



# 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)*

#### Counter-claims made by the Russian Federation

THE HAGUE, 31 January 2025. On 18 November 2024, the Russian Federation filed its Counter-Memorial, which contained counter-claims, in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*. Ukraine subsequently objected to the admissibility of the counter-claims.

In accordance with Article 80, paragraph 3, of the [Rules of Court](#), the Court has invited Ukraine and the Russian Federation to submit their views on the matter by 20 May 2025 and 22 September 2025, respectively. It will then be for the Court to decide whether the counter-claims are admissible.

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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.

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 79bis, 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.

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 time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of the Russian Federation. By Orders dated [30 July 2024](#) and [9 September 2024](#), this time-limit was extended to 16 September 2024 and then to 18 November 2024.

In a press release dated 6 August 2024, the Court [announced](#) that 23 States had filed new or adjusted declarations of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute for the purposes of the merits stage of the proceedings, or had indicated their intention to maintain their declarations of intervention filed at the preliminary objections stage, without adjustments. One such State, Poland, has also [filed](#) an application for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute.

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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