INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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United Nations General Assembly and Security Council elect five Members of the Court

THE HAGUE, 4 November 2026. The General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations yesterday elected five Members of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a term of office of nine years, beginning on 6 February 2027.

Judge Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud (Jordan) and Judge Phoebe N. Okowa (Kenya) were re-elected as Members of the Court. Mr Dapo Akande (United Kingdom), Mr François Alabrune (France) and Ms Rena Lee (Singapore) were elected as new Members of the Court.

The biographies of Judge Hmoud and Judge Okowa are available on the Court's website. The biographies of the newly elected Members are annexed to this press release.

In February 2027, the Court as newly constituted will proceed to elect from among its Members a President and a Vice-President, who will hold office for three years.

Composition of the Court

The ICJ is composed of 15 judges, each elected to a nine-year term of office. Judges may be re-elected. To ensure continuity in the composition of the Court, one third of the membership is renewed every three years. In accordance with Article 2 of the Statute of the Court, judges are elected "regardless of their nationality from among persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law". Article 9 of the Statute further requires that "in the body as a whole the representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured". No two Members of the Court may be of the same nationality.

Submission of candidacies

All States parties to the Statute of the Court (currently 193) have the right to propose candidates. However, candidates are not nominated directly by governments but by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) or, in the case of States not participating in the

PCA, by similarly constituted national groups. The PCA, which is based in The Hague, was established under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. Each State party to those Conventions has its own national group, composed of up to four jurists who can be called upon to serve as members of an arbitral tribunal under the Conventions. When an election takes place to fill vacancies at the ICJ, each national group can propose up to four candidates, not more than two of whom may be of its own nationality. The others may be from any other country. The names of candidates must be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Election procedure

Members of the Court are elected by the General Assembly and by the Security Council through parallel procedures. Both organs vote at the same time but independently of one another. This system is intended to ensure, as far as possible, that the vote in one organ does not influence the vote in the other. In order to be elected, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council. Currently, 97 votes out of 193 constitute an absolute majority in the General Assembly. In the Security Council, where no right of veto applies for the purposes of the election and no distinction is made between the votes of the permanent and non-permanent members of the Council, eight votes out of fifteen constitute an absolute majority.

A Conference Officer distributes ballots to delegates in the General Assembly meeting (UN Photo/Loey Felipe).

A Conference Officer shows the empty ballot box during the meeting in the Security Council (UN Photo/Manuel Elías).

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 (Kingdom of the 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.

Information Department:

Ms Monique Legerman, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department: +31 (0)70 302 2336

Email: media@icj-cij.org

Annex

Curricula vitae*

Akande, Dapo (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Professional affiliations

- University of Oxford: Chichele Professor of Public International Law; Fellow, All Souls College (2023 to date); Co-Director, Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (2009 to date)
- Member, United Nations (UN) International Law Commission (2023 to 2027)
- Member of the Panel of Arbitrators appointed by the Chair of Administrative Council, International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (World Bank Group) (2024 to date)
- Judge *ad hoc*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (nominated by Ghana) (2026 to date)
- Barrister, Essex Court Chambers, London (2020 to date)

Prior academic experience

University of Oxford

- Professor of Public International Law (2014 to 2023)
- University Lecturer in Public International Law, then Associate Professor (2004 to 2014)
- Fellow at St Peter's College, then Exeter College, Oxford (2004 to 2023)
- Co-Director, Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations (2013 to 2017)
- Co-Director, Oxford University/George Washington University Summer School on Human Rights Law (2007 to 2010)
- Director of Studies in Law, Regent's Park College (2006 to 2008)

Other UK universities

- Lecturer in Law, University of Durham (2000 to 2004) and University of Nottingham (1998 to 2000)
- Supervisor in International Law, Christ College and Wolfson College, University of Cambridge (1996 to 1998)
- Class Teacher and Research Assistant, London School of Economics and Political Science (1994 to 1996, 1997 to 1998)

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

Visiting professor and lectureships

- University of Vienna (2018)
- Católica Global School of Law, Lisbon (2014 to 2018)
- Sir Ninian Stephen Visiting Scholar, University of Melbourne Law School (2015)
- University of Miami School of Law (2002, 2009)
- Yale Law School (2008 to 2009)
- Director, Nuremberg Summer Academy, International Nuremberg Principles Academy (2015)
- University of Edinburgh (2000 to 2003)

Selected litigation experience

International Court of Justice

- Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar), Counsel for the UK as intervenors (2022 to 2026)
- Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Counsel for Japan (2022 to 2024)
- Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea), Counsel for Equatorial Guinea (2021 to 2025)
- Armed Activities Case (Democratic Republic of Congo v. Uganda) Reparations Phase, Counsel and Advocate for Uganda (2018 to 2022)
- Chagos Islands Advisory Opinion, Counsel and Advocate for Zambia (2018)

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- The M/T “Heroic Idun” (No. 2) Case (Marshall Islands/Equatorial Guinea), Counsel for Equatorial Guinea (2023 to 2025)
- The M/T “San Padre Pio” Case (Switzerland v. Nigeria) No. 2, Counsel and Advocate for Nigeria (2019 to 2021)
- The M/T “San Padre Pio” Case (Switzerland v. Nigeria), Provisional Measures, Counsel and Advocate for Nigeria (2019)

International Criminal Court

- Provided confidential advice to the Office of the Prosecutor on international law arguments to be put to the Court (2019)
- The Prosecutor v. Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud (international law expert for Defence Counsel) (2020)

Arbitral and International Trade Tribunals

- Expert instructed by one of the parties in an inter-State Arbitration (2024 to 2025)
- Expert instructed by applicants (Arbitration under the OIC investment agreement, 2024)

- Adviser to an Asian State in two World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Panels (2020 to 2023)
- Enron Nigeria Power Holding Ltd (Cayman Islands) v. Lagos State Government Nigeria; Power Holding Company of Nigerian and Federal Republic of Nigeria International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration in London: Expert, instructed by claimants (2007)

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

- Democratic Republic of Congo v. Rwanda (Application No. 007/2023) Counsel and Advocate for Rwanda (2023 to date)

European Court of Human Rights

- Hanan v. Germany (Grand Chamber) (Counsel and Advocate for applicant, 2019 to 2020)
- Sydorenko v. Ukraine and Russia; Obukhivskyy v. Ukraine and Russia; Vakhovskyi v. Ukraine and Russia (Adviser to the applicants, 2016)

UN Human Rights Committee

- Bratchenko and others v. Russian Federation (Expert instructed by Victims, 2026)
- Oleksiv and others v. Russian Federation (Expert instructed by Victims, 2024)

National Courts

- From 1998 to present, engaged as Counsel, Adviser or Expert in several cases before national courts and tribunals, including the Supreme Court, in England, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan

Arbitral Appointments

- Member, ICSID Ad hoc Committee, Telcell Wireless, LLC and International Telcell Cellular, LLC v. Georgia (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/5) Request for Annulment (2024 to 2026)
- Member, ICSID Ad hoc Committee, Angel Samuel Seda and others v. Republic of Colombia (ICSID Case No. ARB/19/6) Request for Annulment (2025 to date)
- Member, ICSID Ad hoc Committee, Ahron G. Frenkel v. Republic of Croatia (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/49) – Request for Annulment (2025 to date)
- Member, ICSID Ad hoc Committee, European Solar Farms A/S v. Kingdom of Spain (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/45) – Request for Annulment (2025 to date)

Selected advisory experience for international organisations and States

United Nations

- Adviser to World Food Programme on international law and conflict-induced hunger (2019 to 2022, 2024–25)
- Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs on the law relating to humanitarian relief operations (2013 to 2016)

- Food and Agriculture Organization on questions concerning the law of international organisations (2019)
- UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions on a report for the General Assembly on “Drones, Right to Life and Targeted Killings” (2014)
- Joint Opinion for UN Resident Coordinator in Palestine (2017)

Commission of the African Union

- Member, Technical Working Group, Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on Immunity of Heads of States (2018 to 2019)
- Consultant, Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on Immunity of Heads of States (2013)
- Consultant, Review of the Statute of the International Criminal Court (2009)
- Consultant, African Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Model Law (2005 to 2006)

Other international organisations

- Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Member, Expert Group on the Future Development of the PCA
- International Committee of the Red Cross: Member of the Global Advisory Board on Digital Threats During Conflict (2021 to 2023)
- NATO: Joint Opinion for the Office of the Legal Adviser (2023)
- Member, International Group of Experts on the Tallinn Manual on the Law Relating to Cyber Operations, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (2015 to 2016)
- Organization of American States: Joint Opinion for the Secretary General on an issue before the International Criminal Court (2020)
- Council of Europe: Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law Working Group on Securing Payment of Just Satisfaction (2024)
- Commonwealth Secretariat: Consultant on Handbook on International Humanitarian Law (2013); Member, Expert Working Group on the review of the Commonwealth’s Model Law on the Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2011)

States

- Working Group of (12) States to Advance Proposals for International Criminal Accountability for Chemical Weapons Use, Expert Adviser (2024 to 2025)
- Botswana: Attorney General’s Office, assisted with drafting of legislation to implement obligations under the Statute of the International Criminal Court (2010 to 2013)
- Chile: provided confidential opinions on discrete issues of international law (2021)
- Estonia: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tallinn Workshop on International Law and Cyber Operations (2022)
- Japan: Adviser on international law issues (2020 to date)

- Philippines: Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of ASEAN/China Joint Working Group on Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Seas (2015)
- Ukraine: Office of the President and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, Adviser on establishment of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine and member of the Presidential Working Group on the establishment of mechanism to secure reparations (2022 to date)
- UK: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (several matters); Ministry of Defence AI Ethics Advisory Panel (2020 to 2022); UK Department of International Trade; All Party Parliamentary Group on Drones, Legal Adviser on Inquiry into the UK's collaboration with Partners on the use of drones (2015 to 2018); Written Evidence, Joint Committee on Human Rights Inquiry into Use of Drones for Targeted Killings (2016); Opinion on The Legality of the UK's Air Strikes on the Syrian Government (2018)
- United States: Department of State, Member of the Advisory Committee on International Law (2021 to 2025)

Government training

- Involved in organising and delivering training for lawyers and government officials from across the world on matters of international law

Selected keynote or named lectures

International organisations

- UN (Security Council): Arria Formula Meeting on "The Contribution of the International Criminal Court to the Maintenance of International Peace and Security" (2023); Ministerial Open Debate on "Rule of Law Among Nations" (2023); High Level Open Debate on "Strengthening Accountability for Serious Violations of International Law" (2022)
- UN: UN Audiovisual Library of International Law (2011 to date); UN Regional Courses on International Law (2018 to date); Council of Europe: Committee on Public International Law, Public International Law aspects of the Russia/Ukraine Conflict (2022); International Law and Cyber Operations (2022)

States

- Japan: Tokyo International Law Seminar (2023)
- UK: Government Legal Profession International Law Conference on the Russia – Ukraine Conflict (2022)
- Government Legal Service, inaugural International Law Conference (2014)
- Singapore: Public International Law Lecture, Attorney General's Chambers (2022)
- Republic of Korea: Seoul Academy of International Law (Korean National Diplomatic Academy) (2018 to 2022)

Academic institutions

- Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Lectures, University of Cambridge (2026)
- Hilding Eek Memorial Lecture University of Stockholm (2025)
- Distinguished Professorial Address, University of the West of England (2019)
- Annual Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen International Law Lecture (2018)
- Inaugural Thornberry Lecture in International Law and Human Rights, University of Keele (2015)
- Susan N. and Augustus DiZerega Lecture, George Washington University Law School/Zoryan International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (2015)
- Sir Ninian Stephen Visiting Fellow Lecture, Asia-Pacific Centre for Military Law, University of Melbourne (2015)

Other organisations

- Charles Brower Lecture on International Dispute Resolution, American Society of International Law Annual Meeting (2026)
- Global Arbitration Review Live: BITs Conference (2022)
- Winston & Strawn/London Conference on International Law Keynote Lecture (2022)
- Canadian Council of International Law Annual Meeting (2019)
- Distinguished Discussant, Grotius Lecture, American Society of International Law Annual Meeting (2018)
- International and Comparative Law Quarterly Annual Lecture (2017)

Selected membership of boards, academic journals and organisations

- Founding Editor, EJIL:Talk! (2008 to 2024)
- Member, International Advisory Panel, Project on Restatement (Fourth) of Foreign Relations Law, American Law Institute (2014 to 2018 & 2023 to date)
- Member, Board of Trustees, Rhodes Trust (2020 to 2026)
- Member, Africa Group for Justice and Accountability (2016 to date, on hiatus)
- Advisory Board Member, Israel Law Review (2015 to date)
- Advisory Board Member, Ethiopian Yearbook of International Law (2015 to date)
- Member, Advisory Board, International Law Studies (2013 to date)
- Editorial Board Member, American Journal of International Law (2013 to 2023)
- Member, Advisory Board, International Centre for Transitional Justice (2011 to 2023)
- Trustee, British Institute of International and Comparative Law (2017 to 2020)
- Member, World Economic Forum, Global Council on the Future of Human Rights (2016 to 2018)

- Member, Legal Advisory Board, Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (Qatar) (2010 to 2013)
- Member, Scientific Advisory Board, then Editorial Board, European Journal of International Law (2007 to 2017)
- Member, Editorial Board, African Journal of International and Comparative Law (2007 to 2013)

Selected publications

Books

- 'The Individualisation of War: Ethics, Law and Politics' (Welsh. Akande & Rodin, eds. 2023)
- 'Oxford Guide to International Humanitarian Law' (Saul & Akande, eds. 2020)
- 'Human Rights and 21st Century Challenges: Poverty, Conflict and the Environment' (Akande, Kuosmanen, McDermott & Roser, eds. 2020)
- 'Oppenheim's International Law: The United Nations' (with Higgins, Webb, Sivakumaran & Sloan, 2017)
- 'Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations' (Member of International Group of Experts, 2017)
- 'Practitioner's Guide to Human Rights in Armed Conflict' (Oxford University Press, 2016) (Consultant Editor, with Murray, Garraway, Hampson, Lubell & Wilmshurst)
- 'Oxford Companion to International Criminal Law and Justice' (editor, with Cassese et al, 2009)

Book chapters and journal articles

- 'Armed Conflicts and Investor-State Disputes' (2024), 39 ICSID Review – Foreign Investment Law Journal
- 'Drawing the Cyber Baseline: The Applicability of Existing International Law to the Governance of Information and Communication Technologies' (2022) '99 International Law Studies 4' (with Talita Dias & Antonio Coco)
- 'The Right to Life and the Jus ad Bellum: Belligerent Equality and the Duty to Prosecute Acts of Aggression' (2022) 71 International and Comparative Law Quarterly 453 (with Miles Jackson)
- 'Economic Sanctions, International Law, and Crimes Against Humanity: Venezuela's ICC Referral' (2021), '115 American Journal of International Law 493' (with P. Akhavan & E. Bjorge)
- 'Use of Force in Self-Defence to Recover Occupied Territory' (2021) '32 European Journal of International Law 1299' (with A. Tzanakopoulos)
- 'Implications of the Diversity of the Rules on the Use of Force for Change in the Law' (2021), '32 European Journal of International Law 939' (with Katie Johnston)
- 'Conflict-induced Food Insecurity and the War Crime of Starvation of Civilians as a Method of Warfare: The Underlying Rules of International Humanitarian Law' (2019) Journal of International Criminal Justice (with Emanuela-Chiara Gillard)

- ‘Treaty Law and ICC Jurisdiction over the Crime of Aggression’ (2018), 29 European Journal of International Law 939 (with Antonios Tzanakopoulos)
- ‘The Immunity of Heads of States of Non-parties in the Early Years of the ICC’ (2018), ‘112 American Journal of International Law Unbound 172’
- ‘Arbitrary Withholding of Consent to Humanitarian Relief Operations in Armed Conflict’ (2016) ‘92 International Law Studies 483’ (with Emanuela-Chiara Gillard)
- ‘The International Law Framework Regulating the Use of Armed Drones’ (2016) ’65 International and Comparative Law Q 791’ (with C. Heyns, L. Hill-Cawthorne & T. Chengata)

Prizes, awards and honours

- Foreign Minister’s Commendation, Government of Japan (2025)
- Silver Medal of the Order of National Independence, Government of Equatorial Guinea (2025)
- Doctor of Civil Laws (Honoris Causa), University of Durham (2025)
- Ambassador’s Commendation, Government of Japan (2024)
- Certificate of Merit for High Technical Craftsmanship and Utility to Practicing Lawyers and Scholars, American Society of International Law (2019)
- Premio Regione Toscana Giorgio La Pira Prize, Journal of International Criminal Justice (2003)
- Junior Award of the International Affairs Sub-Committee of the Gilbert Murray Trust (1995)

Education

- University of Oxford, MA (2004, awarded by resolution)
- London School of Economics and Political Science, LLM (1994)
- Nigerian Law School, qualified as a Barrister and Solicitor (1993)
- University of Ife (Nigeria), LLB (1992)

Alabrune, François (France)

French candidate for the position of judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2026

2027–2036 term

Currently French Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Permanent Representative to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and international legal organizations in the Hague

Advisory experience in international law

- Legal Adviser, Legal Affairs Director at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (2014–2022)
- Deputy Legal Adviser, Legal Affairs Deputy Director at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (2001–2004)
- Legal Adviser at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (1997–2000)
- Legal Consultant at the Legal Affairs Directorate of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (1988–1992)

As part of these duties, preparation of opinions on all international law issues raised in defining and implementing foreign policy, including in the following areas: general international law, international organization and particularly UN law, treaty law, diplomatie and consular relations law, human rights law, international humanitarian law, law of spaces, particularly law of the sea, and environmental law.

Represented France in debates at the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, particularly on the reports of the International Law Commission, before the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations, in debates within the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), within the Council of the European Union Public International Law Working Group (COJUR), as well as during multilateral and bilateral consultations.

Experience in litigation work

- International Court of Justice:

  Agent of France in the *lmmunities and Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea* v. *France)* case (2016–2020)

  Co-agent in the pending case *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine* v. *Russian Federation) (2022–June 2025)*

  Co-agent in the pending case *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea* v. *France) (2022–June 2025)*

  Co-agent in the pending case *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia* v. *Myanmar) (2023–June 2025)*

- European Court of Human Rights:

  Agent of France in many cases between 2001 and 2022, in particular contributions to oral proceedings in the cases *Odièvre* v. *France* (2003), *VO* v. *France* (2004), *Lambert and Others* v. *France* (2015), *Hanan* v. Germany (2016), *Meguimi* v. *France* (2019), *H.F. and Others* v. *France* (2022)

– Court of Justice of the European Union:

Agent of France in many cases between 2001 and 2022, in particular contributions to oral proceedings in the cases *National Farmers' Union* (2002), *CaixaBank* (2004), *Gauweiler* (2015), *Council-Front Polisario* (2016), *Quadrature du Net* (2020)

– International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea:

Agent of France in the *Grand Prince* Case (Belize v. France, 2001)

– Arbitration:

Adviser to France in the *De/imitation of maritime areas between Canada and France* case (1992)

Adviser to France in the *New Zealand* v. *France* arbitration (1990)

Agent of France in investor-state arbitration: *Erbil Serter* v. *France* case (2014–2015) and *KN Holding LLC and Severgroup LLC* v. *France* case (2020–2022)

Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) from 2016 to June 2024, and Chair of the Special Working Group for the 125th Anniversary of the PCA

– International Criminal Court:

French lead official for cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), between 2014 and 2022; Co-facilitator of the Assembly of States Parties for cooperation with the ICC since 2022

Experience in international legal negotiations

– Multilateral negotiations:

Participation in negotiating numerous resolutions, decisions and declarations of international organizations, as:

- Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the OPCW and Head of Delegation at the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC Statute since 2022.
- Head of the French delegation to the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine from 2014 to 2022
- Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe from 2009 to 2013.
- Adviser to the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations (Security Council and General Assembly) from 1996 to 2000, Legal Counsellor from 1997
- Adviser at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union from 1992 to 1996

Participation in negotiating numerous multilateral treaties and agreements, including:

- The Statute of the International Criminal Court (between 1997 and 1998, as Head of Delegation at the Preparatory Committee, then as a member of the Rome Conference Drafting Committee)
- The United Nations Conventions for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (between 1997 and 2000, as Head of Delegation at the 6th Committee and the counter-terrorism working group)

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (1993)
- The Paris Peace Agreements on Cambodia (1991)

– Bilateral negotiations:

Head of Delegation for negotiating numerous bilateral agreements between France and other States, including in the maritime sector:

- With Canada (off the coast of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon: Agreement relating to the Exploration and Exploitation of Transboundary Hydrocarbon Fields, signed in 2005, and Agreement relating to Fisheries, as Deputy Head of Delegation in 1989)
- With the Netherlands (Agreement on maritime delimitations in the Caribbean region in 2016)
- With Madagascar (Agreement on the delimitation of maritime areas situated between La Réunion and Madagascar, signed in 2005)

Bilateral diplomatie experience as French Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands since 2022 and French Consul-General in Quebec from 2004 to 2009.

Publications

"United Nations Law", *in* M. Oyarzábal, *International Law for Diplomats,* Leiden, Brill-Nijhoff*,* 2026, pp. 114–123.

"L'évolution de la complémentarité, du Statut de Rome à aujourd'hui", in A. Becquart (dir.), *La clé d'un système global de lutte contre l'impunité des crimes internationaux: le principe de complémentarité,* Paris, Pedone, 2024, pp. 37–40.

"Le nombre et le choix des juges", in J.-M. Thouvenin and J. Joly-Hébert (eds.), *La Cour internationale de Justice à* 75 *ans,* Paris, Pedone, 2023, pp. 13–22.

"La politique juridique extérieure de la France", *Préface à/'ouvrage de Guy de Lacharrière,*

Bruylant, 2023, pp.I–XLVIII.

"Les conditions d'établissement du domaine maritime français", in A. Miron and D.-S Robin (eds.),

Atlas des espaces maritimes de la France, Paris, Pedone, 2022, pp. 45–56.

"The international law Commission and the sixth Committee of the UNGA", in *Seventy years of the ILC,* Boston: Brill-Nijhoff Leien, 2020, pp 51–57.

"Le rôle du juge pendant l'état d'urgence", in *Justice et État de droit - Regard sur l'État d'urgence en France et à l'étranger, Entretiens d'Aguesseau,* Pulim, 2019.

"La compétence de la Cour pénale internationale sur le crime d'agression", in J. Fernandez, X. Pacreau and M. Ubéda-Saillard (eds.), *Statut de Rome de la Cour pénale internationale, commentaire article par article,* Paris, Pedone, 2019, pp. 391–406.

"Les frontières de la France", *Pouvoirs,* n° 165, 2018, pp. 51–64.

"Le regard de l'agent sur le Tribunal international du droit de la mer. Témoignage à la lumière de l'affaire du "*Grand Prince",* in G. Le Floch (ed.), *Les 20 ans du Tribunal International du Droit de la Mer,* Paris, Pedone, 2018, pp. 377–382.

"La politique juridique extérieure de la France", intervention à l'Académie des Sciences morales et politiques, le 4 juillet 2016, in *La vie internationale et le droit,* Éditions Hermann, 2017, pp. 147–164.

"Assemblée générale des Nations Unies", in H. Ascensio et al. (eds.), *Dictionnaire des idées reçues en droit international,* Paris, Pedone, 2017, pp. 43–47.

"Fondements juridiques de l'intervention française contre Daech en Irak et en Syrie" *Revue générale de droit international public,* vol. 120, n°1, 2016, pp. 41–50.

"L'entreprise face aux effets extraterritoriaux du droit", contribution to *Peut-on réformer la France ?,* Le club des juristes, 2015, pp. 93–97.

"L'OSCE, cadre flexible pour la grande Europe", *Revue des anciens élèves de/'ENA,* 2013. "L'OSCE, la patience stratégique", *Revue de la Défense nationale,* 2013.

"Le statut du Québec: aperçu historique" in *Mélanges en/'honneur de Jean-Pierre Puissochet, L'Etat souverain dans le monde d'aujourd'hui,* Paris: Pedone, 2008, pp. 3–13.

"Les méthodes possibles de délimitation maritime", in *Le processus de délimitation maritime: étude d'un cas fictif,* International Colloquium, Monaco, 27–29 March 2003, Paris, Pedone, 2003, pp. 286–302.

"La pratique des comités de sanctions du Conseil de sécurité depuis 1990", *Annuaire français de droit international,* vol. 45, *1999, pp. 226–279.*

Teaching activities

– Course in public international law, Paris lnstitute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), 2001–2004

– Course in public international law, Paris Dauphine University, 1988–1992

Education

– French National School of Public Administration (ENA), "Michel de Montaigne" Year, 1986–1988

– Graduate of the Paris lnstitute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) (1982–1984)

– Bachelor's degree in Law, University of Limoges (1982)

Various memberships

– Member of the French Society for International Law since 2001 and member of its board from 2014 to 2022

– Member of the International Law Association since 2014

– Member of the Strategic Steering Committee of the European School of Law Toulouse since 2019

– "International Gender Champion" (Member of the International Gender Champions network since 2022)

Honorary distinctions

– Chevalier in the Legion of Honour

– Officier in the National Order of Merit

– Officer in the National Order of Quebec

– Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau (Netherlands)

Languages

Ability to work in both languages of the International Court of Justice: French (native language) and English (fluent).

Knowledge of German (intermediate) and Dutch (basic).

Lee, Rena (Singapore)

Ambassador for International Law of the Republic of Singapore

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION APPOINTMENTS

2024–present **Member**

Panel of Conciliators of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Singapore's designated member under Article 12 of the ICSID Convention.

2022–present **Member**

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

Singapore's appointed member under Article 44 of the 1907 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

2020–present **Member**

List of Arbitrators for the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanism

Singapore's appointed member under Annex 4 of the Protocol.

2018–2023 **President**

United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Presided over the successful conclusion of negotiations over five years on a new international agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

2017–2022 **Member**

Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Contributed to the development of the draft regulations, standards and guidelines for mineral resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, including regulations, standards and guidelines relating to protection of marine environment. Also reviewed annual reports submitted by contractors.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

2023–present **Ambassador for International Law**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore

Represent Singapore at international law bodies and meetings, as well as appear in legal proceedings before international courts/

tribunals. Participate in negotiations such as the Diplomatic Conference that adopted the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge.

2018–2023 **Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore

Discharged duties as the President of the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and represented Singapore at meetings on oceans and law of the sea, such as the UN Ocean Conference.

2018–2020 **Minister-Counsellor**

The Diplomatic Office in The Hague, Republic of Singapore

Served as Singapore's first Minister-Counsellor at The Hague. Advised the Singapore Government on matters relating to international law, and dispute settlement institutions within and beyond the Hague, including the ICJ, PCA and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT SERVICE

2020–2025 **Chief Executive**

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)

Ministry of Law, Republic of Singapore

Collaborated with the World Intellectual Property Organisation and IP Offices internationally, regionally and bilaterally on issues relevant to the global IP ecosystem, including emerging issues such as frontier technology like AI. Participated in the continued development of systems under various IP treaties, including the Madrid Protocol on Trade Marks, the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Hague Agreement on Industrial Designs. Oversaw the national IP regime, including initiatives relating to the utilisation of IP for business growth.

2008–2018 **Senior State Counsel (2014–2018);**

Deputy Senior State Counsel (2008–2014)

International Affairs Division

Attorney-General's Chambers, Republic of Singapore

State negotiator in bilateral negotiations for boundary delimitation and defence cooperation agreements.

State negotiator in multilateral negotiations including the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of ASEAN, the Agreement to establish the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Advised on law of the sea and maritime law (including passage rights, freedom of navigation and overflight, activities in the exclusive economic zones and high seas, matters pertaining to the International Maritime Organization (IMO)), human rights law (including treaty reporting under the Universal Periodic Review, accession to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), diplomatic, consular and international organisation privileges and immunities (including negotiation of Host Country Agreements with the World Bank and INTERPOL).

1992–2007 **Deputy Head, International & Operations Law (2001–2007);**

Senior Legal Counsel (1996–2001); Legal Officer (1992–1996)

Ministry of Defence, Republic of Singapore

State negotiator for bilateral defence cooperation agreements, as well as multilateral instruments including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Advised on international humanitarian and operational law issues (including use of force, rules of engagement, accession to the Genocide Convention), disarmament law (including application of the Chemical Weapons Convention), law of the sea (including passage rights, freedom of navigation and overflight), status of forces agreements.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

2025–present **Chairperson**

Governing Board, Centre for International Law (CIL)

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Chair of the governing body of CIL, a leading research institute for the promotion and development of international law.

2025–present **Member**

Expert Group on the Future Development of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Expert Group is tasked with reflecting on the PCA's historical contributions, evaluating its contemporary relevance, and charting a strategic course for its future, and will report its findings and recommendations to the PCA Secretary-General.

HONOURS

2025 **Knight of the National Order of Merit (Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite)**

President of the French Republic

2024 Manley-Bendall Maritime Personality of the Year (Prix Personnalité maritime de Pannée)

French Maritime Academy (Académie de marine)

2024 **Elisabeth Haub Award for Environmental Law and Diplomacy**

World IP Review (WIPR) Diversity Top 100 – Influential Women of IP

TIME Magazine's Top 100 Most Influential People

2023 **Public Administration Medal (Gold)**

Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

2019 **Public Administration Medal (Silver)**

Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2025 Honorary Doctorate of Laws (LL.D.)

University of Aberdeen

1998 Master of Laws (LL.M)

National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law

1992 Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)

National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

1993 Member, Singapore Academy of Law

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Rena Lee (2025). The Institutionalisation of International Law in a Multipolar World. *The Cambridge International Law Journal*, Vol. 14(2), 267–277.

Rena Lee (2021). The Journey to Realisation. In Myron H. Nordquist and Ronan Long (Eds.), *Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*. Brill

Marise Cremona, David Kleimann, Joris Larik, Rena Lee, Pascal Vennesson (2015). *ASEAN's External Agreements – Law, Practice and the Quest for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press

SELECT RECENT PRESENTATIONS

2026 Opening address, International Law Year in Review 2026 Conference, Centre for International Law (CIL), Singapore

2025 Keynote speech, Annual Conference 2025, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea (NCLOS), Tromsø, Norway

Lecture, 2025 Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy, Rhodes, Greece

Inaugural lecture, International Law of the Sea Summer Academy, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Keynote address, "Systemic Integration of Climate Change in International Law", Climate Change Conference, CIL and Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP), Singapore

Panellist, "The Role of International Courts and Tribunals in Strengthening Multilateralism", Singapore Office of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Singapore

Panellist, "Roundtable Discussion on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and the BBNJ Agreement", IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, New York, USA

Keynote fireside chat, American Society of International Law (ASIL) 2025 Midyear Meeting, Cleveland, USA

Closing keynote speech, Second ASIL Abroad Meeting, Singapore

Keynote speech, "International Humanitarian Law and the Governance of Emerging Technologies", UNIDIR-RSIS Regional Consultation on the Application of IHL to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Singapore.

Keynote address, International Law Year in Review 2025 Conference, CIL, Singapore

2024 Presentation, "Participation in International Law and the Multilateral Approach to Justice", Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden Law School, The Hague, Netherlands

Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture, "Reaching shore: Multilateralism and the Value of International Law", Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, Sweden

Keynote speech, International Law Association Singapore Lecture, "The Growing Access to International Law", Singapore

In Conversation: BBNJ Dispute Settlement provisions, ICJ, The Hague, Netherlands

Presentation on IP Valuation and Financing, Third Belt and Road Intellectual Property Conference, Beijing, China

Presentation on Innovations in Dispute Settlement, PCA Commemorative Event, Singapore

Class on BBNJ, ASEAN Law and Policy Academy, CIL, Singapore

Presentation on "Implementing the BBNJ Agreement", International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) Plenary: Ensuring a Connected Future, Singapore

2023 Keynote Panel on "Leading Innovation for all", ChIPs Global Summit, San Francisco, USA

Presentation on “BBNJ Dispute Settlement”, ITLOS-ROK Workshop for Legal Advisers, online

Presentation, Panel on “Reaching Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction”, ASIL Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA

Presentation on “International Negotiations”, Government Attorneys Interest Group, ASIL Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA

Conversation “In Celebration of a new BBNJ Agreement” with Ambassador Tommy Koh, CIL, Singapore