14 January 2025, Judge Nawaf Salam (Lebanon), elected President of the Court on 6 February 2024, resigned as member of the Court with immediate effect. On 3 March 2025, Judge Iwasawa Yuji was elected to serve as President of the Court for the remainder of Judge Salam's term, until 5 February 2027. On 27 May 2025, the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations elected Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud (Jordan) as a member of the Court, with immediate effect, to hold office for the remainder of Judge Salam's term.

40. On 11 June 2025, Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf announced his resignation as a member of the Court with effect from 30 September 2025. His term of office had been due to expire on 5 February 2027. In its resolution [2784 \(2025\)](#) of 2 July 2025, the Security Council decided, in accordance with Article 14 of the Statute of the Court, that the election to fill the vacancy would take place on 12 November 2025 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its eightieth session. In accordance with Article 15 of the Statute of the Court, the member of the Court then elected will complete Judge Yusuf's term.

41. As at 31 July 2025, the composition of the Court was as follows: President: Iwasawa Yuji (Japan); Vice-President: Julia Sebutinde (Uganda); Judges: Peter Tomka (Slovakia), Ronny Abraham (France), Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia), Xue Hanqin (China), Dalveer Bhandari (India), Georg Nolte (Germany), Hilary Charlesworth (Australia), Leonardo Nemer Caldeira Brant (Brazil), Bogdan-Lucian Aurescu (Romania), Sarah H. Cleveland (United States), Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo (Mexico), Dire Tladi (South Africa) and Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud (Jordan).

##### 2. President and Vice-President

42. The President and the Vice-President of the Court are elected by the members of the Court every three years by secret ballot (Statute, Art. 21). The Vice-President replaces the President when the latter is absent or unable to exercise his or her duties, or in the event of a vacancy in the presidency. Among other things, the President:

- (a) Presides at all meetings of the Court, directs its work and supervises its administration;
- (b) In every case submitted to the Court, ascertains the views of the parties with regard to questions of procedure; for this purpose, the President summons the agents of the parties to a meeting as soon as possible after their appointment, and whenever necessary thereafter;
- (c) Directs the Court's judicial deliberations;
- (d) Has a casting vote in the event of votes being equally divided during judicial deliberations;
- (e) Is ex officio a member of the drafting committee unless the President does not share the majority opinion of the Court, in which case the President is replaced by the Vice-President or, failing that, by a third judge elected by the Court;

- (f) Is ex officio a member of the Chamber of Summary Procedure formed annually by the Court;
- (g) Signs all judgments, advisory opinions and orders of the Court, and the minutes of meetings;
- (h) Delivers the judicial decisions of the Court at public sittings;
- (i) Chairs the Budgetary and Administrative Committee of the Court;
- (j) In the third quarter of every year, addresses the representatives of the Member States in New York during plenary meetings of the session of the General Assembly in order to present the report of the Court;
- (k) Receives, at the seat of the Court, heads of State and government and other dignitaries during official visits;
- (l) May be called upon to make procedural orders when the Court is not sitting.

### 3. Chamber of Summary Procedure and committees of the Court

43. In accordance with Article 29 of its Statute, the Court annually forms a Chamber of Summary Procedure, which, as at 31 July 2025, was constituted as follows:

- (a) Members:
  - President Iwasawa;
  - Vice-President Sebutinde;
  - Judges Nolte, Brant and Aurescu.
- (b) Substitute members:
  - Judges Charlesworth and Tladi.

44. The Court also forms committees to facilitate the performance of its administrative tasks. Their composition as at 31 July 2025 was as follows:

- (a) Budgetary and Administrative Committee:
  - President Iwasawa;
  - Vice-President Sebutinde;
  - Judges Tomka, Abraham, Xue, Nolte and Charlesworth.
- (b) Rules Committee:
  - Judge Tomka (Chair);
  - Judges Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aurescu and Tladi.
- (c) Library Committee:
  - Judge Bhandari (Chair);
  - Judges Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant and Tladi.

### 4. Judges ad hoc

45. In accordance with Article 31 of the Statute, parties to a case that have no judge of their nationality on the bench may choose a judge ad hoc for the purposes of that case.

46. Listed below are the names of the judges ad hoc sitting in cases pending before the Court during the period under review.

- (a) In the case concerning *Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)*, Djamchid Momtaz was chosen by the Islamic Republic of Iran;

- (b) In the case concerning the *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)*, Rüdiger Wolfrum was chosen by Guyana and Philippe Couvreur was chosen by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
- (c) In the case concerning *Alleged Violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)*, Djamchid Momtaz was chosen by the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- (d) In the case concerning *Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America)*, Gilbert Guillaume was chosen by the State of Palestine;
- (e) In the case concerning *Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)*, Philippe Couvreur was chosen by Guatemala and Donald M. McRae was chosen by Belize.
- (f) In the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)*, Navanethem Pillay was chosen by The Gambia and Claus Kress was chosen by Myanmar;
- (g) In the case concerning *Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea)*, Mónica Pinto was chosen by Gabon and Rüdiger Wolfrum was chosen by Equatorial Guinea;
- (h) In the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)*, Yves Daudet was chosen by Armenia and Abdul G. Koroma was chosen by Azerbaijan;
- (i) In the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)*, Abdul G. Koroma was chosen by Azerbaijan and Yves Daudet was chosen by Armenia;
- (j) In the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, Yves Daudet was chosen by Ukraine and Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov was chosen by the Russian Federation;
- (k) In the case concerning *Questions of Jurisdictional Immunities of the State and Measures of Constraint against State-Owned Property (Germany v. Italy)*, Giorgio Gaja was chosen by Italy. Following the resignation of judge ad hoc Gaja, Loretta Malintoppi was chosen by Italy;
- (l) In the case concerning *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*, Taoheed Olufemi Elias was chosen by Equatorial Guinea;
- (m) In the case concerning *Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)*, Silvia Alejandra Fernández de Gurmendi was chosen by Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Kirill Gevorgian was chosen by the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (n) In the case concerning *Alleged Violations of State Immunities (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada)*, Jamal Seifi was chosen by the Islamic Republic of Iran and John H. Currie was chosen by Canada;
- (o) In the case concerning the *Aerial Incident of 8 January 2020 (Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom v. Islamic Republic of Iran)*, Donald M. McRae was chosen by Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom;

- (p) In the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, Ron A. Shapira was chosen by Israel;
- (q) In the case concerning *Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)*, Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh was chosen by Nicaragua;
- (r) In the case concerning the *Embassy of Mexico in Quito (Mexico v. Ecuador)*, Donald M. McRae was chosen by Ecuador;
- (s) In the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v. United Arab Emirates)*, Philippe Couvreur was chosen by the United Arab Emirates and Bruno Simma was chosen by Sudan;
- (t) In the case concerning *Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)*, Nicolas Michel was chosen by Lithuania and Kirill Gevorgian was chosen by Belarus;
- (u) In the case concerning *Glas Espinel (Ecuador v. Mexico)*, Donald M. McRae was chosen by Ecuador.

## **B. Registrar and Deputy-Registrar**

47. Pursuant to article 22 of the Rules of Court, the Court elects its Registrar by secret ballot for a term of seven years. The procedures set out in article 22 also apply to the election and term of office of the Deputy-Registrar (Rules, art. 23). The Registrar of the Court is Philippe Gautier (Belgium). The Deputy-Registrar is Jean-Pelé Fomété (Cameroon).

## **C. Privileges and immunities**

48. Under Article 19 of the Statute of the Court, the members of the Court, when engaged in the business of the Court, enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities. A comprehensive list of all texts related to privileges and immunities can be found on the website of the Court, in the “Other Texts” section under the heading “Basic Documents”. For further details, see the report of the Court for the period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 ([A/79/4](#)), paras. 48–53.

## **D. Seat**

49. The seat of the Court is established at The Hague; this, however, does not prevent the Court from sitting and exercising its functions elsewhere whenever the Court considers it desirable to do so (Statute, Article 22, para. 1, and Rules, art. 55). The Court has so far never held sittings outside The Hague.

50. The Court occupies premises in the Peace Palace in The Hague. An agreement of 21 February 1946 between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation, which owns and manages the Peace Palace, determines the conditions under which the Court uses the premises and provides for the United Nations to pay an annual contribution to the Foundation in consideration of the Court’s use of the premises. That contribution was increased pursuant to supplementary agreements approved by the General Assembly in 1951, 1958, 1997 and 2007. The annual contribution by the United Nations to the Foundation was €1,725,090 for 2024 and €1,781,394 for 2025.

## Chapter IV

### Registry

51. The Court is the only principal organ of the United Nations to have its own administration (Charter, Article 98). The Registry is the international secretariat of the Court. Since the Court is both a judicial body and an international institution, the role of the Registry includes providing judicial support and acting as an administrative organ.

52. The duties of the Registry are set out in detail in instructions drawn up by the Registrar and approved by the Court (Rules, art. 28, paras. 2 and 3). The version of the Instructions for the Registry currently in force was adopted by the Court in March 2012 ([A/67/4](#), para. 66) and is available on the Court's website, under the heading "The Registry".

53. Registry officials are appointed by the Court on proposals by the Registrar or, for General Service staff, by the Registrar with the approval of the President of the Court. Temporary staff are appointed by the Registrar. Working conditions are governed by the Staff Regulations for the Registry adopted by the Court (Rules, Art. 28, para. 4; the Staff Regulations are also available on the Court's website, under the heading "The Registry"). Registry officials enjoy, generally, the same privileges and immunities as members of diplomatic missions in The Hague of comparable rank. They enjoy remuneration and pension rights corresponding to those of United Nations Secretariat officials of equivalent category or grade.

54. The organizational structure of the Registry is fixed by the Court on proposals by the Registrar. The Registry consists of three departments and seven technical divisions (see annex) under the direct supervision of the Registrar or the Deputy-Registrar. As required under the Instructions for the Registry, the Registrar and Deputy-Registrar place particular emphasis on coordinating the activities of the various departments and divisions. Guidelines relating to the organization of work between the Registrar and the Deputy-Registrar were adopted by the Court in 2020 and reviewed in 2021, 2022 and 2025 with a view to achieving further efficiencies in the management and coordination of the Registry's activities.

55. As at 31 July 2025, the total number of posts in the Registry was 125, namely 67 posts in the Professional category and above and 58 in the General Service category.

56. The President of the Court and the Registrar are each aided by a special assistant (grade P-3). The members of the Court are each assisted by a law clerk (grade P-2). These 15 associate legal officers, who are assigned to individual judges, are members of the Registry staff. The law clerks carry out research for the members of the Court and the judges ad hoc and work under their supervision. A total of 15 executive assistants, who are also members of the Registry staff, assist the members of the Court and the judges ad hoc.

#### 1. Registrar

57. The Registrar of the Court is Philippe Gautier, of Belgian nationality. He was elected to that post by the members of the Court on 22 May 2019 for a period of seven years beginning on 1 August of the same year.

58. The Registrar is responsible for all departments and divisions of the Registry. Pursuant to article 1 of the Instructions for the Registry, the staff are under the authority of the Registrar, who alone is authorized to direct the work of the Registry. In the discharge of his or her functions, the Registrar reports to the Court. The Registrar's role is threefold: judicial, diplomatic and administrative (Rules, art. 26).

59. The Registrar's judicial duties notably include those relating to the cases submitted to the Court. The Registrar, *inter alia*:

- (a) Keeps the General List of all cases and is responsible for recording documents in the case files;
- (b) Manages the proceedings in the cases;
- (c) Is present in person, or represented by the Deputy-Registrar, at meetings of the Court and of Chambers; provides any assistance required and is responsible for the preparation of reports or minutes of such meetings;
- (d) Countersigns all judgments, advisory opinions and orders of the Court, and the minutes of meetings;
- (e) Maintains relations with the parties to a case and has specific responsibility for the receipt and transmission of various documents, most importantly those instituting proceedings (applications and special agreements) and all written pleadings;
- (f) Is responsible for the translation, printing and publication of the Court's judgments, advisory opinions and orders, the pleadings, written statements and minutes of the public sittings in every case, and of such other documents as the Court may decide to publish;
- (g) Has custody of the seals and stamps of the Court, of the archives of the Court, and of such other archives as may be entrusted to the Court (including the archives of the Permanent Court of International Justice).

60. In his diplomatic role, the Registrar:

- (a) Attends to the Court's external relations and acts as the channel of communication to and from the Court;
- (b) Manages external correspondence, including that relating to cases, and provides any consultations required;
- (c) Manages relations of a diplomatic nature, in particular with the organs and States Members of the United Nations, with other international organizations and with the Government of the country in which the Court has its seat;
- (d) Is responsible for information concerning the Court's activities and for the Court's publications.

61. The administrative work of the Registrar includes:

- (a) The Registry's internal administration;
- (b) Financial management, in accordance with the financial procedures of the United Nations, and in particular preparing and implementing the budget;
- (c) Making arrangements for such provision or verification of translations and interpretations into the Court's two official languages (English and French) as the Court may require.

62. The Registrar is accorded the same privileges and immunities as heads of diplomatic missions in The Hague and, on journeys to third States, all the privileges, immunities and facilities granted to diplomatic envoys.

**2. Deputy-Registrar**

63. The Deputy-Registrar of the Court is Jean-Pelé Fomété, of Cameroonian nationality. He was elected on 11 February 2013 for a period of seven years and re-elected on 20 February 2020 for a second term of seven years beginning on 1 April of the same year.

64. The Deputy-Registrar assists the Registrar and acts as Registrar in the latter's absence (Rules, art. 27).

## Chapter V

### Judicial activity of the Court

#### A. Pending contentious proceedings during the period under review

65. The section below is focused on the cases in which there were specific developments to report during the period under review. For a full list of cases pending before the Court during this period, see paragraph 5 above. For the most recent summaries of cases not covered in this section, see the report of the Court for the period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 (A/79/4).

##### 1. *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)*

66. On 29 March 2018, Guyana filed an application instituting proceedings against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In its application, Guyana asked the Court “to confirm the legal validity and binding effect of the Award Regarding the Boundary between the Colony of British Guiana and the United States of Venezuela, of 3 October 1899”. As basis for the jurisdiction of the Court, the applicant invoked article IV, paragraph 2, of the Agreement to Resolve the Controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Frontier between Venezuela and British Guiana, signed at Geneva on 17 February 1966 (the “Geneva Agreement”), and the decision of 30 January 2018 of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, pursuant to the Geneva Agreement, choosing the Court as the means for the settlement of the dispute.

67. On 18 June 2018, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela informed the Court that it considered that the Court manifestly lacked jurisdiction to hear the case and that it had decided not to take part in the proceedings.

68. By an order dated 19 June 2018, the Court decided that the written pleadings in the case must first address the question of the jurisdiction of the Court and fixed 19 November 2018 and 18 April 2019 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Guyana and the counter-memorial of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The memorial of Guyana was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

69. By a letter dated 12 April 2019, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela confirmed that it would not participate in the written proceedings, while indicating that it would provide timely information in order to assist the Court “in the fulfilment of its [duty] as indicated in Article 53, paragraph 2, of its Statute”. On 28 November 2019, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela submitted to the Court a document entitled “Memorandum of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the Application filed before the International Court of Justice by the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on March 29th, 2018”.

70. A public hearing was subsequently held on 30 June 2020, with the participation of the delegation of Guyana.

71. On 18 December 2020, the Court delivered its judgment, in which it concluded that it had jurisdiction to entertain the application filed by Guyana insofar as it concerned the validity of the Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 and the related question of the definitive settlement of the land boundary dispute between Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. However, the Court found that it did not have jurisdiction to entertain the claims of Guyana arising from events that had occurred after the signature of the Geneva Agreement.

72. By an order dated 8 March 2021, the Court fixed 8 March 2022 and 8 March 2023 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Guyana and the



counter-memorial of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The memorial of Guyana was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

73. On 7 June 2022, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela raised preliminary objections to the admissibility of the application of Guyana. By an order dated 13 June 2022, the Court fixed 7 October 2022 as the time limit within which Guyana might present a written statement of its observations and submissions on those preliminary objections. Guyana filed its written observations within the time limit thus fixed.

74. Public hearings on the preliminary objections raised by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were held from 17 to 22 November 2022.

75. On 6 April 2023, the Court delivered its judgment, in which it considered that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was in substance making only a single preliminary objection. The Court rejected that preliminary objection and found that it could adjudicate upon the merits of the claims of Guyana insofar as they fell within the scope of the judgment of 18 December 2020, as described above.

76. By an order of the same date, the Court fixed 8 April 2024 as the new time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. That pleading was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

77. On 30 October 2023, Guyana filed a request for the indication of provisional measures. In its request, Guyana stated that, on 23 October 2023, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had published a list of five questions that it planned to put before the Venezuelan people on 3 December 2023 as part of a consultative referendum.

78. Public hearings on the request submitted by Guyana were held on 14 and 15 November 2023.

79. On 1 December 2023, the Court rendered its order on that request. In its order, the Court indicated provisional measures ordering the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to refrain from taking any action, pending a final decision in the case, which would modify the situation that currently prevails in the territory in dispute, whereby Guyana administers and exercises control over that area. The Court further instructed both Parties to refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve.

80. By an order dated 14 June 2024, the Court fixed 9 December 2024 and 11 August 2025 as the respective time limits for the filing of the reply of Guyana and the rejoinder of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

81. On 6 March 2025, Guyana filed a further request for the indication of provisional measures. Guyana contended that its request was prompted “by Venezuela’s announcement that it w[ould] soon hold elections in Guyana’s sovereign territory, which Venezuela ha[d] purported to annex in violation of the Court’s Order of 1 December 2023 and fundamental norms of international law”.

82. On 1 May 2025, the Court delivered its order on the request of Guyana, the operative paragraph of which reads as follows:

“For these reasons,

The Court,

(1) Unanimously,

Reaffirms the provisional measures indicated in its Order of 1 December 2023, which should be immediately and effectively implemented;

(2) By twelve votes to three,

Indicates the following provisional measure:

Pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shall refrain from conducting elections, or preparing to conduct elections, in the territory in dispute, which the Co-operative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control.

In favour: President Iwasawa; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Yusuf, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aurescu, Tladi; Judges ad hoc Wolfrum, Couvreur;

Against: Judges Xue, Bhandari, Nolte.”

## **2. *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)***

83. On 11 November 2019, the Gambia filed in the Registry an application instituting proceedings against Myanmar, concerning alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948. In its application, the Gambia requested, inter alia, that the Court adjudge and declare that Myanmar had breached its obligations under the Convention, that it must cease forthwith any internationally wrongful act, that it must perform the obligations of reparation in the interest of the victims of genocidal acts who were members of the Rohingya group, and that it must offer assurances and guarantees of non-repetition. As basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, the applicant invoked article IX of the Convention.

84. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures.

85. On 23 January 2020, the Court delivered an order indicating a number of provisional measures. The full text of the order can be found on the case page of the Court’s website.

86. By a further order dated 23 January 2020, the Court fixed 23 July 2020 and 25 January 2021 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of the Gambia and the counter-memorial of Myanmar. By an order dated 18 May 2020, the Court extended those time limits to 23 October 2020 and 23 July 2021, respectively. The memorial of the Gambia was filed within the time limit thus extended.

87. On 20 January 2021, Myanmar raised preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the application.

88. On 22 July 2022, following public hearings, the Court delivered its judgment, in which it rejected the preliminary objections raised by Myanmar and found that it had jurisdiction to entertain the application filed by the Gambia on the basis of article IX of the Genocide Convention, and that the application was admissible.

89. By an order dated 22 July 2022, the Court fixed 24 April 2023 as the new time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Myanmar. Following a request by Myanmar, the Court extended that time limit, first to 24 May 2023 by an order dated 6 April 2023, and then to 24 August 2023 by an order dated 12 May 2023. The counter-memorial of Myanmar was filed within the time limit thus extended.

90. By an order dated 16 October 2023, the Court fixed 16 May 2024 and 16 December 2024 as the respective time limits for the filing of the reply of the Gambia and the rejoinder of Myanmar. The reply of the Gambia was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

91. On 15 November 2023, Maldives filed a declaration of intervention in the case with reference to Article 63 of the Statute of the Court. On the same date, a joint declaration of intervention was filed, pursuant to the same provision, by Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

92. Myanmar filed objections to the admissibility of the two declarations of intervention. Pursuant to article 84, paragraph 2, of its Rules, the Court decided to hear the parties by means of a written procedure. The Court fixed 26 February 2024 as the time limit within which the States seeking to intervene could furnish their written observations on the admissibility of their declarations, and 26 March 2024 as the time limit within which the parties could furnish their written observations thereon. Both sets of written observations were filed within the time limits thus fixed.

93. Having heard the parties and the States seeking to intervene by way of a written procedure, the Court, by an order dated 3 July 2024, decided that the two declarations of intervention in question were admissible insofar as they concerned the construction of the provisions of the Genocide Convention.

94. By an order dated 21 November 2024, the Court extended to 30 December 2024 the time limit for the filing of the rejoinder of Myanmar.

95. Four additional States subsequently filed declarations of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute of the Court: Slovenia (on 29 November 2024), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (on 10 December 2024), Belgium (on 12 December 2024) and Ireland (on 20 December 2024).

96. By an order dated 25 July 2025, the Court decided that the declarations of intervention submitted by Slovenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium and Ireland were admissible insofar as they concerned the construction of provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In the same order, the Court fixed 25 September 2025 as the time limit for the filing by Slovenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium and Ireland of their written observations on the subject matter of their intervention, in accordance with article 86, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court.

### **3. *Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea)***

97. On 5 March 2021, the Court was seized of a dispute between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea by way of a special agreement which was signed in 2016 and entered into force in March 2020. In the special agreement, the parties requested the Court “to determine whether the legal titles, treaties and international conventions invoked by the Parties ha[d] the force of law in the relations between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea insofar as they concern[ed] the delimitation of their common maritime and land boundaries and sovereignty over the islands of Mbaníé/Mbañe, Cocotiers/Cocoteros and Conga”.

98. It is stated in the special agreement that “[t]he Gabonese Republic recognizes as applicable to the dispute the special Convention on the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa, on the coasts of the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, signed in Paris on 27 June 1900, and the Convention demarcating the land and maritime frontiers of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, signed in Bata on 12 September 1974”, and that “[t]he Republic of Equatorial Guinea recognizes as applicable to the dispute the special Convention on the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa, on the coasts of the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, signed in Paris on 27 June 1900”.

99. In the special agreement, both Gabon and Equatorial Guinea reserve the right to invoke other legal titles, and they set out their common views regarding the procedure to be followed for written and oral proceedings before the Court.

100. By an order dated 7 April 2021, the Court fixed 5 October 2021 and 5 May 2022 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Equatorial Guinea and the counter-memorial of Gabon. Those written pleadings were filed within the time limits thus fixed.

101. By an order dated 6 May 2022, the President of the Court fixed 5 October 2022 and 6 March 2023 as the respective time limits for the filing of the reply of Equatorial Guinea and the rejoinder of Gabon. Those pleadings were filed within the time limits thus fixed.

102. Public hearings on the merits of the case were held from 30 September to 4 October 2024.

103. In its judgment of 19 May 2025, the Court observed that both parties acknowledged that, under the terms of the special agreement, the Court had not been asked to delimit the land and maritime boundaries or to determine sovereignty over the islands of Mbanié/Mbañe, Cocotiers/Cocoteros and Conga, but only to determine whether the legal titles, treaties and international conventions invoked by the parties had the force of law in their relations insofar as they concerned the dispute between them, as set out in the special agreement.

104. The operative clause of the Court's judgment reads as follows:

“For these reasons,

The Court,

(1) By fourteen votes to one,

Finds that the document entitled ‘Convention delimiting the land and maritime frontiers of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon’ (‘Bata Convention’) invoked by the Gabonese Republic is not a treaty having the force of law in the relations between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and does not constitute a legal title within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Special Agreement;

In favour: Vice-President Sebutinde, Acting President; President Iwasawa; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Yusuf, Xue, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aurescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Wolfrum;

Against: Judge ad hoc Pinto;

(2) Unanimously,

Finds that the legal titles invoked by the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea that have the force of law in the relations between them in so far as they concern the delimitation of their common land boundary are the titles held on 17 August 1960 by the French Republic and on 12 October 1968 by the Kingdom of Spain on the basis of the Special Convention on the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa, on the coasts of the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, signed in Paris on 27 June 1900, to which titles the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea respectively succeeded;

(3) By thirteen votes to two,

Finds that, of the legal titles invoked by the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the title that has the force of law in the relations

between them in so far as it concerns sovereignty over the islands of Mbanié/Mbañe, Cocotiers/Cocoteros and Conga is the title held by the Kingdom of Spain on 12 October 1968, to which the Republic of Equatorial Guinea succeeded;

In favour: Vice-President Sebutinde, Acting President; President Iwasawa; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Yusuf, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aurescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Wolfrum;

Against: Judge Xue; Judge ad hoc Pinto;

(4) Unanimously,

Finds that the Special Convention on the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa, on the coasts of the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, signed in Paris on 27 June 1900, constitutes a legal title within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Special Agreement to the extent that it has established the terminus of the land boundary between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which shall be the starting-point of the maritime boundary delimiting their respective maritime areas;

(5) Unanimously,

Finds that the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is an international convention that has the force of law in the relations between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Special Agreement, in so far as that Convention concerns the delimitation of their maritime boundary.”

#### **4. *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)***

105. On 16 September 2021, Armenia filed an application instituting proceedings against Azerbaijan with regard to alleged violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The applicant contended that “[f]or decades, Azerbaijan ha[d] subjected Armenians to racial discrimination” and that, “[a]s a result of this State-sponsored policy of Armenian hatred, Armenians have been subjected to systemic discrimination, mass killings, torture and other abuse”. According to Armenia, those violations had been directed at individuals of Armenian ethnic or national origin regardless of their actual nationality. Armenia claims that such “practices [had] once again c[o]me to the fore in September 2020, after Azerbaijan’s aggression against the Republic of Artsakh and Armenia”, and that “[d]uring that armed conflict, Azerbaijan [had] committed grave violations of the [Convention]”. The applicant alleged that “[e]ven after the end of hostilities”, following a ceasefire that had entered into effect on 10 November 2020, “Azerbaijan ha[d] continued to engage in the murder, torture and other abuse of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons”.

106. As basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, the applicant invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article 22 of Convention, to which both States are Parties.

107. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures.

108. On 7 December 2021, following public hearings, the Court delivered its order on that request, indicating certain provisional measures. The Court decided, inter alia, that, in accordance with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Azerbaijan must protect from violence and bodily harm all persons captured in relation to the 2020 conflict who

remained in detention, and ensure their security and equality before the law. The full text of the order can be found on the case page of the Court's website. The Court further ordered both parties to refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve.

109. By an order dated 21 January 2022, the Court fixed 23 January 2023 and 23 January 2024 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Armenia and the counter-memorial of Azerbaijan. The memorial of Armenia was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

110. On 19 September 2022, Armenia, referring to article 76 of the Rules of Court, filed a request for the modification of the Court's order of 7 December 2021 indicating provisional measures. By an order dated 12 October 2022, the Court concluded that "the hostilities which [had] erupted between the Parties in September 2022 and the detention of Armenian military personnel d[id] not constitute a change in the situation justifying modification of the Order of 7 December 2021 within the meaning of Article 76 of the Rules of Court", and it reaffirmed the provisional measures indicated in its order of 7 December 2021.

111. On 28 December 2022, Armenia submitted a second request for the indication of provisional measures. By an order dated 22 February 2023, following public hearings on that request, the Court indicated a new provisional measure ordering Azerbaijan to take all measures at its disposal to ensure the unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.

112. On 21 April 2023, Azerbaijan raised two preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court. In its first preliminary objection, Azerbaijan argued that the Court lacked jurisdiction under article 22 of the Convention, because the precondition of negotiation set out in that provision had not been satisfied. In its second preliminary objection, Azerbaijan contended that some of the claims made by Armenia were not within the scope of the Court's jurisdiction *ratione materiae* under article 22 of the Convention, because they were not based on one of the prohibited grounds of racial discrimination enumerated in article 1, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

113. By an order dated 25 April 2023, the President of the Court fixed 21 August 2023 as the time limit within which Armenia might present a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by Azerbaijan. Armenia submitted its statement within the time limit thus fixed.

114. On 15 May 2023, the Court received a request from Armenia asking it to modify its order of 22 February 2023 indicating a provisional measure. By an order dated 6 July 2023, the Court concluded that the circumstances to which Armenia referred in its request did not "constitute a change in the situation justifying modification of the Order of 22 February 2023".

115. On 28 September 2023, Armenia submitted a further request to the Court for the indication of provisional measures. Public hearings on that request were held on 12 October 2023.

116. The Court ruled on the request by an order of 17 November 2023, in which it indicated three provisional measures. First, Azerbaijan was directed to ensure, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention, that persons who had left Nagorno-Karabakh after 19 September 2023 and who wished to return home were able to do so in a safe, unimpeded and expeditious manner; that persons who had remained in Nagorno-Karabakh after that date and who wished to depart were able to do so in the same safe manner; and that persons wishing to stay in Nagorno-Karabakh were free from the use of force or intimidation that might cause them to flee. Second,

Azerbaijan was directed to protect and preserve registration, identity and private property documents and records that concerned the above-mentioned persons and have due regard to such documents and records in its administrative and legislative practices. Third, Azerbaijan was instructed to submit a report to the Court on the steps taken to give effect to the provisional measures indicated and the undertakings made by Azerbaijan during the hearings that had taken place on 12 October 2023.

117. Public hearings on the preliminary objections raised by Azerbaijan were held from 15 to 19 April 2024.

118. On 12 November 2024, the Court rendered its judgment on the preliminary objections, the operative part of which reads as follows:

“For these reasons,

The Court,

(1) By sixteen votes to one,

Rejects the first preliminary objection raised by the Republic of Azerbaijan;

In favour: President Salam; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Yusuf, Xue, Bhandari, Iwasawa, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aureescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Daudet;

Against: Judge ad hoc Koroma;

(2) By fifteen votes to two,

Rejects the second preliminary objection raised by the Republic of Azerbaijan;

In favour: President Salam; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Xue, Bhandari, Iwasawa, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aureescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Daudet;

Against: Judge Yusuf; Judge ad hoc Koroma;

(3) By fifteen votes to two,

Finds that it has jurisdiction, on the basis of Article 22 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to entertain the Application filed by the Republic of Armenia on 16 September 2021.

In favour: President Salam; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Xue, Bhandari, Iwasawa, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aureescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Daudet;

Against: Judge Yusuf; Judge ad hoc Koroma.”

119. By an order dated 12 November 2024, the Court fixed 12 November 2025 as the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Azerbaijan.

##### **5. *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)***

120. On 23 September 2021, Azerbaijan filed an application instituting proceedings against Armenia concerning alleged violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

121. According to the applicant, “Armenia ha[d] engaged and [was] continuing to engage in a series of discriminatory acts against Azerbaijanis on the basis of their ‘national or ethnic’ origin within the meaning of [the Convention]”. The applicant

claimed that “through both direct and indirect means, Armenia continue[d] its policy of ethnic cleansing”, and that it “incite[d] hatred and ethnic violence against Azerbaijanis by engaging in hate speech and disseminating racist propaganda, including at the highest levels of its government”. Referring to the period of hostilities between the two countries that had erupted in the fourth quarter of 2020, Azerbaijan contended that “Armenia [had] once again targeted Azerbaijanis for brutal treatment motivated by ethnic hatred”. Azerbaijan further contended that “Armenia’s policies and conduct of ethnic cleansing, cultural erasure and fomenting of hatred against Azerbaijanis systematically infringe[d] the rights and freedoms of Azerbaijanis, as well as Azerbaijan’s own rights, in violation of [the Convention]”.

122. As basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, Azerbaijan invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article 22 of the Convention, to which both States are Parties.

123. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures.

124. On 7 December 2021, following public hearings, the Court delivered its order on that request, indicating certain provisional measures. The full text of the order can be found on the case page of the Court’s website. The Court also ordered both Parties to refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve.

125. By an order dated 21 January 2022, the Court fixed 23 January 2023 and 23 January 2024 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Azerbaijan and the counter-memorial of Armenia. The memorial of Azerbaijan was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

126. On 4 January 2023, Azerbaijan filed a second request for the indication of provisional measures, asking the Court to order Armenia to “immediately take all necessary steps to enable Azerbaijan to undertake the prompt, safe and effective demining of the towns, villages, and other areas to which Azerbaijani civilians will return in the Lachin District, Kalbajar District and other formerly occupied districts of Azerbaijan” and to “immediately cease and desist from any further efforts to plant or to sponsor or support the planting of landmines and booby traps in these areas to which Azerbaijani civilians will return in Azerbaijan’s territory, including, but not limited to, the use of the Lachin Corridor for this purpose”.

127. On 22 February 2023, following public hearings, the Court issued an order on the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted on 4 January 2023, unanimously rejecting the request.

128. On 21 April 2023, Armenia raised three preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the application. In its first preliminary objection, Armenia argued that the Court lacked jurisdiction *ratione temporis* with respect to Azerbaijan’s claims concerning alleged acts that occurred between 23 July 1993 and 15 September 1996, the period during which Armenia was a State party to the Convention while Azerbaijan was not, or that, alternatively, such claims were inadmissible. In its second preliminary objection, Armenia contended that the Court lacked jurisdiction *ratione materiae* with respect to the claims of Azerbaijan concerning the alleged placement of landmines and booby traps. In its third preliminary objection, Armenia submitted that the Court lacked jurisdiction *ratione materiae* with respect to the claims of Azerbaijan concerning alleged environmental harm.

129. By an order dated 25 April 2023, the President of the Court fixed 21 August 2023 as the time limit within which Azerbaijan might present a written statement of



its observations and submissions on those preliminary objections. Azerbaijan submitted its statement within the time limit thus fixed.

130. Public hearings on the preliminary objections raised by Armenia were held from 22 to 26 April 2024.

131. On 12 November 2024, the Court rendered its judgment on the preliminary objections, the operative part of which reads as follows:

“For these reasons,

The Court,

(1) By fourteen votes to three,

Upholds the first preliminary objection raised by the Republic of Armenia;

In favour: President Salam; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Xue, Bhandari, Iwasawa, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Aurescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Daudet;

Against: Judges Yusuf, Cleveland; Judge ad hoc Koroma;

(2) By sixteen votes to one,

Rejects the second preliminary objection raised by the Republic of Armenia;

In favour: President Salam; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Yusuf, Xue, Bhandari, Iwasawa, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aurescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Daudet;

Against: Judge ad hoc Koroma;

(3) By twelve votes to five,

Upholds the third preliminary objection raised by the Republic of Armenia;

In favour: President Salam; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Yusuf, Xue, Bhandari, Iwasawa, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Aurescu; Judge ad hoc Daudet;

Against: Judges Nolte, Charlesworth, Cleveland, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Koroma;

(4) Unanimously,

Finds that it has jurisdiction, on the basis of Article 22 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, subject to points 1 and 3 of the present operative clause, to entertain the Application filed by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 23 September 2021.”

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

132. On 26 February 2022, Ukraine filed an application instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation concerning “a dispute ... relating to the interpretation, application and fulfilment of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”.

133. Ukraine contended, inter alia, that “the Russian Federation ha[d] falsely claimed that acts of genocide ha[d] occurred in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine, and on that basis recognized the so-called ‘Donetsk People’s Republic’ and ‘Luhansk

People's Republic', and then declared and implemented a 'special military operation' against Ukraine". Ukraine "emphatically denie[d]" that such acts of genocide had occurred and stated that it had submitted the application "to establish that Russia ha[d] no lawful basis to take action in and against Ukraine for the purpose of preventing and punishing any purported genocide".

134. As basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Ukraine invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article IX of the Convention, to which both States are Parties.

135. The application of Ukraine was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures.

136. On 16 March 2022, following public hearings with the participation of the delegation of Ukraine, the Court delivered its order on that request. In that order, the Court indicated certain provisional measures. In particular, it ordered the Russian Federation to immediately suspend the military operations that it had commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine and to ensure that any military or irregular armed units which might be directed or supported by it, as well as any organizations and persons which might be subject to its control or direction, took no steps in furtherance of such military operations. The Court further directed both parties to refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.

137. By an order dated 23 March 2022, the Court fixed 23 September 2022 and 23 March 2023 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Ukraine and the counter-memorial of the Russian Federation. The memorial of Ukraine was filed on 1 July 2022.

138. On 17 August 2022, the European Union, referring to Article 34, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, and article 69, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Court, furnished, on its own initiative, information that it considered relevant to the case.

139. On 3 October 2022, the Russian Federation raised preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the application.

140. By an order dated 7 October 2022, the Court fixed 3 February 2023 as the time limit within which Ukraine might present a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by the Russian Federation. Ukraine filed its statement within the time limit thus fixed.

141. By letters dated 31 October 2022, the Court informed the States Parties to the Convention that, taking into account the number of declarations of intervention filed in the case, it considered that the interest of the sound administration of justice and procedural efficiency would be advanced if any State that intended to avail itself of the right of intervention conferred on it by Article 63 of the Statute of the Court were to file its declaration not later than 15 December 2022.

142. From 21 July to 15 December 2022, 33 States filed in the Registry declarations of intervention in the case, pursuant to Article 63, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court.

143. The Russian Federation filed objections to the admissibility of all the declarations of intervention. The Court therefore decided, pursuant to article 84, paragraph 2, of its Rules, to hear the parties and the States seeking to intervene on the admissibility of the declarations of intervention by means of a written procedure.

144. By an order dated 5 June 2023, the Court decided that the declarations of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute submitted by Australia, Austria, Belgium and Bulgaria, by Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (jointly), and by

Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom were admissible at the preliminary objections stage of the proceedings insofar as they concerned the construction of article IX and other provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide that were relevant for the determination of the jurisdiction of the Court. The Court also decided that the declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute submitted by the United States was inadmissible insofar as it concerned the preliminary objections stage of the proceedings.

145. By the same order, the Court fixed 5 July 2023 as the time limit for the filing of written observations on the subject matter of the interventions by the States whose declarations of intervention had been deemed admissible at the preliminary objections stage of the proceedings. Thirty-one intervening States filed written observations within the time limit thus fixed.

146. Public hearings on the preliminary objections raised by the Russian Federation were held from 18 to 27 September 2023. Thirty-two intervening States presented oral observations at the hearings.

147. On 2 February 2024, the Court rendered its judgment on the preliminary objections. In its judgment, the Court concluded that it had jurisdiction, on the basis of article IX of the Convention, to entertain submission (b) in paragraph 178 of the memorial of Ukraine, whereby Ukraine had requested the Court to “[a]djudge and declare that there [was] no credible evidence that Ukraine [was] responsible for committing genocide in violation of the Genocide Convention in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine”, and that that submission was admissible. However, the Court found that it did not have jurisdiction to entertain submissions (c) and (d) in paragraph 178 of the memorial of Ukraine, whereby Ukraine had requested the Court to “(c) [a]djudge and declare that the Russian Federation’s use of force in and against Ukraine beginning on 24 February 2022 violate[d] Articles I and IV of the Convention” and “(d) [a]djudge and declare that the Russian Federation’s recognition of the independence of the so-called ‘Donetsk People’s Republic’ and ‘Luhansk People’s Republic’ on 21 February 2022 violate[d] Articles I and IV of the Convention”.

148. By an order dated 2 February 2024, the Court fixed 2 August 2024 as the new time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of the Russian Federation. By an order dated 30 July 2024, the Court extended that time limit to 16 September 2024.

149. By a letter dated 18 June 2024, the Registrar invited those States that had previously filed declarations of intervention pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute of the Court to indicate, by 2 August 2024, whether they wished to file a new declaration, maintain their original declaration or, if necessary, file an adjusted declaration for the purposes of the merits stage of the proceedings.

150. By 2 August 2024, six States had notified the Registrar that they wished to maintain their original declaration of intervention (in order of receipt of notification: Romania; Portugal; France; Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (jointly); and Italy); eight States had filed adjusted declarations of intervention (in order of receipt: Lithuania, Latvia, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Sweden, Australia, the United Kingdom and Denmark); and nine States had filed new declarations of intervention (in order of receipt: Poland; Spain; Estonia; Germany; Austria, Czechia, Finland and Slovenia (jointly); and Bulgaria).

151. In accordance with article 83, paragraph 1, of the rules of Court, Ukraine and the Russian Federation were invited to furnish written observations on the

admissibility of those declarations of intervention at the merits stage. Ukraine filed its written observations on 5 November 2024.

152. On 23 July 2024, Poland filed an application for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute of the Court and a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute in relation to the merits phase of the proceedings.

153. By an order dated 9 September 2024, the President of the Court extended to 18 November 2024 the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of the Russian Federation. On 18 November 2024, the Russian Federation filed its counter-memorial, which contained counter-claims. Ukraine subsequently objected to the admissibility of the counter-claims.

154. In accordance with article 80, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Court, the Court invited Ukraine and the Russian Federation to submit their views on the matter by 20 May 2025 and 22 September 2025, respectively.

**7. *Questions of Jurisdictional Immunities of the State and Measures of Constraint against State-Owned Property (Germany v. Italy)***

155. On 29 April 2022, Germany filed an application instituting proceedings against Italy for allegedly failing to respect its jurisdictional immunity as a sovereign State.

156. In its application, Germany recalled that, on 3 February 2012, the Court had rendered its judgment on the question of jurisdictional immunity in the case concerning *Jurisdictional Immunities of the State (Germany v. Italy: Greece intervening)*. Germany stated that, “[n]otwithstanding [the] pronouncements [in that judgment], the Italian domestic courts, since 2012, ha[d] entertained a significant number of new claims against Germany in violation of Germany’s sovereign immunity”.

157. As basis for the jurisdiction of the Court, Germany invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article 1 of the European Convention for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes of 29 April 1957.

158. The application of Germany was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures. Hearings on that request were scheduled to open on 9 May 2022.

159. By a letter dated 4 May 2022, Germany informed the Court that, following recent judicial developments in Italy and discussions between representatives of the two States held from 2 to 4 May 2022, it had decided to withdraw its request for the indication of provisional measures.

160. By an order dated 10 May 2022, the President of the Court placed on record the withdrawal by Germany of its request for the indication of provisional measures.

161. By an order dated 10 June 2022, the Court fixed 12 June 2023 and 12 June 2024 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Germany and the counter-memorial of Italy. By an order dated 30 May 2023, the Court extended those time limits to 12 January 2024 and 12 August 2025, respectively. By an order of the President dated 5 December 2023, the time limits were further extended to 12 January 2025 and 12 August 2027, respectively.

162. By an order dated 17 December 2024, the Court suspended the proceedings in the case, pending notification from one of the Parties. The order was adopted following a request addressed to the Court by Germany, and not opposed by Italy, to suspend the proceedings, pending the completion of certain domestic proceedings in Italy, which could, depending on their outcome, lead to the discontinuance of the case before the Court by mutual consent of the Parties.

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

163. On 29 September 2022, Equatorial Guinea instituted proceedings against France with regard to a dispute concerning the alleged violation, by France, of its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 31 October 2003, on the grounds that France had not returned to Equatorial Guinea property which constituted the proceeds of a crime of misappropriation of public funds committed against it, including immovable property of which it was the effective and legitimate owner before its confiscation by France, and that France had not extended to Equatorial Guinea the cooperation and assistance required for the purpose of returning such property to it. As basis for the jurisdiction of the Court, the applicant invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article 66 of the Convention against Corruption.

164. In its application, Equatorial Guinea stated that, on 15 September 2011, it had acquired from Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue all of the shares of five Swiss companies, one of which owned the entire share capital of two French companies, including “Société du 42 avenue Foch”, which managed the building located at the same address in Paris. Equatorial Guinea further contended that, on 28 July 2021, the French Cour de cassation had upheld the conviction of Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue for the offence of laundering the proceeds of misappropriation of public funds, misuse of corporate assets and breach of trust, and had also upheld the confiscation of the building, the property that had been seized and other movable property. Equatorial Guinea asserted that it had initiated requests, on the basis of the Convention against Corruption, for the return of certain assets corresponding to property confiscated by France, to which the latter had not responded. It added that, on 29 July 2022, France had announced “the imminent offering for sale of an item of property whose return [was] sought by Equatorial Guinea, namely the building located at 40–42 avenue Foch in Paris”.

165. By an order dated 15 December 2022, the Court fixed 17 July 2023 and 19 February 2024 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Equatorial Guinea and the counter-memorial of France. Those pleadings were filed within the time limits thus fixed.

166. By an order dated 28 May 2024, the President of the Court fixed 28 March 2025 and 28 January 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the reply of Equatorial Guinea and the rejoinder of France.

167. By an order dated 27 February 2025, the Court extended to 28 July 2025 and 28 May 2026 the respective time limits for the filing of the reply of Equatorial Guinea and the rejoinder of France. The reply was filed within the time limit thus extended.

168. On 3 July 2025, Equatorial Guinea filed a request for the indication of provisional measures, in which it requested, inter alia, that France be directed to take all necessary measures to ensure that the building was not offered for sale and to ensure that Equatorial Guinea had immediate, full and unimpeded access to the entire building.

169. Public hearings on that request took place on 15 July 2025.

**9. *Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)***

170. On 8 June 2023, Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands filed a joint application instituting proceedings against the Syrian Arab Republic concerning

alleged violations of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In their application, Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands contended that “Syria ha[d] committed countless violations of international law, beginning at least in 2011, with its violent repression of civilian demonstrations, and continuing as the situation in Syria devolved into a protracted armed conflict”. According to the applicants, those “violations include[d] the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment ..., including through abhorrent treatment of detainees, inhumane conditions in places of detention, enforced disappearances, the use of sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against children”. The applicants claimed that the violations for which the Syrian Arab Republic was responsible also included the use of chemical weapons. As basis for the jurisdiction of the Court, the applicants invoked article 30, paragraph 1, of the Convention against Torture and Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court.

171. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures.

172. A public hearing on that request was held on 10 October 2023, with the participation of the delegations of Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

173. On 16 November 2023, the Court rendered its order on the request. In its order, the Court indicated provisional measures directing the Syrian Arab Republic to “take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and ensure that its officials, as well as any organizations or persons which may be subject to its control, direction or influence, do not commit any acts of torture or other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” and to “take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of any evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of the Convention against Torture”.

174. By an order dated 1 February 2024, the Court fixed 3 February 2025 and 3 February 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the counter-memorial of the Syrian Arab Republic.

175. By an order dated 17 December 2024, the Court extended to 3 June 2025 and 5 October 2026 the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the counter-memorial of the Syrian Arab Republic. The memorial was filed within the time limit thus extended.

**10. *Aerial Incident of 8 January 2020 (Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom v. Islamic Republic of Iran)***

176. On 4 July 2023, Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom filed a joint application instituting proceedings against the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning a dispute under the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971 (the “Montreal Convention”).

177. In their application, Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom claimed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had violated a series of obligations arising under the Montreal Convention as a result of the shooting down on 8 January 2020 of a civil aircraft in service, Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752, by military personnel of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran. All 176 passengers and crew aboard the flight, many of whom were nationals and residents of the applicant States, were killed in the crash.

178. According to the applicants, the Islamic Republic of Iran failed to take all practicable measures to prevent the unlawful and intentional commission of an offence described in article 1 of the Montreal Convention, including the destruction of flight PS752, and subsequently failed to conduct an impartial, transparent and fair criminal investigation and prosecution consistent with international law. In the applicants' view, these and other acts and omissions by the Islamic Republic of Iran violated the requirements of the Montreal Convention.

179. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom sought to found the Court's jurisdiction on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and on article 14, paragraph 1, of the Montreal Convention.

180. By an order dated 16 October 2023, the Court fixed 16 October 2024 and 16 October 2025 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom and the counter-memorial of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

181. On 16 January 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran raised preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the application.

182. By an order dated 17 January 2025, the Vice-President of the Court, Acting President, fixed 16 May 2025 as the time limit for the presentation by Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of a written statement of their observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised. The written statement was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

**11. *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)***

183. On 29 December 2023, South Africa filed an application instituting proceedings against Israel concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

184. The acts and omissions by Israel of which South Africa complained included killing Palestinians in Gaza, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, and inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction. According to the applicant, those acts and omissions were "genocidal in character, as they [were] committed with the requisite specific intent ... to destroy Palestinians in Gaza as a part of the broader Palestinian national, racial and ethnical group". Accordingly, South Africa alleged that the conduct of Israel in relation to Palestinians in Gaza was in violation of its obligations under the Genocide Convention. South Africa contended that "Israel, since 7 October 2023 in particular, ha[d] failed to prevent genocide and ha[d] failed to prosecute the direct and public incitement to genocide", and that "Israel ha[d] engaged in, [was] engaging in and risk[ed] further engaging in genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza".

185. South Africa sought to found the Court's jurisdiction on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and on article IX of the Genocide Convention, to which both South Africa and Israel are Parties.

186. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures in order to "protect against further, severe and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people under the Genocide Convention" and "to ensure Israel's compliance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention not to engage in genocide, and to prevent and to punish genocide".

187. Public hearings on the request of South Africa were held on 11 and 12 January 2024.

188. The Court ruled on the request by an order dated 26 January 2024, in which it indicated provisional measures directing Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of article II of the Genocide Convention in relation to Palestinians in Gaza; to ensure with immediate effect that its military did not commit any such acts; to take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip; to take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip; to take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of article II and article III of the Genocide Convention; and to submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to the order within one month as from the date thereof.

189. On 23 January 2024, Nicaragua, referring to Article 62 of the Statute of the Court, filed in the Registry an application for permission to intervene “as a party” in the case.

190. By a letter dated 12 February 2024, South Africa, referring to “the developing circumstances in Rafah”, called upon the Court urgently to exercise its power under article 75, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court.

191. On 16 February 2024, the Court, having duly considered the letter of South Africa and the observations of Israel thereon received on 15 February 2024, decided that the recent developments in the Gaza Strip, and in Rafah in particular, did not demand the indication of additional provisional measures. The Court noted, however, that the situation called for the immediate and effective implementation of the provisional measures indicated in its order of 26 January 2024, which were applicable throughout the Gaza Strip, including in Rafah. The Court further emphasized that “the State of Israel remains bound to fully comply with its obligations under the Genocide Convention and with the said Order, including by ensuring the safety and security of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip”. The Court’s decision was communicated to the parties by letters from the Registrar.

192. On 6 March 2024, South Africa requested the Court “to indicate further provisional measures and/or to modify its provisional measures indicated on 26 January 2024”, with reference to Article 41 of the Statute and to articles 75, paragraphs 1 and 3, and 76, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court. On 15 March 2024, Israel furnished its written observations on that request.

193. The Court ruled on the request of South Africa by an order dated 28 March 2024, in which it reaffirmed the provisional measures indicated in its order of 26 January 2024 and indicated additional measures directing Israel to “[t]ake all necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, in full co-operation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision at scale by all concerned of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, including food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene and sanitation requirements, as well as medical supplies and medical care to Palestinians throughout Gaza, including by increasing the capacity and number of land crossing points and maintaining them open for as long as necessary”.

194. In its order, the Court also directed Israel to “[e]nsure with immediate effect that its military [did] not commit acts which constitute[d] a violation of any of the rights of the Palestinians in Gaza as a protected group under the [Genocide Convention], including by preventing, through any action, the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance”. In addition, Israel was ordered to submit a report to the



Court on all measures taken to give effect to the order within one month as from the date thereof.

195. By an order dated 5 April 2024, the Court fixed 28 October 2024 and 28 July 2025 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of South Africa and the counter-memorial of Israel.

196. On 5 April and 10 May 2024 respectively, Colombia and Libya, invoking Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, filed declarations of intervention in the case.

197. On 10 May 2024, South Africa submitted to the Court an “urgent request for the modification and indication of provisional measures” pursuant to Article 41 of the Statute of the Court and articles 75 and 76 of the Rules of Court. On 16 and 17 May 2024, the Court held public hearings on that request.

198. The Court ruled on the request by an order of 24 May 2024, in which it reaffirmed the provisional measures indicated in its orders of 26 January 2024 and 28 March 2024 and indicated additional measures. In particular, it directed Israel “in conformity with its obligations under the [Genocide Convention], and in view of the worsening conditions of life faced by civilians in the Rafah Governorate”, to “[i]mmediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part”. Israel was also directed to “[m]aintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance” and to “[t]ake effective measures to ensure the unimpeded access to the Gaza Strip of any commission of inquiry, fact-finding mission or other investigative body mandated by competent organs of the United Nations to investigate allegations of genocide”. Lastly, Israel was ordered to submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to the order, within one month as from the date thereof.

199. On 24 May 2024, Mexico, invoking Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, filed a declaration of intervention in the case.

200. On 31 May 2024, pursuant to Security Council resolution [9 \(1946\)](#) (adopted by the Council by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by Article 35, paragraph 2, of the Statute), the State of Palestine filed in the Registry of the Court a declaration accepting “with immediate effect the competence of the International Court of Justice for the settlement of all disputes that may arise or that have already arisen covered by Article IX of the [Genocide Convention], to which the State of Palestine acceded on 2 April 2014”. On the same day, the State of Palestine filed an application for permission to intervene in the proceedings under Article 62 of the Statute of the Court and a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute.

201. On 28 June 2024, Spain, invoking Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, filed a declaration of intervention in the case.

202. During the period under review, Türkiye (on 7 August 2024), Chile (on 12 September 2024), Maldives (on 1 October 2024), the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on 8 October 2024), Ireland (on 6 January 2025) and Cuba (on 10 January 2025) filed declarations of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute. On 30 January 2025, Belize, referring to Articles 62 and 63 of the Statute, filed in the Registry of the Court a document containing an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the case.

203. On 1 April 2025, Nicaragua informed the Court that it had decided to withdraw the application for permission to intervene that it had submitted under Article 62 of the Statute of the Court on 23 January 2024.

204. By an order dated 14 April 2025, the Court extended to 12 January 2026 the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial of Israel.

**12. *Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)***

205. On 1 March 2024, Nicaragua filed an application instituting proceedings against Germany for alleged violations by Germany of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as “intransgressible principles of international humanitarian law and other peremptory norms of general international law” in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular the Gaza Strip.

206. In its application, Nicaragua stated that “[e]ach and every Contracting Party to the Genocide Convention has a duty under the Convention to do everything possible to prevent the commission of genocide” and that, since October 2023, there had been “a recognised risk of genocide against the Palestinian people, directed first of all against the population of the Gaza Strip”.

207. Nicaragua further argued that, by providing political, financial and military support to Israel and by defunding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, “Germany [was] facilitating the commission of genocide and, in any case ha[d] failed in its obligation to do everything possible to prevent the commission of genocide”.

208. Nicaragua sought to found the Court’s jurisdiction on the declarations by which both States had accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court pursuant to Article 36, paragraph 2, of its Statute and on the compromissory clause contained in article IX of the Genocide Convention.

209. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures, in which Nicaragua asked the Court to indicate provisional measures as a matter of extreme urgency, pending the Court’s determination on the merits of the case, with respect to the “participation [of Germany] in the ongoing plausible genocide and serious breaches of international humanitarian law and other peremptory norms of general international law occurring in the Gaza Strip”.

210. Public hearings on the request were held on 8 and 9 April 2024.

211. The Court ruled on the request by an order dated 30 April 2024, finding that the circumstances, as they then presented themselves to the Court, were not such as to require the exercise of its power under Article 41 of the Statute to indicate provisional measures.

212. By an order dated 19 July 2024, the Court fixed 21 July 2025 and 21 July 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Nicaragua and the counter-memorial of Germany. The memorial was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

**13. *Embassy of Mexico in Quito (Mexico v. Ecuador)***

213. On 11 April 2024, Mexico filed an application instituting proceedings against Ecuador with regard to a dispute relating to “legal questions concerning the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and diplomatic relations, and the inviolability of a diplomatic mission”.

214. In its application, Mexico stated that, on 5 April 2024, “[a]round 15 special operations agents” from Ecuador entered the Embassy of Mexico in Quito “by

forcible means and without authorization”. It further stated that, during the incident, the Deputy Chief of Mission, Roberto Canseco Martínez, had been “violently assaulted” and that “[t]he agents then took Jorge David Glas Espinel ..., former Vice-president of the Republic of Ecuador, placing him inside one of the vehicles and leaving the premises”. Mexico contended that the incident of 5 April was not isolated but followed “a series of continued acts of intimidation and harassment” prompted by the arrival of Mr. Glas at the Embassy on 17 December 2023 and his subsequent request for asylum, which had been formally filed on 20 December 2023 and had later been granted.

215. The applicant claimed that “Ecuador ha[d] violated Mexico’s rights under customary and conventional international law, as well as fundamental principles upon which the international legal system [was] based”.

216. Mexico invoked as basis for the Court’s jurisdiction Article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Statute of the Court and article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (Pact of Bogotá) of 30 April 1948, to which both States are Parties. In the light of the violations alleged, Mexico requested the Court to award remedies, including full reparation, and “[t]o suspend Ecuador as a member of the United Nations”.

217. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures. Public hearings on that request were held on 30 April and 1 May 2024.

218. On 23 May 2024, the Court delivered its order on the request, finding that the circumstances, as they then presented themselves to the Court, were not such as to require the exercise of its power under Article 41 of the Statute to indicate provisional measures.

219. By an order dated 19 July 2024, the Court fixed 22 April 2025 and 22 January 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Mexico and the counter-memorial of Ecuador. The memorial was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

#### **14. *Glas Espinel (Ecuador v. Mexico)***

220. On 29 April 2024, Ecuador filed an application instituting proceedings against Mexico with regard to a dispute relating to the alleged violation by Mexico of a series of obligations owed to Ecuador under international law, arising inter alia from the conduct of Mexico in relation to Jorge David Glas Espinel, former Vice-President of Ecuador.

221. In its application, Ecuador contended that Mexico had used the premises of its diplomatic mission in Quito between 17 December 2023 and 5 April 2024 “to shield Mr. Glas from enforcement by Ecuador of its criminal law” in relation to several criminal proceedings and investigations instituted by Ecuador against him, and that those actions had “constituted, among other things, a blatant misuse of the premises of a diplomatic mission”. Ecuador further accused Mexico of unlawfully granting Mr. Glas political asylum and of interfering in its internal affairs.

222. Ecuador sought to found the Court’s jurisdiction on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (Pact of Bogotá) of 30 April 1948, to which both States are Parties.

223. By an order dated 19 July 2024, the Court fixed 22 April 2025 and 22 January 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Ecuador and the counter-memorial of Mexico. The memorial was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

**15. *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v. United Arab Emirates)***

224. On 5 March 2025, the Sudan filed an application instituting proceedings against the United Arab Emirates regarding alleged violations by the United Arab Emirates of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to the Masalit group in the Sudan, most notably in West Darfur.

225. The application of the Sudan concerned “acts which ha[d] been perpetrated by an organization that [went] by the name the Rapid Support Forces (‘RSF’) and militias allied with it, including, but not limited to, genocide, murder, theft of property, rape, forcible displacement, trespassing, vandalism of public properties, and violation of human rights”. According to the Sudan, all such acts had been “perpetrated and enabled by the direct support given to the rebel RSF militia and related militia groups by the United Arab Emirates”. The application also concerned “acts adopted, condoned, taken, and being taken by the Government of the United Arab Emirates in connection with the genocide against the Masalit group in the Republic of the Sudan since at least 2023”. The Sudan contended that “the acts and omissions by the United Arab Emirates complained of by ... the Sudan [were] genocidal in character because they [were] intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Masalit group”.

226. The Sudan invoked as basis for the Court’s jurisdiction Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and article IX of the Genocide Convention, to which both the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates are Parties.

227. The application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures, in which the Sudan requested the Court, pending a final judgment in the case, to indicate provisional measures ordering the United Arab Emirates, in relation to the Masalit in the Sudan, to “take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of the [Genocide] Convention”, and “to ensure that any irregular armed units which [might] be directed or supported by it and any organizations and persons which [might] be subject to its control, direction or influence, [did] not commit” any of the above-mentioned acts, or conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempts to commit genocide, or complicity in genocide.

228. Public hearings on the request were held on 10 April 2025.

229. On 24 April 2025, Serbia, invoking Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, filed in the Registry of the Court a declaration of intervention in the case.

230. The Court ruled on the request of the Sudan by an order dated 5 May 2025, the operative part of which reads as follows:

“For these reasons,

The Court,

(1) By fourteen votes to two,

Rejects the Request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by the Republic of the Sudan on 5 March 2025;

In favour: President Iwasawa; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Xue, Bhandari, Nolte, Charlesworth, Brant, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Aurescu, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Couvreur;

Against: Judge Yusuf; Judge ad hoc Simma;

(2) By nine votes to seven,

Orders that the case be removed from the General List.

In favour: President Iwasawa; Vice-President Sebutinde; Judges Tomka, Abraham, Xue, Nolte, Brant, Aurescu; Judge ad hoc Couvreur;

Against: Judges Yusuf, Bhandari, Charlesworth, Gómez Robledo, Cleveland, Tladi; Judge ad hoc Simma.”

231. The removal of the case from the General List also brought to a close the incidental proceedings concerning the declaration of intervention submitted by Serbia. The parties and Serbia were duly informed.

**16. *Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)***

232. On 17 April 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran instituted proceedings against Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. According to the Islamic Republic of Iran, its application “constitute[d] an appeal against the decision rendered by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization” (ICAO) on 17 March 2025, in proceedings initiated jointly by the above-mentioned States against the Islamic Republic of Iran on 8 January 2024, pursuant to article 84 of the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) concerning the settlement of disputes.

233. In its application, the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the proceedings before the ICAO Council “concern[ed] a disagreement relating to the interpretation and application of the Chicago Convention with respect to the erroneous shooting down of a civil aircraft in flight – Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 (‘Flight PS752’) by Iran’s military on 8 January 2020”. The Islamic Republic of Iran further stated that “[t]he subject matter of the dispute referred to the Court is Iran’s appeal against the validity and correctness of the Decision of the ICAO Council rendered on 17 March 2025 in relation the preliminary objections” raised by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

234. The Islamic Republic of Iran sought to found the Court’s jurisdiction on article 84 of the Chicago Convention, in conjunction with Article 36, paragraph 1, and Article 37 of the Statute of the Court.

235. By an order dated 19 June 2025, the Court fixed 19 January 2026 and 19 August 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the counter-memorial of Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

**17. *Kohler and Paris (France v. Islamic Republic of Iran)***

236. On 16 May 2025, France filed an application instituting proceedings against the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to a dispute concerning “serious and repeated breaches by Iran of its obligations under the [Vienna] Convention [on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963] in the context of the arrest, detention and trial of several French nationals in Iran”.

237. The application related to “the hostage policy pursued by Iran against French nationals since May 2022”, which, according to France, “target[ed] French nationals travelling in or visiting Iran by accusing them of various offences relating to Iranian national security”.

238. The application specifically concerned the detention by the Islamic Republic of Iran of two French nationals, Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris.

239. The applicant sought to found the Court’s jurisdiction on Article 36 of the Statute of the Court, read in conjunction with article I of the Optional Protocol to the Vienna

Convention on Consular Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes of 24 April 1963, to which both France and the Islamic Republic of Iran are Parties.

240. By an order dated 17 July 2025, the Court fixed 2 December 2025 and 17 April 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of France and the counter-memorial of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

# **18. *Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)***

241. On 19 May 2025, Lithuania filed an application instituting proceedings against Belarus with regard to a dispute relating to alleged breaches by Belarus “of its obligations under the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the ‘Protocol’), in relation to the large-scale smuggling of irregular migrants from Belarus into Lithuania”.

242. According to Lithuania, Belarus had “breached many of its obligations under the Protocol by: facilitating, supporting, and enabling the smuggling of migrants, and also failing to take necessary border measures to prevent and detect the smuggling of migrants and to ensure the security and control of documents ...; failing to exchange information to prevent, detect, and investigate the smuggling of migrants, strengthen cooperation with Lithuania’s border control agencies, and cooperate in the field of public information to prevent potential migrants from falling victim to organised criminalized groups ...; and failing to preserve and protect the rights of migrants and afford them appropriate assistance”. Lithuania contended that “[t]he smuggling of migrants through Belarus into Lithuania ha[d] caused serious harm to Lithuania’s sovereignty, security, and public order, as well as to the rights and interests of the smuggled migrants themselves, who ha[d] been exposed to grave abuses in trying to reach Lithuanian territory”.

243. The Applicant sought to found the Court’s jurisdiction on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and on article 20, paragraph 2, of the Protocol, to which both Lithuania and Belarus are Parties.

244. By an order dated 17 July 2025, the Court decided that the parties’ written pleadings would first be addressed to the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the application and fixed 19 January 2026 and 20 July 2026 as the respective time limits for the filing of the memorial of Belarus and the counter-memorial of Lithuania on those questions.

## **B. Pending advisory proceedings during the period under review**

### **1. *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change***

245. On 29 March 2023, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution [77/276](#), in which, referring to Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, it requested the Court to render an advisory opinion on the following questions:

“(a) What are the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases for States and for present and future generations;

(b) What are the legal consequences under these obligations for States where they, by their acts and omissions, have caused significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment, with respect to:

(i) States, including, in particular, small island developing States, which due to their geographical circumstances and level of development, are injured or specially affected by or are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

(ii) Peoples and individuals of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change?”

246. The request for an advisory opinion was transmitted to the Court by the Secretary-General of the United Nations by a letter dated 12 April 2023.

247. By an order dated 20 April 2023, the President of the Court decided, pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court, that the United Nations and its Member States were likely to be able to furnish information on the questions submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion. The Court fixed 20 October 2023 as the time limit within which written statements on those questions might be presented to the Court, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute, and 22 January 2024 as the time limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements might submit written comments on the written statements made by other States or organizations, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 4, of the Statute. The Court subsequently authorized the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law, the European Union, the African Union, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Alliance of Small Island States, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office and the World Health Organization to participate in the proceedings.

248. By an order dated 4 August 2023, the President of the Court extended the time limits for the submission of written statements and for the submission of written comments on those written statements to 22 January 2024 and 22 April 2024, respectively. By an order dated 15 December 2023, the President further extended those time limits to 22 March 2024 and 24 June 2024, respectively.

249. Ninety-one written statements were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): Portugal; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Colombia; Palau; Tonga; Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries; International Union for Conservation of Nature; Singapore; Peru; Solomon Islands; Canada; Cook Islands; Seychelles; Kenya; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (jointly); Melanesian Spearhead Group; Philippines; Albania; Vanuatu; Federated States of Micronesia; Saudi Arabia; Sierra Leone; Switzerland; Liechtenstein; Grenada; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Belize; United Kingdom; Kingdom of the Netherlands; The Bahamas; United Arab Emirates; Marshall Islands; Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office; Pacific Islands Forum; France; New Zealand; Slovenia; Kiribati; Forum Fisheries Agency; China; Timor-Leste; Republic of Korea; India; Japan; Samoa; Alliance of Small Island States; Islamic Republic of Iran; Latvia; Mexico; South Africa; Ecuador; Cameroon; Spain; Barbados; African Union; Sri Lanka; Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States; Madagascar; Uruguay; Egypt; Chile; Namibia; Tuvalu; Romania; United States; Bangladesh; European Union; Kuwait; Argentina; Mauritius; Nauru; World Health Organization; Costa Rica; Indonesia; Pakistan; Russian Federation; Antigua and Barbuda; Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law; El Salvador; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Australia; Brazil; Viet Nam; Dominican Republic; Ghana; Thailand; Germany; Nepal; Burkina Faso; and Gambia.

240. By an order dated 30 May 2024, the President of the Court further extended to 15 August 2024 the time limit for the filing of written comments.

251. Sixty-two sets of written comments on the written statements submitted were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): Palau, Dominican Republic, Timor-Leste, European Union, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Seychelles, France, Melanesian Spearhead Group, Kenya, Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Latvia, Solomon Islands, The Bahamas, Namibia, New Zealand, Colombia, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office, Japan, Gambia, Vanuatu, Sierra Leone, Albania, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United States, Barbados, Mauritius, Samoa, Islamic Republic of Iran, Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Burkina Faso, Chile, Brazil, Nauru, Belize, Cameroon, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Uruguay, Mexico, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Australia, Ecuador, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, African Union, Egypt and Pacific Islands Forum.

252. Public hearings were held from 2 to 13 December 2024. During the hearings, 96 States and 11 international organizations presented oral statements, in the following order: Vanuatu and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (jointly); South Africa; Albania; Germany; Antigua and Barbuda; Saudi Arabia; Australia; The Bahamas; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Philippines; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Dominica; Republic of Korea; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (jointly); Egypt; El Salvador; United Arab Emirates; Ecuador; Spain; United States; Russian Federation; Fiji; France; Sierra Leone; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Cook Islands; Marshall Islands; Solomon Islands; India; Islamic Republic of Iran; Indonesia; Jamaica; Papua New Guinea; Kenya; Kiribati; Kuwait; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Malawi; Maldives; African Union; Mexico; Micronesia; Myanmar; Namibia; Japan; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; State of Palestine; Pakistan; Palau; Panama; Kingdom of the Netherlands; Peru; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Portugal; Dominican Republic; Romania; United Kingdom; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Senegal; Seychelles; Gambia; Singapore; Slovenia; Sudan; Sri Lanka; Switzerland; Serbia; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Comoros; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia; Forum Fisheries Agency; Alliance of Small Island States; Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law; Pacific Community; Pacific Islands Forum; Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States; World Health Organization; European Union; and International Union for Conservation of Nature.

253. On 23 July 2025, the Court delivered its advisory opinion, the operative part of which reads as follows:

“For these reasons,

The Court,

(1) Unanimously,

Finds that it has jurisdiction to give the advisory opinion requested;

(2) Unanimously,

Decides to comply with the request for an advisory opinion;

(3) As regards question (a) put by the General Assembly:

A. Unanimously,

Is of the opinion that the climate change treaties set forth binding obligations for States parties to ensure the protection of the climate system and



other parts of the environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. These obligations include the following:

- (a) States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have an obligation to adopt measures with a view to contributing to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change;
- (b) States parties listed in Annex I to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have additional obligations to take the lead in combating climate change by limiting their greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing their greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs;
- (c) States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have a duty to co-operate with each other in order to achieve the underlying objective of the Convention;
- (d) States parties to the Kyoto Protocol must comply with applicable provisions of the Protocol;
- (e) States parties to the Paris Agreement have an obligation to act with due diligence in taking measures in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities capable of making an adequate contribution to achieving the temperature goal set out in the Agreement;
- (f) States parties to the Paris Agreement have an obligation to prepare, communicate and maintain successive and progressive nationally determined contributions which, inter alia, when taken together, are capable of achieving the temperature goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
- (g) States parties to the Paris Agreement have an obligation to pursue measures which are capable of achieving the objectives set out in their successive nationally determined contributions; and
- (h) States parties to the Paris Agreement have obligations of adaptation and co-operation, including through technology and financial transfers, which must be performed in good faith;

B. Unanimously,

Is of the opinion that customary international law sets forth obligations for States to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. These obligations include the following:

- (a) States have a duty to prevent significant harm to the environment by acting with due diligence and to use all means at their disposal to prevent activities carried out within their jurisdiction or control from causing significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;
- (b) States have a duty to co-operate with each other in good faith to prevent significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment, which requires sustained and continuous forms of co-operation by States when taking measures to prevent such harm;

## C. Unanimously,

Is of the opinion that States parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Kigali Amendment, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, have obligations under these treaties to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions;

## D. Unanimously,

Is of the opinion that States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea have an obligation to adopt measures to protect and preserve the marine environment, including from the adverse effects of climate change and to co-operate in good faith;

## E. Unanimously,

Is of the opinion that States have obligations under international human rights law to respect and ensure the effective enjoyment of human rights by taking necessary measures to protect the climate system and other parts of the environment;

## (4) As regards question (b) put by the General Assembly:

## Unanimously,

Is of the opinion that a breach by a State of any obligations identified in response to question (a) constitutes an internationally wrongful act entailing the responsibility of that State. The responsible State is under a continuing duty to perform the obligation breached. The legal consequences resulting from the commission of an internationally wrongful act may include the obligations of:

- (a) cessation of the wrongful actions or omissions, if they are continuing;
- (b) providing assurances and guarantees of non-repetition of wrongful actions or omissions, if circumstances so require; and
- (c) full reparation to injured States in the form of restitution, compensation and satisfaction, provided that the general conditions of the law of State responsibility are met, including that a sufficiently direct and certain causal nexus can be shown between the wrongful act and injury.”

## 2. *Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87*

254. On 10 November 2023, the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO), at its 349th bis (special) session, adopted a resolution on the interpretation of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), with respect to the right to strike, in which it requested an advisory opinion from the Court. In its resolution, the Governing Body, stating that it was “[c]onscious that there [was] serious and persistent disagreement” among the Organization’s tripartite constituents on the interpretation of the Convention, decided, in accordance with article 37, paragraph 1, of the ILO Constitution, “[t]o request the International Court of Justice to render urgently an advisory opinion under Article 65, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court, and under Article 103 of the Rules of Court, on the following question: Is the right to strike of workers and their organizations

protected under the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)?”

255. The request for an advisory opinion was transmitted to the Court by the Director-General of ILO by a letter dated 13 November 2023.

256. By an order dated 16 November 2023, the Court decided, pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, of its Statute, that ILO and the States Parties to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) were likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion, and that they might therefore present written statements to the Court.

257. By the same order, the Court fixed 16 May 2024 as the time limit within which written statements on the question might be presented to the Court, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 2, of its Statute, and 16 September 2024 as the time limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements might submit written comments on the written statements made by other States or organizations, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 4, of the Statute.

258. By the same order, the Court further decided that six organizations that had been granted general consultative status at ILO by the Governing Body (International Organization of Employers, International Trade Union Confederation, World Federation of Trade Unions, International Cooperative Alliance, Organization of African Trade Union Unity and Business Africa) were also likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to it for an advisory opinion, and it invited those organizations to make written contributions to the Court within the above-mentioned time limits.

259. The Court subsequently authorized the United States and Brazil, members of ILO not parties to ILO Convention No. 87, as well as the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, to participate in the proceedings.

260. Thirty-one written statements were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): International Cooperative Alliance, ILO, France, Vanuatu, Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Spain, Italy, International Trade Union Confederation, World Federation of Trade Unions, United Kingdom, Colombia, Bangladesh, Germany, Poland, Business Africa, International Organization of Employers, South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Tunisia, United States, Australia, Japan, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Somalia, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Belize and Brazil.

261. Fifteen sets of written comments on those statements were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): International Trade Union Confederation, Japan, Mexico, International Cooperative Alliance, Tunisia, Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, South Africa, Switzerland, United States, International Organization of Employers, Business Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Kingdom of the Netherlands and Vanuatu.

### **3. *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory***

262. On 19 December 2024, the General Assembly adopted resolution [79/232](#), in which, referring to Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, it requested the Court to render an advisory opinion on the following question:

“What are the obligations of Israel, as an occupying Power and as a member of the United Nations, in relation to the presence and activities of the United

Nations, including its agencies and bodies, other international organizations and third States, in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including to ensure and facilitate the unhindered provision of urgently needed supplies essential to the survival of the Palestinian civilian population as well as of basic services and humanitarian and development assistance, for the benefit of the Palestinian civilian population, and in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?"

263. The request for an advisory opinion was transmitted to the Court by the Secretary-General of the United Nations by a letter dated 20 December 2024, which was received in the Registry on 23 December 2024.

264. By an order dated 23 December 2024, the President decided, pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court, that the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the observer State of Palestine, were likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion. In the same order, the President fixed 28 February 2025 as the time limit within which written statements on the question might be presented to the Court, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute.

265. Forty-five written statements were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): Chile, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Türkiye, Pakistan, Qatar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Slovenia, Spain, Philippines, Kuwait, Hungary, South Africa, Namibia, Ireland, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Luxembourg, Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, China, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Algeria, Senegal, Bangladesh, Comoros, League of Arab States, Belgium, Vanuatu, Tunisia, Norway, Egypt, Iceland, Israel, France, Poland, State of Palestine, United States, Mexico, Colombia and Zambia.

266. Public hearings were held from 28 April to 2 May 2025. During the hearings, the State of Palestine, the United Nations, 38 United Nations Member States and three other international organizations presented oral statements, in the following order: United Nations, State of Palestine, Egypt, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Colombia, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Spain, United States, Russian Federation, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Türkiye, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Qatar, United Kingdom, China, Senegal, Slovenia, Sudan, Switzerland, Comoros, Tunisia, Vanuatu, League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and African Union.

267. As at 31 July 2025, the case was under deliberation. The Court's advisory opinion will be delivered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

## Chapter VI

### Information on outreach activities and visits to the Court

268. The Court endeavours to ensure that its work and activities are understood and publicized as widely as possible, through public speeches, meetings with high-level officials and presentations, through the use of multimedia platforms, the Court's website and social media channels, and through various outreach initiatives and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat.

#### 1. Statements by the President of the Court

269. During the period under review, Judge Salam, who served as President of the Court until 14 January 2025, gave a number of speeches on various aspects of the Court's work. In particular, on 16 October 2024, he delivered a speech entitled "Cherishing multilateralism" at the annual dinner of the International Association of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations. In an address delivered on 24 October 2024, at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, he gave an overview of the Court's activities during the period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. On 25 October 2024, he delivered a speech before the Sixth Committee of the Assembly.

270. Since becoming President of the Court on 3 March 2025, Judge Iwasawa has engaged with State representatives and various groups at meetings in The Hague and New York. The primary focus of these meetings has been on providing comprehensive details on the extensive judicial caseload of the Court, emphasizing the need for corresponding budgetary adjustments and calling for enhanced financial support to effectively address the evolving demands on the Court.

271. In addition, on 8 May 2025, President Iwasawa addressed the International Law Commission on the occasion of its seventy-sixth session, and on 26 June, he delivered a speech before the General Assembly on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. The full texts of the President's speeches can be found on the website of the Court, in the "Statements by the President" section under "The Court".

#### 2. Visits to the Court

272. From August 2024 to July 2025, the Court welcomed a number of high-level visitors to its seat at the Peace Palace. During these visits, the President, members of the Court, the Registrar and Registry officials exchanged views with their guests on the role and activities of the Court and its importance in ensuring peace and justice. The following dignitaries were received by the Court during the period under review: on 9 September 2024, Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador; on the same date, Samuel Mbemba Kabuya, Vice-Minister of Justice of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; on 1 October 2024, Eric Nussbaumer, President of the Swiss National Council; on 23 October 2024, members of the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch; on 22 and 23 October 2024, members of the Council of State of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; on 29 October 2024, a delegation from the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights; on 1 November 2024, Swiss Federal Councillor Beat Jans, Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police; on 4 November 2024, a delegation from the Supreme Judicial Council of Qatar; on 13 November 2024, Alejandro Solano-Ortiz, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; on 11 December 2024, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal; on 18 December 2024, Justice Chun Daeyup of the Supreme Court of Korea; on 21 January 2025, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Norwegian Parliament; on

17 February 2025, a delegation from the Advisory Legal Committee to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, headed by Henryka Mościcka-Dendys, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; on 14 March 2025, Alexander G. Gesmundo, Chief Justice of the Philippines; on 20 March 2025, David van Weel, Minister of Justice and Security of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; on 15 April 2025, members of the People's Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia; on Thursday 1 May 2025, Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, Norwegian State Secretary; on 5 May 2025, a delegation from the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Human Rights of the House of Representatives of Thailand; on 15 May 2025, Asko Vālimaa, President of the Helsinki Court of Appeal; on 17 June 2025, United States Congresswoman Ilhan Omar; on 7 July 2025, Paul Lam, Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong; on 17 July 2025, Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, and on 23 July 2025, Philemon Yang, President of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly.

273. On 19 June 2025, the Court received a framed set of traditional Turkish tiles from the Government of Türkiye as a mark of its appreciation and respect for the Court's efforts to maintain peace and achieve justice. On 17 July 2025, a bust of the first President of the Court, Judge José Gustavo Guerrero, was donated by the Government of El Salvador.

### 3. Outreach activities and presentations

274. The President, other members of the Court, the Registrar and various members of the Registry staff also regularly give presentations, both in The Hague and outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on the functioning, procedure and jurisprudence of the Court. Such presentations enable diplomats, academics, representatives of judicial authorities, students, media representatives and the general public to gain a better understanding of the role and activities of the Court.

275. During the period under review, these activities included: on 24 September 2024, a presentation to a delegation from the Qingdao Maritime Court of China; on 25 September 2024, an exchange between judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and members of the Court; on 26 September 2024, a briefing on the budget of the Court for heads of diplomatic missions and legal advisers to diplomatic missions accredited to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, organized by the Registrar; on 23 October 2024, the participation of the Registrar in a side event during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, organized by the Hague Academy of International Law as part of International Law Week, on the theme "Is international law a Babel's Tower?"; on 11 November 2024, a preparatory briefing with participants in the advisory proceedings concerning *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*; on 9 December 2024, an introductory briefing for young lawyers from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; on 27 March 2025, a study visit to the Court by a group of justices from the appellate courts of Thailand; on 1 April 2025, a briefing on the work of the Court for heads of diplomatic missions and legal advisers to diplomatic missions accredited to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, organized by the Registrar; on 15 May 2025, a presentation to the General Council of the Judiciary (*Consejo General del Poder Judicial*) of Spain; on 22 May 2025, a meeting with a delegation of justices from the ECOWAS Court of Justice; and, throughout the period under review, multiple presentations for United Nations Institute for Training and Research study groups.

### 4. Online resources and services

276. The Court's website contains its entire jurisprudence and that of its predecessor, the Permanent Court of International Justice, and provides first-hand information for

States and international organizations wishing to make use of the procedures open to them at the Court. It also contains electronic versions of case-related documents submitted by parties to contentious cases and by States and organizations participating in advisory proceedings, press releases, summaries of the Court's decisions, the Court's basic documents, publications and multimedia content. Electronic versions of the Court's press releases and summaries of its decisions are regularly sent to a distribution list including embassies, lawyers, universities, journalists and other interested institutions and persons worldwide.

277. As in the past, the Court continues to provide full live and recorded webcast coverage of its public sittings on its website; viewers can follow sittings in the original language or listen to the interpretation into the other official language of the Court. These webcasts are also broadcast on UN Web TV.

278. To increase the visibility of its work, the Court continues to develop and strengthen its social media presence, maintaining and regularly updating its LinkedIn, X and YouTube accounts.

## **5. Museum**

279. Through a combination of archive material, art works and audiovisual presentations, the museum of the International Court of Justice traces the major stages in the establishment of the Court and its role in the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The exhibition provides a detailed introduction to the role and activities of the United Nations and the Court, which continues the work of its predecessor, the Permanent Court of International Justice. The Registry is in the process of updating the exhibition in time for the eightieth anniversary of the Court in April 2026.

## **6. Cooperation with the Secretariat regarding public information**

280. During the period under review, the Court's Information Department continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Secretariat's Department of Global Communications.

281. The Information Department regularly provides to the relevant services in New York publication-ready information on the Court's activities, including its calendar of public sittings, announcements on the delivery of decisions, brief summaries of the Court's judgments and orders, and background information. This information is used by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General in daily briefings, in the press releases that result from those briefings, in the *Journal of the United Nations*, in the *Week Ahead at the United Nations*, by *United Nations News* in articles, and in posts published on the Organization's social networking platforms. The teams responsible for managing the United Nations website and UN Web TV also provide the Court's Information Department with substantial support by disseminating information on the Court's activities and by broadcasting live and recorded coverage of the Court's public sittings.

## Chapter VII

### Publications

282. The publications of the Court are made available to the Governments of all States entitled to appear before it, to international organizations and to the world's major law libraries. A catalogue of these publications, which is produced in English and French, is available on the Court's website under the heading "Publications". A revised and updated version of the catalogue was published in the second half of 2024.

283. The publications of the Court consist of several series. The following two series are published annually: the *Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders (I.C.J. Reports)* and the *C.I.J. Annuaire-I.C.J. Yearbook*, published in bilingual format since 2013–2014. The two bound volumes of *I.C.J. Reports 2023* were published during the period under review and the decisions delivered by the Court from January to June 2024 were published in separate fascicles. The *Yearbook* for 2022–2023 was published in 2025, and the *Yearbook* for 2023–2024 will be published in the first half of 2026.

284. The Court also publishes bilingual print versions of the instruments instituting proceedings in the contentious cases brought before it (applications instituting proceedings and special agreements), and any requests for advisory opinions that it receives.

285. The pleadings and other documents submitted to the Court in a case are published after the instruments instituting proceedings, in the series *Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents*. The volumes of the series, which contain the full texts of the written pleadings, including QR codes pointing to digital annexes, as well as the verbatim records of the public hearings, give practitioners a complete view of the arguments put forward by the parties. Eight volumes, along with 23,600 pages of digital annexes, were published in the series during the period covered by the present report.

286. In the series *Acts and Documents concerning the Organization of the Court*, the Court publishes the instruments governing its organization, functioning and judicial practice, along with an analytical index. The newly revised edition of this publication, *I.C.J. Acts and Documents* No. 8, which was produced in-house on 1 June 2024 and is made available on a print-on-demand basis, includes the latest amendments to the Rules of Court, the Practice Directions of the Court and the Resolution concerning the Internal Judicial Practice of the Court. This eighth edition is available in a bilingual print version and digitally on the Court's website, under the heading "Publications". In addition, unofficial translations of the Rules of Court in the other official languages of the United Nations can be found on the home page of the Court's website, under the heading "Multilingual resources".

287. The Registry publishes a *Bibliography* listing such works and documents relating to the Court as have come to its attention. Bibliographies Nos. 1–18 formed Chapter IX of the relevant *Yearbook* or *Annuaire* up to the 1963–1964 issues. *Bibliographies* Nos. 19–57 were issued annually as separate fascicles from 1964 to 2003. Since 2004, *Bibliographies* have been prepared in-house for print-on-demand in multi-year volumes. The most recent volume, No. 61, was issued in the last quarter of 2023 and covers the years 2020 to 2022. A new edition will be published in 2026.

288. The Court also produces the *Handbook*, which is intended to facilitate a better understanding of its history, organization, jurisdiction, procedures and jurisprudence. The latest edition of the *Handbook* was published, in the Court's two official languages, in 2019 and is available on the Court's website, under the heading "Publications".



## Chapter VIII

### Finances of the Court

#### 1. Method of covering expenditure

289. In accordance with Article 33 of the Statute of the Court, “[t]he expenses of the Court shall be borne by the United Nations in such a manner as shall be decided by the General Assembly”. Since the budget of the Court is incorporated in the budget of the United Nations, Member States participate in the expenses of both in the same proportion, in accordance with the scale of assessments decided by the Assembly.

#### 2. Budget formulation

290. In accordance with articles 24 to 28 of the Instructions for the Registry, a preliminary draft budget is prepared by the Registrar. This preliminary draft is submitted for the consideration of the Budgetary and Administrative Committee of the Court, before going to the full Court for approval.

291. Once approved, the draft budget is forwarded to the Secretariat for incorporation in the draft budget of the United Nations. It is then examined by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and is subsequently submitted to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. Lastly, it is adopted by the Assembly in plenary meeting, within the framework of decisions concerning the budget of the Organization.

#### 3. Budget implementation

292. Responsibility for the implementation of the budget is assigned to the Registrar, who is assisted in this by the Finance Division. The Registrar must ensure that proper use is made of the funds voted and must see that no expenses are incurred that are not provided for in the budget. The Registrar alone is entitled to incur liabilities in the name of the Court, subject to any possible delegations of authority. In accordance with a decision of the Court, the Registrar regularly communicates a statement of accounts to the Court’s Budgetary and Administrative Committee.

293. The accounts of the Court are audited by the Board of Auditors appointed by the General Assembly.

### Budget for the Court for 2024 (appropriations), as adopted by the General Assembly

(United States dollars)

#### Budget class

#### Members of the Court

Non-staff compensation	8 783 700
Experts	81 600
Travel	31 100

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8 896 400</b>
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#### Registry

Posts	16 427 600
Other staff costs	2 373 400
Hospitality	9 700
Consultants	46 600
Travel of staff	39 900
Contractual services	139 600
Grants and contributions	134 200

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19 171 000</b>
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#### Programme support

Contractual services	1 614 600
General operating expenditures	2 411 200
Supplies and materials	331 000
Furniture and equipment	190 600

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4 547 400</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>32 614 800</b>
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### Budget of the Court for 2025 (appropriations), as adopted by the General Assembly

(United States dollars)

#### Budget class

#### Members of the Court

Non-staff compensation	8 783 900
Experts	85 200
Travel	32 000

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8 901 100</b>
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#### Registry

Posts	16 999 300
Other staff costs	3 449 800
Hospitality	10 200
Consultants	48 700
Travel of staff	41 100

*Budget class*

Contractual services	157 300
Grants and contributions	140 200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>20 846 600</b>
<b>Programme support</b>	
Contractual services	1 741 900
General operating expenditures	2 593 600
Supplies and materials	271 100
Furniture and equipment	307 300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4 913 900</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>34 661 600</b>

## Chapter IX

### Judges' pension scheme and health insurance

294. In accordance with Article 32, paragraph 7, of the Statute of the Court, members of the Court are entitled to a retirement pension, the exact conditions of which are governed by regulations adopted by the General Assembly. The amount of the pension is based on the number of years of service; for a judge having served on the Court for nine years, it is equal to 50 per cent of the annual net base salary (excluding post adjustment). The Assembly provisions governing the judges' pension scheme are contained in resolution 38/239 of 20 December 1983, section VIII of resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, resolution 56/285 of 27 June 2002, section III of resolution 59/282 of 13 April 2005, resolutions 61/262 of 4 April 2007, 63/259 of 24 December 2008, 64/261 of 29 March 2010, 65/258 of 24 December 2010, and section VI of resolution 71/272 A of 23 December 2016.

295. In accordance with the request made in 2010 by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/258, the Secretary-General, in a report to the Assembly in 2011 (A/66/617), discussed the various retirement benefit options that could be considered.

296. Following the issuance of that document, the President of the Court addressed a letter in 2012 to the President of the General Assembly accompanied by an explanatory memorandum (A/66/726, annex), expressing the Court's deep concern about certain proposals made by the Secretary-General, which appeared to raise concerns for the Court with respect to the integrity of its Statute, the status of its members, and their right to perform their functions with full independence (see also A/67/4).

297. By its decisions 66/556 B and 68/549 A, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the agenda item on the pension scheme for members of the Court to its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions, respectively. In its decision 69/553 A, the Assembly decided to further defer until its seventy-first session consideration of the item and the related documents: the reports of the Secretary-General (A/68/188 and A/66/617), the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/68/515, A/68/515/Corr.1 and A/66/709) and the letter from the President of the Court addressed to the President of the General Assembly referred to above.

298. In its resolution 71/272, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-fourth session a comprehensive proposal on options for a pension scheme taking into account, inter alia, "the integrity of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and other relevant statutory provisions, the universal character of the Court, principles of independence and equality and the unique character of membership of the Court".

299. In a letter dated 2 August 2019 addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources, the Registrar recalled the concerns expressed by the Court in the past and requested that the Court's position be taken into account and reflected in the report of the Secretary-General.

300. In accordance with the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General on 18 September 2019 submitted his proposals in his report on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (A/74/354). The Assembly, in its decision 74/540 B of 13 April 2020, decided to defer consideration of that report until the first part of its resumed seventy-fifth session.

301. In its resolution [75/253](#) B of 16 April 2021, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/74/7/Add.20](#)). In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to maintain the three-year cycle for the review of conditions of service and compensation and requested the Secretary-General to further refine the review of the pension schemes and his proposed options, and to report thereon at its seventy-seventh session, taking into account certain considerations.

302. In its resolution [77/263](#) B of 18 April 2023, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary General ([A/77/346](#)) and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/77/7/Add.7](#)), subject to the provisions of the resolution. In addition, in the same resolution, the Assembly decided to maintain the current pension scheme of the judges.

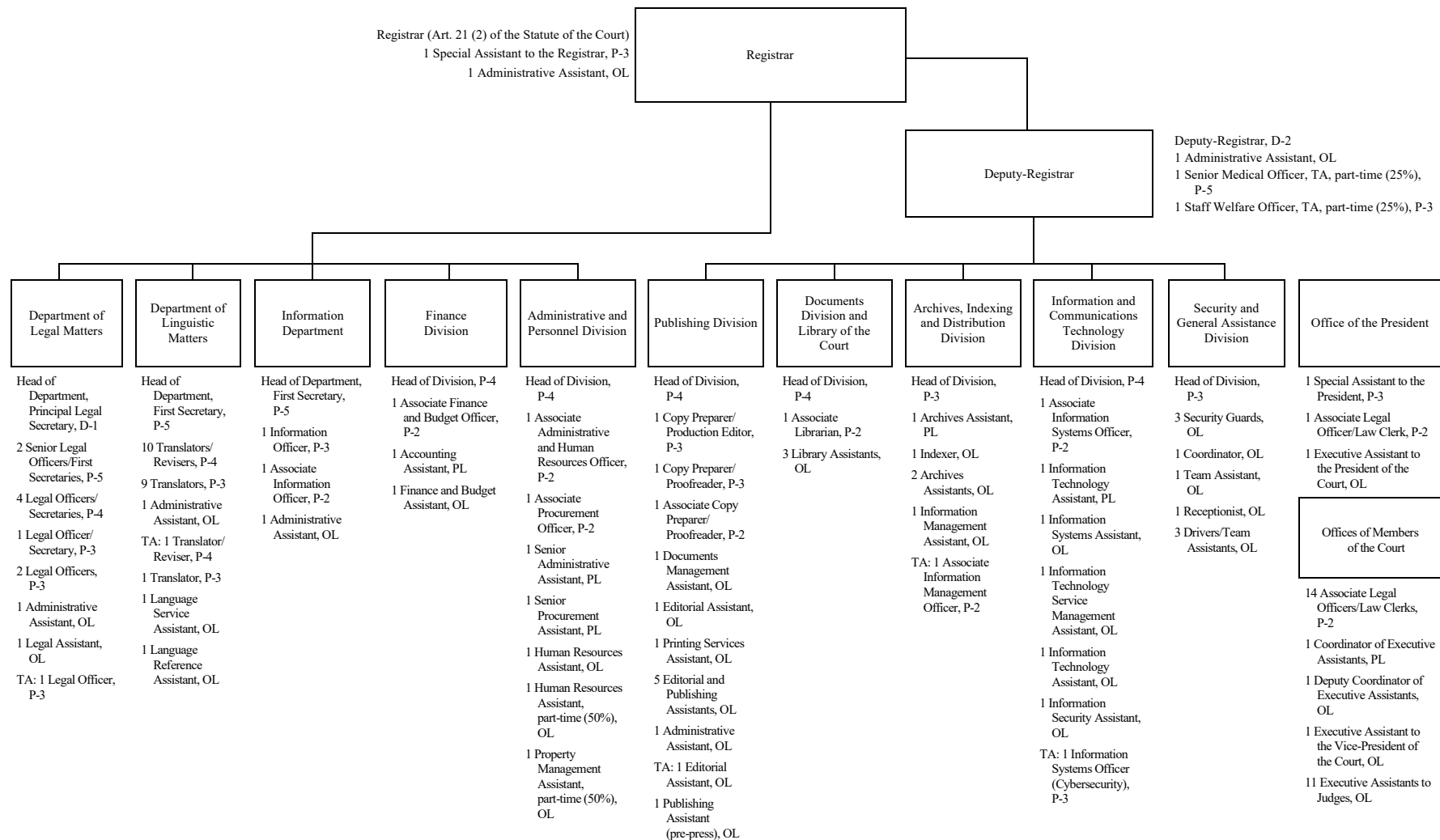
303. As noted in the report of the Court for the period from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022 ([A/77/4](#)), the Court has had concerns about the long-term viability of its health insurance scheme for active and retired members of the Court, particularly in the light of the small size of the population insured and the high volatility of premiums paid by participants. After considering various alternatives, including the option for members of the Court to join the health insurance plans administered by United Nations Headquarters, with participants paying the full amount of premiums, the Court decided in 2023 that members of the Court would remain, for the time being, with Cigna as part of an intergovernmental organization medical insurance pool. Doubts remain as to whether this solution is sustainable, and the Court is continuing to study the matter. Also of particular concern is the high cost of the health insurance premiums of retired members of the Court. The Registry has initiated discussions with the United Nations Secretariat to identify an appropriate mechanism to address this issue.

(Signed) **Iwasawa Yuji**  
President of the International Court of Justice

The Hague, 1 August 2025

Annex

International Court of Justice: organizational structure and post distribution of the Registry as at 31 July 2025



Abbreviations: OL, Other level; PL, Principal level; TA, Temporary assistance.