



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)*

### Order of the Court on Guyana's request for the modification of its Order of 1 December 2023 indicating provisional measures

THE HAGUE, 2 May 2025. In the case concerning *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)*, the Court, having duly considered Guyana's [Request for the indication of provisional measures of 6 March 2025](#), and Venezuela's communications of 10 and 28 March 2025, rendered its Order yesterday, which was transmitted to the Parties by letter from the Registrar.

In its Order, the Court considers that Guyana's request of 6 March 2025 is a request for the modification of the Court's [Order of 1 December 2023](#) indicating provisional measures. The Court therefore had to determine whether there had been a change in the situation which justified a modification of its earlier decision.

In the Court's view, since the delivery of its Order of 1 December 2023, the serious risk of Venezuela acquiring and exercising control and administration over the territory in dispute has significantly increased. In particular, the adoption by Venezuela of legislative measures and decrees concerning the territory in dispute, and the announcement of the preparation for and conduct of elections in that territory, which Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control, "represent grave developments which constitute a change in the situation". The Court finds that this change justifies modifying its Order of 1 December 2023, by further specifying its scope. The Court also finds that the conditions for the indication of provisional measures are met.

In its [Order](#), which has binding effect, the Court:

“(1) Unanimously,

*Reaffirms* the provisional measures indicated in its Order of 1 December 2023, which should be immediately and effectively implemented;

(2) By twelve votes to three,

*Indicates* the following provisional measure:

Pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shall refrain from conducting elections, or preparing to conduct elections, in the territory in

dispute, which the Co-operative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control.

IN FAVOUR: *President* IWASAWA; *Vice-President* SEBUTINDE; *Judges* TOMKA, ABRAHAM, YUSUF, BRANT, GÓMEZ ROBLEDÓ, CLEVELAND, AURESCU, TLADI; *Judges ad hoc* WOLFRUM, COUVREUR;

AGAINST: *Judges* XUE, BHANDARI, NOLTE.”

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Judges XUE, BHANDARI and NOLTE append a joint dissenting opinion to the Order of the Court; Judge BRANT appends a declaration to the Order of the Court; Judge *ad hoc* WOLFRUM appends a declaration to the Order of the Court; Judge *ad hoc* COUVREUR appends a separate opinion to the Order of the Court.

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A summary of the Order appears in the document entitled “[Summary 2025/1](#)”, to which summaries of the opinions and declarations are annexed. This summary and the full text of the Order are available on the [case page](#) on the Court’s website.

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Earlier [press releases](#) relating to this case are available on the Court’s website.

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*Note:* The Court’s press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

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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 agencies of the system.

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