



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)**

#### **Declarations of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute of the Court for the purposes of the merits stage of the proceedings**

THE HAGUE, 6 August 2024. In its [Judgment of 2 February 2024](#), the Court found that it had jurisdiction to examine the request of Ukraine that the Court “[a]djudge and declare that there is no credible evidence that Ukraine is responsible for committing genocide in violation of the Genocide Convention in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine”.

Further to this Judgment, by a letter dated 18 June 2024, the Registrar invited those States that had previously filed declarations of intervention pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, to indicate, by 2 August 2024, whether they wished to file a new declaration, maintain their original declaration or, if necessary, file an adjusted declaration.

Pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute, whenever the construction of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, each of those States has the right to intervene in the proceedings. If they do so, the construction given by the judgment of the Court will be equally binding upon them.

By 2 August 2024,

- Six States had indicated to the Registrar of the Court that they wish to maintain their declarations of intervention without adjustments (in order of receipt of notification): Romania; Portugal; France; Canada and the Netherlands (jointly); and Italy;
- Eight States had filed adjusted declarations of intervention (in order of receipt): Lithuania; Latvia; New Zealand; Luxembourg; Sweden; Australia; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Denmark; and
- Nine States had filed new declarations of intervention (in order of receipt): Poland (see [press release No. 2024/58](#)); Spain; Estonia; Germany; Austria, Czechia, Finland and Slovenia (jointly); and Bulgaria.

In accordance with Article 83, paragraph 1, of the [Rules of Court](#), Ukraine and the Russian Federation have been invited to furnish written observations on the admissibility of these declarations of intervention at the merits stage. If one of the Parties objects to the admissibility of the declarations

of intervention, there will be a further round of written observations, in accordance with Article 84, paragraph 2, of the Rules. Thereafter, the Court will decide on the admissibility of the declarations of intervention at the merits stage.

The texts of all these declarations of intervention are available on the [case page](#) on the Court's website.

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## History of the proceedings

On 26 February 2022, Ukraine filed in the Registry of the Court an [Application instituting proceedings](#) against the Russian Federation concerning “a dispute . . . relating to the interpretation, application and fulfilment of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” (the “Genocide Convention”).

Ukraine contends, *inter alia*, that

“the Russian Federation has falsely claimed that acts of genocide have occurred in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine, and on that basis recognized the so-called ‘Donetsk People’s Republic’ and ‘Luhansk People’s Republic’, and then declared and implemented a ‘special military operation’ against Ukraine”.

Ukraine “emphatically denies” that such acts of genocide have occurred and states that it submitted the Application “to establish that Russia has no lawful basis to take action in and against Ukraine for the purpose of preventing and punishing any purported genocide”.

As basis for the Court’s jurisdiction, Ukraine invokes Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court and Article IX of the Genocide Convention, to which both States are parties.

Together with the Application, Ukraine submitted a [Request for the indication of provisional measures](#) with reference to Article 41 of the Statute of the Court and to Articles 73, 74 and 75 of the Rules of Court. By an [Order dated 16 March 2022](#), the Court indicated certain provisional measures. In particular, it ordered the Russian Federation to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine and to ensure that any military or irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it, as well as any organizations and persons which may be subject to its control or direction, take no steps in furtherance of such military operations. The Court further directed both Parties to refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.

By an [Order dated 23 March 2022](#), the Court fixed 23 September 2022 and 23 March 2023 as the respective time-limits for the filing of the Memorial of Ukraine and the Counter-Memorial of the Russian Federation. The Memorial of Ukraine was filed on 1 July 2022.

On 3 October 2022, the Russian Federation raised [preliminary objections](#) to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of the Application. Consequently, in accordance with Article 79*bis*, paragraph 3, of the Rules of Court, the proceedings on the merits were suspended. By an [Order dated 7 October 2022](#), the Court fixed 3 February 2023 as the time-limit within which Ukraine could present a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by the Russian Federation. Ukraine filed its written statement within the time-limit thus fixed.

Between 21 July 2022 and 15 December 2022, 33 States filed declarations of intervention in the case, pursuant to Article 63, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court. By an [Order dated 5 June](#)

[2023](#), the Court decided that the declarations submitted by 32 States were admissible at the preliminary objections stage of the proceedings. By the same Order, it fixed 5 July 2023 as the time-limit for the filing of written observations by those States on the subject-matter of the interventions. Thirty-one intervening States filed written observations within this time-limit. The [declarations and written observations](#) can be found on the Court's website.

Public hearings on the preliminary objections raised by the Russian Federation were held between 18 and 27 September 2023. Thirty-two intervening States presented oral observations at the hearings.

On 2 February 2024, the Court rendered its [Judgment on the preliminary objections](#) in which it found that it had jurisdiction to examine the claim of Ukraine requesting the Court to “[a]djudge and declare that there is no credible evidence that Ukraine is responsible for committing genocide in violation of the Genocide Convention in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine”, and that the claim was admissible. The case could therefore proceed to the merits.

By an [Order also dated 2 February 2024](#), the Court fixed 2 August 2024 as the new time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the Russian Federation. By an [Order dated 30 July 2024](#), this time-limit was extended to 16 September 2024.

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

The French version of this press release will be issued in due course.

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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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