



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change

(Request for Advisory Opinion)

The Court authorizes the African Union to participate in the proceedings

THE HAGUE, 18 July 2023. The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has authorized the African Union, at its request, to participate in the advisory proceedings on the *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*.

Pursuant to Article 66 of its Statute, the Court has decided that the African Union is likely to be able to furnish information on the questions submitted to the Court by the General Assembly. The African Union may therefore present a written statement on those questions, and written comments on any written statements made by States or other organizations, within the time-limits fixed by the President of the Court in her [Order of 20 April 2023](#), namely 20 October 2023 and 22 January 2024, respectively.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

History of the proceedings

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

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, through judgments which have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned, 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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