

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REPORTS OF JUDGMENTS,  
ADVISORY OPINIONS AND ORDERS

OBLIGATIONS OF STATES  
IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
(REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION)

**ORDER OF 20 APRIL 2023**

**2023**

COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE

RECUEIL DES ARRÊTS,  
AVIS CONSULTATIFS ET ORDONNANCES

OBLIGATIONS DES ÉTATS  
EN MATIÈRE DE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE  
(REQUÊTE POUR AVIS CONSULTATIF)

**ORDONNANCE DU 20 AVRIL 2023**

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20 APRIL 2023

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ORDONNANCE

## INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

YEAR 2023

**20 April 2023**

**OBLIGATIONS OF STATES  
IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

(REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION)

## ORDER

The President of the International Court of Justice,

Having regard to Articles 48, 65 and 66 of the Statute of the Court and to Articles 104 and 105 of the Rules of Court;

Whereas on 29 March 2023 the United Nations General Assembly adopted, at the 64th meeting of its seventy-seventh session, resolution 77/276, by which it decided, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, to request the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion;

Whereas certified true copies of the English and French texts of that resolution were transmitted to the Court under cover of a letter from the Secretary-General of the United Nations dated 12 April 2023 and received on 17 April 2023;

Whereas the operative paragraph of this resolution reads as follows:

*“The General Assembly,*

.....

*Decides*, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, to render an advisory opinion on the following question:

‘Having particular regard to the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the duty of due diligence, the rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the principle of prevention of significant harm to the environment and the duty to protect and preserve the marine environment,

- (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?”;

Whereas the Secretary-General indicated in his letter that, pursuant to Article 65, paragraph 2, of the Statute, all documents likely to throw light upon the questions would be transmitted to the Court in due course;

Whereas, by letters dated 17 April 2023, the Deputy-Registrar gave notice of the request for an advisory opinion to all States entitled to appear before the Court, pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 1, of the Statute,

1. *Decides* that the United Nations and its Member States are considered likely to be able to furnish information on the questions submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion and may do so within the time-limits fixed in this Order;

2. *Fixes* 20 October 2023 as the time-limit within which written statements on the questions may be presented to the Court, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute;

3. *Fixes* 22 January 2024 as the time-limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements may submit written comments on the written statements made by other States or organizations, in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 4, of the Statute; and

*Reserves* the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in English and in French, the English text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, this twentieth day of April, two thousand and twenty-three.

*(Signed)* Joan E. DONOGHUE,  
President.

*(Signed)* Philippe GAUTIER,  
Registrar.

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