



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Mr Santiago Villalpando elected Registrar of the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, 7 May 2026. At a private meeting held today, the International Court of Justice elected Mr Santiago Villalpando, of Argentine nationality, to the post of Registrar. He will succeed Mr Philippe Gautier, whose term will come to an end on 31 July 2026.

Mr Villalpando is currently the Legal Adviser of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Director of its Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, a post which he has held since 2019. He previously served in various positions within the United Nations Secretariat, in particular as Chief of the Treaty Section within the Office of Legal Affairs (2013-2018), Registrar of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in New York (2010-2011), and Legal Officer within the Codification Division (2006-2009).

Mr Villalpando has also served as a Legal Officer within the Registry of the International Court of Justice (2002-2006) and as a Law Clerk at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (1996). A member of various scientific and learned bodies, in particular the Institut de droit international, he has taught at several universities and is the author of numerous publications in different areas of international law.

In accordance with Article 22 of the [Rules of Court](#), Mr Villalpando has been elected for a term of seven years.

The functions of the Registrar are defined in Article 26 of the Rules of Court. The Registrar assists the Court in the exercise of its judicial functions and acts as the channel of communication between the Court and the parties appearing before it. As the Head of the Registry, the Registrar is responsible for the management of all its departments and divisions.

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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