

19 MARS 2026

ORDONNANCE

**SOUVERAINETÉ SUR LES CAYES DE SAPODILLA/CAYES ZAPOTILLOS
(BELIZE c. HONDURAS ; GUATEMALA (INTERVENANT))**

**SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SAPODILLA CAYES/CAYOS ZAPOTILLOS
(BELIZE v. HONDURAS: GUATEMALA INTERVENING)**

19 MARCH 2026

ORDER

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

YEAR 2026

**2026
19 March
General List
No. 185**

19 March 2026

SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SAPODILLA CAYES/CAYOS ZAPOTILLOS

(BELIZE *v.* HONDURAS: GUATEMALA INTERVENING)

ORDER

Present: *President* IWASAWA; *Vice-President* SEBUTINDE; *Judges* TOMKA, ABRAHAM, XUE, NOLTE, CHARLESWORTH, GÓMEZ ROBLEDO, CLEVELAND, AURESCU, TLADI, HMOUD, OKOWA; *Registrar* GAUTIER.

The International Court of Justice,

Composed as above,

After deliberation,

Having regard to Articles 48 and 62 of the Statute of the Court and to Article 85 of the Rules of Court,

Having regard to the Application filed in the Registry of the Court on 16 November 2022, whereby Belize instituted proceedings against the Republic of Honduras (hereinafter “Honduras”) with regard to a dispute concerning sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes (referred to by Honduras as the “Cayos Zapotillos”),

Having regard to the request by the Republic of Guatemala (hereinafter “Guatemala”) made by a Note Verbale dated 3 May 2023, with reference to Article 53, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court, to be furnished with copies of the pleadings and documents annexed in the case, and to the Court’s decision to grant this request,

Having regard to the Application for permission to intervene in the case under Article 62 of the Statute of the Court filed by Guatemala on 1 December 2023;

Whereas by a Judgment delivered on 19 March 2026, the Court decided that Guatemala was permitted to intervene as a non-party in the case, pursuant to Article 62 of the Statute, to the extent and for the purposes set out in the Judgment;

Whereas Article 85, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court, provides, *inter alia*, that,

“[i]f an application for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute is granted, the intervening State shall be supplied with copies of the pleadings and documents annexed and shall be entitled to submit a written statement within a time-limit to be fixed by the Court. A further time-limit shall be fixed within which the parties may, if they so desire, furnish their written observations on that statement prior to the oral proceedings”,

Fixes the time-limits provided for in Article 85, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court as follows:

19 May 2026 as the time-limit for the submission by the Republic of Guatemala of a written statement;

20 July 2026 as the time-limit within which the Parties may, if they so desire, furnish their written observations on the written statement of the Republic of Guatemala; and

Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in French and in English, the French text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this nineteenth day of March, two thousand and twenty-six, in four copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Court and the others transmitted to the Government of Belize, the Government of Honduras, and the Government of Guatemala, respectively.

(Signed) IWASAWA Yuji,
President.

(Signed) Philippe GAUTIER,
Registrar.
