



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Iran files an application against Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom constituting an appeal against a decision by the ICAO Council

THE HAGUE, 17 April 2025. Iran today instituted proceedings against Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom before the International Court of Justice. According to Iran, its [Application](#) “constitutes an appeal against a decision rendered by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization” (the “ICAO Council”) on 17 March 2025, in proceedings initiated jointly by the above-mentioned States against Iran on 8 January 2024, pursuant to Article 84 of the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation (the “Chicago Convention”) concerning the settlement of disputes.

Iran states that the proceedings before the ICAO Council “concern a disagreement relating to the interpretation and application of the Chicago Convention with respect to the erroneous shooting down of a civil aircraft in flight — Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 (‘Flight PS752’) by Iran’s military on 8 January 2020”. The subject-matter of the dispute referred to the Court is “Iran’s appeal against the validity and correctness of the Decision of the ICAO Council rendered on 17 March 2025 in relation to the preliminary objections” raised by Iran to the competence of the ICAO Council, which were rejected.

Iran requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- “a. by reason of the First Objection, the ICAO Council lacks jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the disagreement between Iran and the States of Canada, the Kingdom of Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as submitted by those States’ Application to the ICAO Council dated 8 January 2024;
- b. by reason of the Second Objection, the United Kingdom lacks standing to bring its claims and to participate in the proceedings before the ICAO Council; and
- c. the voting procedure adopted by the ICAO Council, and the material amendment to paragraph (c) of the Decision *after* the vote, prejudiced in a fundamental way the requirements of a fair and just procedure because it wrongly treated Iran’s two separate and distinct objections as if there was only a single ‘preliminary objection’ to be voted on; and
- d. the Decision of the ICAO Council is null and void and without effect.”

The Applicant seeks to found the Court's jurisdiction on Article 84 of the Chicago Convention, in conjunction with Article 36, paragraph 1, and Article 37 of the [Statute](#) of the Court.

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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