



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2026/2

2 March 2026

Iceland files a declaration recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court

THE HAGUE, 2 March 2026. On 26 February 2026, Iceland deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a [declaration](#), under Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, recognizing as compulsory the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute reads as follows:

“The States parties to the present Statute may at any time declare that they recognize as compulsory *ipso facto* and without special agreement, in relation to any other State accepting the same obligation, the jurisdiction of the Court in all legal disputes”.

Seventy-five States parties to the Statute, including Iceland, currently recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court by means of a declaration made under Article 36.

The full list of States which have deposited declarations recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory, together with the text of the declarations themselves, can be found on the [website](#) of the Court.

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 specialized agencies.

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