



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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**Swearing-in of HE Judge Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud and holding of public hearings
in the case concerning *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated
in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*
on Tuesday 15 July 2025**

THE HAGUE, 8 July 2025. The International Court of Justice will hold a public sitting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 15 July 2025, during which HE Judge Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud (Jordan), a new Member of the Court elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations on 27 May 2025, will be officially sworn in.

During the sitting, Judge Hmoud will make the solemn declaration provided for in Article 20 of the [Statute of the Court](#), which stipulates that Members of the Court shall, before taking up their duties, make a solemn declaration in open court that they will exercise their powers impartially and conscientiously.

Judge Hmoud was elected following the resignation of Judge Nawaf Salam on 14 January 2025 (see [press release No. 2025/3](#)). Pursuant to Article 15 of the Statute of the Court, Judge Hmoud will hold office for the remainder of Judge Salam's term, which was due to expire on 5 February 2027. The biographies of all Members of the Court are available on the Court's [website](#).

After the sitting, the Court will retire briefly, before returning to the courtroom to hold public hearings on the Request for the indication of provisional measures filed by Equatorial Guinea in the case concerning *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)* (see [press release No. 2025/31](#)). Equatorial Guinea will have two hours in the morning in which to present its oral argument. France will then present its oral argument from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the same day.

Members of the diplomatic corps, the public and the media will find below practical information regarding the organization of the sitting and the hearings.

A. Practical information and admission procedures

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

1. Members of the diplomatic corps

Members of the diplomatic corps who wish to attend the sitting and the hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online registration form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Friday 11 July 2025. Seats in the Great Hall of Justice will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. On presenting a confirmation of registration from the Information Department and valid diplomatic ID at the main gate of the Peace Palace on the day of the sitting and the hearings, diplomats will be given a badge providing access to the Great Hall of Justice.

2. Members of the public

Only 15 seats will be available in the public gallery for members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered. Members of the public wishing to attend the sitting and the hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace no later than 40 minutes before the start of each session. They will be given a badge providing access to the public gallery upon presentation of valid ID. The security officers at the gate will notify those concerned once all available seats have been filled.

3. Media representatives

Media representatives who wish to attend the sitting and the hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online accreditation form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Friday 11 July 2025. Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The Court's press room can accommodate only a limited number of people. Accreditation requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. **No requests received by phone or email will be accepted.**

B. Further practical information for the media

1. Entry to the Peace Palace

Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. Accredited media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates no later than 30 minutes before the start of the session.

2. Access to the courtroom

A limited number of professional photographers and camera operators will be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes before the start of the sitting and the hearings. They will be accompanied by members of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

3. Press room

The sitting and the hearings will be transmitted live in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, in a press room equipped with shared internet access (Wi-Fi and Ethernet). TV crews can connect to the Court's PAL (HD and SD) and NTSC (SD) audiovisual system, and radio reporters to the audio system. The press room will be open one and a half hours before the start of the sitting and will close one hour after the hearings conclude.

4. Multimedia

The sitting and the hearings will be streamed live and on demand (VOD) in the two official languages of the Court, on the [Court's website](#), the section of the [Journal of the United Nations](#) dedicated to the ICJ and on [UN Web TV](#). High-resolution cover shots and still photos produced by the Registry during the sitting and the hearings will be available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use, on the Court's website (to download, click on [Multimedia](#)) and X feed (@CIJ_ICJ).

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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