



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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**Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence  
by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo  
(Request for Advisory Opinion)**

**The Court makes an Order organizing the proceedings; it fixes the time-limits for the  
presentation of written statements and of written comments on those statements**

THE HAGUE, 21 October 2008. Following the request by the General Assembly of the United Nations to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) asking it to render an advisory opinion on the question of the accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo (see Press Release 2008/34 of 10 October 2008), the Court has made an Order organizing the proceedings.

In its Order dated 17 October 2008, the Court decided that “the United Nations and its Member States are considered likely to be able to furnish information on the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion”. It has fixed 17 April 2009 as the time-limit within which written statements on the question may be presented to the Court and 17 July 2009 as the time-limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements may submit written comments on the other statements.

The Court also decided that “taking account of the fact that the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo of 17 February 2008 is the subject of the question submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion, the authors of the above declaration are considered likely to be able to furnish information on the question”, and has therefore decided “to invite them to make written contributions to the Court within the above time-limits”.

The subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.

### History of the proceedings

On 8 October 2008, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 63/3 (A/63/L.2) in which, referring to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, it requested the Court to render an advisory opinion on the following question:

“Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?”

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 9 October 2008 and received by fax on 10 October 2008. In his letter, the Secretary-General indicated that, pursuant to Article 65, paragraph 2, of the Statute, all documents likely to throw light upon the question would be transmitted to the Court as soon as possible.

By letters dated 10 October 2008, the 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.

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The full text of the Order will shortly be available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)).

Written statements and written comments on those statements and written contributions are confidential at this stage in the proceedings.

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