



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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30 September 2025

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

#### (Request for Advisory Opinion)

#### Public hearings to be held from Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 October 2025

THE HAGUE, 30 September 2025. The International Court of Justice will hold public hearings on the request for an advisory opinion on the *Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87* from Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 October 2025 at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Twenty States and five international organizations have expressed their intention to participate in the oral proceedings before the Court.

#### **Schedule for the hearings**

The schedule for the hearings adopted by the Court is as follows:

Monday 6 October 2025	10 a.m.-10.15 a.m.	Opening of the oral proceedings
	10.15 a.m.-10.45 a.m.	International Labour Office
	10.45 a.m.-11.45 a.m.	International Trade Union Confederation
	<i>11.45 a.m.-12 noon</i>	<i>Break</i>
	12 noon-1 p.m.	International Organisation of Employers
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	3 p.m.-3.30 p.m.	South Africa
	3.30 p.m.-4 p.m.	Germany
	4 p.m.-4.30 p.m.	Australia
	<i>4.30 p.m.- 4.45 p.m.</i>	<i>Break</i>
4.45 p.m.-5.15 p.m.	Bangladesh	
5.15 p.m.-5.45 p.m.	Colombia	
5.45 p.m.-6.15 p.m.	Cameroon	

Tuesday 7 October 2025	10 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Brazil
	10.30 a.m.-11 a.m.	Egypt
	11 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	Spain
	<i>11.30 a.m.-11.45 a.m.</i>	<i>Break</i>
	11.45 a.m.-12.15 p.m.	Indonesia
	12.15 p.m.-12.45 p.m.	Iraq
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	3 p.m.-3.30 p.m.	Mauritius
	3.30 p.m.-4 p.m.	Mexico
	4 p.m.-4.30 p.m.	Norway
<i>4.30 p.m.-4.45 p.m.</i>	<i>Break</i>	
4.45 p.m.-5.15 p.m.	Panama	
5.15 p.m.-5.45 p.m.	United Kingdom	
Wednesday 8 October 2025	10 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Uruguay
	10.30 a.m.-11 a.m.	Somalia
	11 a.m.-11.30 a.m.	Switzerland
	<i>11.30 a.m.-11.45 a.m.</i>	<i>Break</i>
	11.45 a.m.-12.15 p.m.	Vanuatu
	12.15 p.m.-12.45 p.m.	International Cooperative Alliance
	12.45 p.m.-1.15 p.m.	Business Africa

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### **Procedure of the Court and history of the proceedings**

The Registry has published an [explanatory note](#) on the Court’s website concerning the procedure followed by the ICJ with regard to requests for advisory opinions.

On 10 November 2023, the Governing Body of the 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, requesting an advisory opinion from the Court.

In its resolution, the Governing Body states that it is “[c]onscious that there is serious and persistent disagreement” among the Organization’s tripartite constituents on the interpretation of the Convention, and decides, 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)?”*

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

On 16 November 2023, the Court made an [Order organizing the proceedings](#), in which it fixed 16 May 2024 as the time-limit for the presentation of written statements and 16 September 2024 as the time-limit for the submission of written comments on those statements.

In total, 31 written statements were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): the International Cooperative Alliance, the ILO, France, Vanuatu, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Spain, Italy, the International Trade Union Confederation, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the United Kingdom, Colombia, Bangladesh, Germany, Poland, Business Africa, the International Organisation of Employers, South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Tunisia, the United States, Australia, Japan, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Somalia, the Netherlands, Belize and Brazil.

In addition, 15 sets of written comments on those statements were filed in the Registry by (in order of receipt): the International Trade Union Confederation, Japan, Mexico, the International Cooperative Alliance, Tunisia, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, South Africa, Switzerland, the United States, the International Organisation of Employers, Business Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, the Netherlands and Vanuatu.

Subsequently, the United Kingdom informed the Court of the withdrawal of its written statement and the United States notified the Court of the withdrawal of its written statement and written comments.

Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are available on the Court's website.

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Members of the diplomatic corps of non-participating States, the public and the media will find below practical information regarding the organization of the hearings.

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## **A. Practical information and admission procedures**

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

### **1. Members of the diplomatic corps of non-participating States**

Members of the diplomatic corps of non-participating States who wish to attend the hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online registration form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Thursday 2 October 2025. **Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered.** 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 hearings they wish to attend, 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 hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace at least 40 minutes before the start of the session they wish to attend. 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 hearings are requested to kindly fill out an [online accreditation form](#) by 12 noon (The Hague time) on Thursday 2 October 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. **The accreditation process may be closed early if capacity is reached before the deadline. 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 each session (morning and afternoon).

### 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 each session. They will be accompanied by members of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

### 3. Press Room

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 open one and a half hours before the start of each session and will close one hour after the session concludes.

### 4. Multimedia

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 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).

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

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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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