



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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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)**

Filing of written statements and of a written contribution

THE HAGUE, 21 April 2009. Thirty-five Member States of the United Nations have filed written statements within the time-limit fixed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the question of the Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo (request for advisory opinion). The authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo have filed a written contribution within the same time-limit.

By an Order of 17 October 2008, the Court had fixed 17 April 2009 as the time-limit within which written statements on the question could be presented to it (see Press Release No. 2008/36).

Written statements were filed in the Registry by the following Member States of the United Nations (in order of receipt): the Czech Republic, France, Cyprus, China, Switzerland, Romania, Albania, Austria, Egypt, Germany, Slovakia, the Russian Federation, Finland, Poland, Luxembourg, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Serbia, Spain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Estonia, Norway, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Latvia, Japan, Brazil, Ireland, Denmark, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Maldives, Sierra Leone and Bolivia.

The texts of the written statements and of the written contribution are confidential at this stage of the proceedings.

It is recalled that, in its Order of 17 October 2008, the Court also fixed 17 July 2009 as the time-limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements may submit written comments on the other statements pursuant to Article 66, paragraph 4, of the Statute. The authors of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo may file a written contribution containing their comments on the other statements within the same time-limit.

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. Subsequently, the Secretary-General submitted to the Court a dossier containing all documents likely to throw light upon the question, pursuant to Article 65, paragraph 2, of the Statute. This dossier is available on the Court’s website (www.icj-cij.org).

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.

By an 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” and fixed the time-limits for them to do so. 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 invited them “to make written contributions to the Court within the above time-limits”.

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