



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea)

Public hearings on the merits to be held from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October 2024

THE HAGUE, 19 August 2024. The International Court of Justice will hold public hearings on the merits in the case concerning *Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea)* at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court, from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October 2024.

It is recalled that proceedings were instituted on 5 March 2021 by way of a Special Agreement between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, which was signed in 2016 and entered into force in March 2020 (see press release [2021/10](#)).

In the [Special Agreement](#), the Parties request the Court

“to determine whether the legal titles, treaties and international conventions invoked by the Parties have the force of law in the relations between the Gabonese Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in so far as they concern the delimitation of their common maritime and land boundaries and sovereignty over the islands of Mbanié/Mbañe, Cocotiers/Cocoteros and Conga”.

By an [Order dated 7 April 2021](#), the Court fixed 5 October 2021 and 5 May 2022 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Equatorial Guinea and a Counter-Memorial by Gabon. Those written pleadings were filed within the time-limits thus fixed.

By an [Order dated 6 May 2022](#), the President of the Court fixed 5 October 2022 and 6 March 2023 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Reply by Equatorial Guinea and a Rejoinder by Gabon. Those pleadings were filed within the time-limits thus fixed.

Schedule for the hearings

Monday 30 September 2024	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	First round of oral argument (Equatorial Guinea)
	3 p.m.-5 p.m.:	First round of oral argument (Equatorial Guinea)
Wednesday 2 October 2024	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	First round of oral argument (Gabon)
	3 p.m.-5 p.m.:	First round of oral argument (Gabon)
Thursday 3 October 2024	3 p.m.-6 p.m.:	Second round of oral argument (Equatorial Guinea)
Friday 4 October 2024	3 p.m.-6 p.m.:	Second round of oral argument (Gabon)

Members of the diplomatic corps, the public and the media will find below practical information regarding the organization of the hearings.

A. Practical information and admission procedures

There will be no parking on the Peace Palace grounds.

1. Members of the diplomatic corps

Members of the diplomatic corps who wish to attend the hearings are kindly requested to fill out an [online registration form](#) by midnight (The Hague time) on Thursday 26 September 2024. Seats in the Great Hall of Justice will be allocated on the basis of availability. On presenting confirmation of registration from the Information Department and valid diplomatic ID at the main gate of the Peace Palace on the day(s) of the hearings, diplomats will be given a badge providing access to the Great Hall of Justice.

2. Members of the public

Only 15 seats will be available in the public gallery for members of the public on a first-come first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered. Members of the public wishing to attend the hearings are requested to present themselves at the main gate of the Peace Palace 40 minutes before the start of the hearings at the latest. They will be given a badge providing access to the public gallery upon presentation of valid ID. The security officers at the gate will notify those concerned once all available seats have been filled.

3. Media representatives

Media representatives who wish to attend the hearings are kindly requested to fill out an [online accreditation form](#) by midnight (The Hague time) on Thursday 26 September 2024. Requests submitted after this deadline will not be considered. The Court's press room can accommodate only a limited number of people. Accreditation requests will be considered on a first-come first-served basis. **No requests received by phone or email will be accepted.**

B. Further practical information for the media

1. Entry to the Peace Palace

Only duly accredited individuals with valid identification will be permitted to enter the Peace Palace grounds. Accredited media representatives must bring with them their personal ID and press card. They are asked to arrive at the Peace Palace gates no later than 30 minutes before the start of the hearings. The press room will be open one and a half hours before the start of the hearings and will close one hour after they conclude.

2. Access to the courtroom

A limited number of professional photographers and camera operators will be permitted to enter the courtroom for a few minutes before the opening of the oral argument of each Party. They will be accompanied by members of the Information Department. Other media representatives will not have access to the courtroom.

3. Press Room

The hearings will be transmitted live on a large screen in the two official languages of the Court, English and French, in a press room equipped with shared internet access (Wi-Fi and Ethernet). TV crews can connect to the Court's PAL (HD and SD) and NTSC (SD) audiovisual system, and radio reporters to the audio system.

4. Multimedia

The hearings will be streamed live and on demand (VOD) in the two official languages of the Court, on the [Court's website](#) and on [UN Web TV](#). High-resolution video clips and still photos produced by the Registry during the hearings will be available free of charge and free of copyright for editorial, non-commercial use, on the Court's website (to download, click on [Multimedia](#)) and X feed (@CIJ_ICJ).

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 agencies of the system.

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