The International Courts & Tribunals Bulletin

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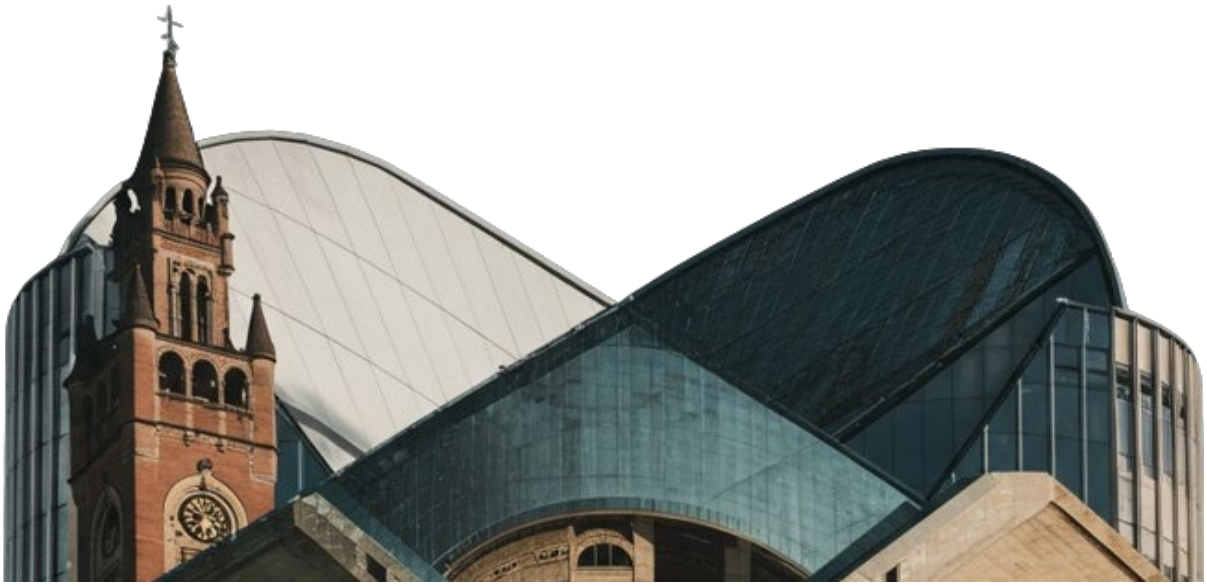

Introduction

The *CIL International Courts & Tribunals Bulletin* is an e-publication prepared by the International Dispute Resolution (IDR) Team at the Centre for International Law (CIL). It offers neutral, comprehensive, and timely updates on significant legal and institutional developments concerning major international courts and tribunals engaged in State-level dispute resolution.

The *Bulletin* also tracks relevant aspects of State practice in relation to these bodies. Designed to serve policymakers, international legal practitioners, and scholars, the *Bulletin* provides valuable insights into the evolving landscape of international adjudication.

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Contents

I. Inter-State Courts

1. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Docket

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel) - **Declaration of intervention from Paraguay**

On **3 March 2026**, Paraguay filed a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute of the ICJ. Paraguay indicated that, as a party to the Genocide Convention (1948), it seeks to intervene in relation to the interpretation of the treaty. Paraguay considers Articles I, II, III, IV, V and VI of the Genocide Convention to be in question in the case and focuses in particular on Article II (meaning of genocide) of the Convention.

See Press Release.

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)

Declarations of intervention from the Netherlands and Iceland

On **11 March 2026**, the Netherlands and Iceland each filed a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute of the ICJ.

See Press Release.

Declarations of intervention from Namibia, the United States of America, Hungary and Fiji

On **12 March 2026**, Namibia, the United States of America, Hungary and Fiji each filed declarations of intervention under Article 63 of the Statute of the ICJ.

See Press Release.

These States, as parties to the Genocide Convention (1948), seek to intervene with respect to the interpretation of that treaty.

Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras) – Judgment on Guatemala's request to intervene granted

On **19 March 2026**, the ICJ delivered its judgment on Guatemala's request for permission to intervene. The request, submitted under Article 62 of the Statute of the ICJ, sought authorisation for Guatemala to participate in the proceedings in light of its asserted legal interests in the subject matter of the dispute. The Court granted the request and decided that Guatemala was permitted to intervene as a non-party in the case.

The Court clarified that Guatemala's intervention is limited to the protection of its legal interests in so far as it claims sovereignty over the same territory in its case with Belize. In relation to the question of sovereignty over the cays and its intervention, it is to be limited to the issue of sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos, including fishing rights in the waters surrounding them.

In an order dated **16 April 2026**, the time-limit for the submission of Guatemala's written statement was extended to **19 June 2026**, and the time-limit within which the Parties may submit written observations in response, to **21 September 2026**.

See Judgment, Press Release, and Order of **16 April 2026**.

Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela) – Public hearings conclude

On **11 May 2026**, the ICJ announced the conclusion of the public hearings on the merits in the case concerning the validity of the Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 delimiting the boundary between Guyana and Venezuela. During the hearings, held from **4 to 11 May 2026** at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Parties presented oral arguments regarding the validity and binding force of the 1899 Award and the legal status of the boundary between the two States.

The proceedings form part of the merits phase of the dispute following the Court's earlier decisions affirming its jurisdiction. The Court indicated that it would now begin its deliberations.

See Press Release and videos of the public hearings.

Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87 – ICJ delivers advisory opinion

On **21 May 2026**, the ICJ delivered its Advisory Opinion in the proceedings concerning the interpretation of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), following a request submitted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Court concluded that in accordance with the customary rules of interpretation reflected in Articles 31 and 32 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the right to strike is protected under Convention No. 87 as an essential element of freedom of association, notwithstanding the absence of an explicit reference to the right to strike in the treaty text. The Court emphasised that the right to strike constitutes a fundamental means through which workers and their organisations may defend and promote their occupational interests.

See Press Release, Summary of Advisory Opinion, and Advisory Opinion.

Institutional Updates

Iceland recognises the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ

On **26 February 2026**, Iceland deposited with the United Nations' Secretary-General a declaration under Article 36(2) of the Statute of the ICJ recognising the Court's compulsory jurisdiction. The declaration entails Iceland's acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction *ipso facto* in legal disputes with other States that have made similar declarations.

With Iceland's declaration, the number of States accepting the Court's compulsory jurisdiction stands at 75.

See Press Release.

Passing of former ICJ President Stephen M. Schwebel

The ICJ announced that Stephen M. Schwebel, former Member of the Court, Vice-President and President, passed away on **9 April 2026** in New York. Mr Schwebel was also well known as an arbitrator, notably serving on the tribunal that ordered Russia to pay US $50 billion to the former majority shareholders of Yukos.

See News Post.

ICJ holds solemn sitting to mark its 80th anniversary and launches alumni association for the ICJ Judicial Fellows Programme

On **17 April 2026**, the ICJ held a solemn sitting at the Peace Palace in The Hague to commemorate the 80th anniversary of its inaugural session. The ceremony was attended by high-level dignitaries, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the King of the Netherlands, and featured addresses highlighting the Court's role as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and its contribution to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. The sitting formed part of the Court's official programme marking eight decades since its establishment in 1946.

A side event on the same day marked the launch of the Judicial Fellows Alumni Association, intended to serve as a bridge between the ICJ and current and future practitioners of international law worldwide. Since 1999, 291 judicial fellows from more than 75 countries have worked at the ICJ.

See Press Release (1), Press Release (2), and '80th anniversary of the ICJ'.

ICJ elects Santiago Villalpando as new Registrar

On **7 May 2026**, the ICJ elected Mr Santiago Villalpando from Argentina as its new Registrar for a seven-year term, succeeding Mr Philippe Gautier, whose term will end on **31 July 2026**.

Mr Villalpando currently serves as Legal Adviser and Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs at UNESCO. He previously held several positions within the United Nations system, including Chief of the Treaty Section of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, Registrar of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and Legal Officer at the ICJ Registry.

As Registrar, Mr Villalpando will assist the Court in the exercise of its judicial functions and oversee the administration of the Registry.

See Press Release.

UN General Assembly adopts resolution supporting ICJ climate advisory opinion

On **20 May 2026**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution supporting the ICJ's 2025 advisory opinion concerning States' obligations in relation to climate change by a vote of 141–8. The resolution reaffirms that States have legal obligations under international law to address climate change and protect present and future generations from its effects.

The resolution, prepared by Vanuatu and supported by a broad coalition of States, is intended to reinforce the normative and political impact of the ICJ's climate advisory opinion in international negotiations and climate-related litigation. Although not legally binding, the resolution was widely viewed as a significant endorsement of the ICJ's interpretation and an expression of global consensus concerning States' climate obligations under international law.

See UN News, Statement of UN Secretary-General, and Advisory Opinion.

2. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

Docket

Arbitration pursuant to the Asylum Partnership Agreement (The Republic of Rwanda v. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) – **Hearing concludes**

On **20 March 2026**, the arbitral tribunal concluded a hearing held from **18 to 20 March 2026** at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The proceedings concern a dispute initiated by Rwanda on 24 November 2025 regarding the United Kingdom's compliance with obligations under the Asylum Partnership Agreement. The tribunal, chaired by Judge Peter Tomka, is expected to render its award during May, subject to any extension agreed by the parties.

See Press Release.

Energy Charter Treaty Arbitration (The Republic of Azerbaijan v. The Republic of Armenia) – **Hearing on preliminary objections concludes**

On **8 April 2026**, the arbitral tribunal concluded a hearing on preliminary objections held from 7 to 8 April 2026 at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The arbitration, initiated on 27 February 2023, concerns claims brought by Azerbaijan under Article 27 of the Energy Charter Treaty, with proceedings conducted under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules (1976). The tribunal, chaired by Ms Jean E. Kalicki, will issue a public award unless the parties agree otherwise.

See Press Release.

Dispute Concerning Coastal State Rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait (Ukraine v. the Russian Federation) – **Issuance of award**

On **22 April 2026**, an arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) issued its award. The arbitration, initiated in 2016, concerns coastal States' rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait.

Following earlier proceedings on preliminary objections and a hearing concerning the merits and remaining issues of jurisdiction and admissibility held in 2024, the tribunal rendered its award, which will be published in due course subject to any redactions for confidential information. The five-member tribunal is chaired by Judge Jin-Hyun Paik.

See Press Release.

(1) Blue Gold Holdings Limited (United Kingdom) and (2) Future Global Resources Limited (United Kingdom) v. The Republic of Ghana **- Tribunal issues procedural orders**

On **6 May 2026**, the PCA reported procedural developments in an arbitration brought by Blue Gold Holdings Limited and Future Global Resources Limited against Ghana under the United Kingdom–Ghana BIT. The dispute concerns the Bogoso Prestea mining leases and is being conducted under the 2021 UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

The tribunal held a first procedural meeting on **19 February 2026** and subsequently issued Procedural Order No. 1 on **16 March 2026** establishing the procedural framework and calendar for the arbitration. On **19 March 2026**, by Procedural Order No. 2, the tribunal denied the claimants' request for an urgent temporary restraining order seeking to prevent Ghana from commencing separate arbitration proceedings relating to the mining leases, finding that the application did not satisfy the requirements for interim relief under the UNCITRAL Rules.

In addition, by Procedural Order No. 3, the tribunal rejected Ghana's request to trifurcate the proceedings into separate phases addressing jurisdiction, liability, and quantum, concluding that the factual and legal issues were too closely intertwined at the current stage of the proceedings.

The tribunal is composed of Professor Klaus Michael Sachs (Presiding Arbitrator), Dr Raëd Fathallah, and Professor Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab. The PCA acts as registry in the proceedings.

See Press Release.

Indus Waters Western Rivers Arbitration (Pakistan v. India) - Hearing on interim measures and treaty status concludes

On **11 May 2026**, the PCA announced the conclusion of a three-day hearing held from 26 to **28 April 2026** in the arbitration initiated by Pakistan against India under the Indus Waters Treaty. The proceedings concern the interpretation and application of the Treaty in relation to the design of certain run-of-river hydro-electric projects constructed by India on the Indus river system.

This phase of the proceedings focused specifically on Pakistan's request for interim measures and its application concerning the status of the treaty. Pakistan participated in the hearing through its legal team and technical advisers, while India did not appear in the proceedings.

The case is chaired by Professor Sean D. Murphy and comprises Professor Wouter Buytaert, Professor Jeffrey P. Minear, Judge Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, and Dr Donald Blackmore. The PCA acts as secretariat for the arbitration.

See Press Release.

It is reported that on **15 May 2026**, the tribunal issued a supplemental award concerning maximum pondage supplemental to the award on issues of general interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty where the tribunal upheld its earlier award supporting the continued validity of the Indus Waters Treaty, ruling that India cannot unilaterally suspend the agreement. However, the PCA has not made this award publicly available just yet.

See The Express Tribune News and Dawn E-Paper.

Institutional updates

The PCA inaugurates hearing facilities in Ha Noi and launches Vietnamese translation of its Arbitration Rules

On **25 March 2026**, the PCA inaugurated newly renovated hearing facilities at its Ha Noi Office and officially launched the Vietnamese translation of the PCA Arbitration Rules and Optional Protocols. The event, held at the House of Peace, was attended by representatives of the Vietnamese Government, diplomatic corps, legal practitioners, and academic institutions.

See Press Release.

The PCA signs cooperation agreement with Guatemala's Chamber of Industry Dispute Resolution Commission

On **7 April 2026**, the PCA signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Dispute Resolution Commission of Guatemala's Chamber of Industry (CRECIG) at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The agreement provides a framework for collaboration, including the facilitation of PCA-administered proceedings, the hosting of hearings and meetings in Guatemala, and joint efforts in capacity-building and the promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms.

See Press Release.

High-level conference in Dakar promotes universalization of the PCA and the HCCH

On **7 May 2026**, the PCA and the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) participated in a high-level conference held in Dakar, Senegal, dedicated to promoting the universalization of both institutions and strengthening engagement with African States.

The conference brought together government representatives, legal practitioners, academics, and international organisations to discuss the role of international dispute resolution and private international law in supporting legal cooperation, investment, trade, and access to justice. Particular attention was given to the benefits of wider participation in PCA and HCCH instruments and mechanisms.

See PCA Press Release and HCCH Press Release.

Host Country Agreement between the PCA and Bahrain enters into force

On **22 May 2026**, the PCA announced the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement concluded with the Kingdom of Bahrain, following Bahrain's ratification of the Agreement signed in June 2025. The Agreement entered into force on **21 May 2026**.

The Agreement establishes a legal framework enabling PCA-administered proceedings to be conducted in Bahrain and provides facilities and services for hearings and meetings, as well as privileges and immunities for arbitrators and participants in PCA proceedings.

See Press Release.

3. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

Docket

The "Zheng He" Case (Luxembourg v. Mexico) **– Case removed from ITLOS' list**

On **16 March 2026**, the President of ITLOS ordered the removal of the case from the Tribunal's list of cases, following the discontinuance of proceedings by agreement of the parties.

The case, instituted in June 2024, concerned a dispute relating to the vessel "Zheng He", flying the flag of Luxembourg. The parties informed the Tribunal that they had reached a mutually satisfactory solution, including the clearance of the vessel to leave Mexican territory, and jointly requested the termination of the proceedings.

See Press Release and Order.

The M/T "Heroic Idun" (No. 2) Case (Marshall Islands/Equatorial Guinea) **- ITLOS Special Chamber finds Equatorial Guinea violated the UNCLOS Convention (Judgment, 27 May 2026)**

On **27 May 2026**, a Special Chamber of ITLOS ruled in favour of the Marshall Islands in *The M/T "Heroic Idun" (No. 2) Case*, finding that Equatorial Guinea violated several provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in relation to the interception, detention, and treatment of the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker *Heroic Idun* and its crew in 2022.

The dispute arose after Equatorial Guinea intercepted the vessel in the exclusive economic zone of São Tomé and Príncipe following requests from Nigerian authorities alleging the tanker's involvement in unlawful oil-related activities. The Special Chamber found that Equatorial Guinea's interception and apprehension of the vessel violated the freedoms of navigation protected under UNCLOS and held that there were insufficient grounds to justify the measures on the basis of anti-piracy enforcement.

The Chamber further concluded that Equatorial Guinea unlawfully imposed enforcement measures and fines against the vessel and violated the rights of the Marshall Islands through the detention and mistreatment of the crew, including their transfer to Nigeria without due process. At the same time, the Chamber held that UNCLOS does not impose a general obligation on States to notify the flag State when enforcement measures are taken against foreign vessels.

As reparation, the Special Chamber awarded the Marshall Islands compensation covering the unlawful fine, crew-related costs, loss of hire, repairs, and non-material damages suffered by the crew, amounting to several million US dollars and euros.

See Press Release and Judgment.

Election of Members of the Tribunal scheduled for June 2026

ITLOS announced that elections for seven seats on the Tribunal will take place during the 36th Meeting of States Parties to the UNCLOS Convention, scheduled to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from **22 to 26 June 2026**.

The election concerns members whose office terms will expire on **30 September 2026**. Under the UNCLOS Convention, members of the Tribunal are elected by States Parties for nine-year terms, with elections held every three years for one-third of the Tribunal's membership.

The update forms part of the Tribunal's regular institutional renewal process and will determine the composition of ITLOS for the next term.

See List of candidates nominated by States parties.

II. ISDS Institutions and Tribunals

1. International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Docket

From **27 February to 28 May 2026**, ICSID added 18 cases to its docket: Agip Caspian Sea B.V. and others v. Republic of Kazakhstan (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/10); Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize N.V. and Delhaize 'The Lion' Nederland B.V. v. Republic of Serbia (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/11); VC Holding II S.à.r.l. and others v. Italian Republic (ICSID Case No. ARB/16/39) – *Application for annulment filed by Italy*; Sinolam International Pte Ltd v. Republic of Panama (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/12); ČEZ, a.s. v. Republic of Bulgaria (ICSID Case No. ARB/16/24) – *Bulgaria filed a request for rectification of the award rendered on 29 January 2026*; Akfel Commodities Pte. Ltd. and I-Systems Global B.V. v. Republic of Türkiye (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/36) - *the Republic of Türkiye filed an application for revision of the award rendered on 23 July 2025*; Freeport-McMoRan Inc. v. Republic of Peru (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/8) - *Peru filed an application for the interpretation of the*

award rendered on May 17, 2024; Falcon Energy Materials plc v. Republic of Guinea (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/13); Shell Tunisia Upstream Limited and Shell Tunisia LPG S.A. v. Republic of Tunisia (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/14); Nagisa Murakami and others v. Swiss Confederation (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/15); Forty Management AG v. Romania (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/16); Spectrum UA Credit LLC v. Ukraine (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/17); Ye Cheng and others v. Commonwealth of Australia (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/18); Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited v. United Mexican States (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/19); Rami Levy and others v. Republic of Bulgaria (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/47) - *Application for annulment filed by the investors*; Termocandelaria Power S.A. v. Republic of Colombia (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/20); Lansdowne Oil & Gas PLC and Lansdowne Celtic Sea Limited v. Ireland (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/21); and Khalaf Ahmad Mohammad Alhabtoor and others v. Lebanese Republic (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/22).

From **27 February to 28 May 2026**, 25 tribunals have been constituted in the following cases: Rockhopper Italia S.p.A., Rockhopper Mediterranean Ltd, and Rockhopper Exploration Plc v. Italian Republic (ICSID Case No. ARB/17/14) – *Arbitration resubmitted following the ad hoc committee decision on annulment on 2 June 2025*; L'Air Liquide, société anonyme pour l'Etude et l'Exploitation des procédés Georges Claude, Air Liquide International S.A., and Azerus S.A.S. v. United Mexican States (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/17); Enwell Energy plc v. Ukraine (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/41); AVZ International Pty Ltd., Dathcom Mining SA and Green Lithium Holdings Pte Ltd. v. Democratic Republic of the Congo (ICSID Case No. ARB/23/20) – *Tribunal reconstituted on 20 March 2026, Peter Turner appointed following the resignation of arbitrator Salim Moolan*; Buried Hill Serdar Limited v. Turkmenistan (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/40) - *Tribunal reconstituted on 2 April 2026, Pierre Mayer appointed following the disqualification of arbitrator Philippe Sands*; Bernhard von Pezold and others v. Republic of Zimbabwe (ICSID Case No. ARB/10/15); - *Tribunal constituted for Zimbabwe's application for the interpretation of the award rendered on 28 July 2015*; Border Timbers Limited, Timber Products International (Private) Limited, and Hangani Development Co. (Private) Limited v. Republic of Zimbabwe (ICSID Case No. ARB/10/25) - *Tribunal constituted for Zimbabwe's application for the interpretation of the award rendered on 28 July 2015*; Yaacov Afik, Michael Mistriel Aykout and Shimon Mistriel Aykout v. Republic of Cyprus (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/45); Freeport-McMoRan Inc. v. Republic of Peru (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/8) - *Tribunal reconstituted for Peru's application for the interpretation of the award rendered on 17 May 2024*; Webuild S.p.A. (formerly Salini Impregilo S.p.A.) v. Argentine Republic (ICSID Case No. ARB/15/39) – *Constitution of ad hoc committee on 10 April 2026 filed by Argentina*; Eiser Infrastructure Limited and Energía Solar Luxembourg S.à r.l. v. Kingdom of Spain (ICSID Case No. ARB/13/36) – *Constitution of ad hoc committee on 13 April 2026 for second annulment proceeding* Brookfield Corporation v. Republic of Peru (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/14); Mitsui & Co., Ltd. v. Kingdom of Spain (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/47)

- *Constitution of ad hoc committee on 14 April 2026 filed by Spain*; Mohammed Saiful Alam and others v. People's Republic of Bangladesh (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/52); Starcom Holding AD and others v. Romania (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/51); Bupa Investments Overseas Limited v. Republic of Chile (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/50); Nomad Bauxite Corporation Pte Ltd and Almas Mynbayev v. Republic of Guinea (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/48); Asesores Financieros Andalucía Occidental, Sociedad Gestora de Patrimonios S.A. v. Oriental Republic of Uruguay (ICSID Case No. ARB/25/35); Bacanora Lithium Limited, Sonora Lithium Ltd., and Ganfeng International Trading (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. v. United Mexican States (ICSID Case No. ARB/24/21) – *Tribunal reconstituted on 8 May 2026, Joseph E. Neuhaus appointed following the resignation of Donald Donovan*; CTF Holdings S.A. v. Ukraine (ICSID Case No. ARB/24/35) – *Tribunal reconstituted on 11 May 2026, David Arias appointed following the resignation of Laurent Lévy*; GR Mining (Barbados) Inc. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (ICSID Case No. ARB(AF)/25/2); S-Planning Co., Ltd. and others v. Swiss Confederation (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/4); Libra LLC and others v. Republic of Azerbaijan (ICSID Case No. ARB/23/46) – *Tribunal reconstituted on 19 May 2026, Juan Fernández Armesto appointed following the arbitrator's resignation of Eduardo Zuleta*; Blue Water Worldwide LLC and others v. Republic of Peru (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/8); and Hiroshi Osumi v. Swiss Confederation (ICSID Case No. ARB/26/1).

From **27 February to 28 May 2026**, 2 Awards, 1 Decision on a Second Request for Provisional Measures, and 1 Decision on the Bifurcated Issue, have been published in the following cases:

Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd. v. Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited ("Bapex") (ICSID Case No. ARB/10/11) **– (Award, 18 December 2025)**

In its award of **18 December 2025**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Michael E. Schneider with co-arbitrators Professor Campbell Alan McLachlan KC and Professor Jan Paulsson) issued its final award in the case arising out of gas exploration operations in Bangladesh.

The dispute centred on two gas well blowouts at the Chattak field in 2005, which caused significant gas loss and environmental damage. The tribunal ordered Niko Resources to pay approximately US $42 million in compensation to Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited for one of two blowouts.

Following extensive proceedings on jurisdiction, liability, corruption allegations, and quantum, the tribunal found Niko liable for damages resulting from the blowouts, including lost gas and environmental damage. The award resolves long-running parallel

disputes between the parties, including related contractual and payment claims, and addresses complex issues of valuation, environmental losses, and causation.

See Award.

First Majestic Silver Corp. v. United Mexican States (ICSID Case No. ARB/21/14) – (Decision on Claimant's Second Request for Provisional Measures, 29 January 2026)

In its decision of **29 January 2026**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Professor Giorgio Sacerdoti with co-arbitrators Professor Stanimir A. Alexandrov and Professor Yves Derains) issued its Decision on the Claimant's Second Request for Provisional Measures in the case brought under the terminated NAFTA Chapter 11.

The claimant sought to suspend enforcement of a 2012 tax reassessment by Mexican authorities, arguing that imminent collection efforts would cause irreparable harm and undermine the arbitration. Mexico opposed the request, contending inter alia that the measure concerned taxation and that NAFTA prohibits tribunals from enjoining the application of challenged measures in the merits.

The tribunal rejected the request, finding that granting the suspension would violate the prohibition set forth in Article 1134 of NAFTA, which prohibits provisional measures that enjoin the application of a measure alleged to constitute a breach. The tribunal concluded that the tax reassessment at issue was central to the merits of the dispute and therefore could not be suspended through provisional measures. The tribunal did not consider it necessary to address other objections, including those relating to taxation carve-outs, and reserved the issue of costs for the final award.

See Decision.

Afriland First Group SA and others v. Democratic Republic of the Congo (ICSID Case No. ARB/23/38) – (Decision on the Bifurcated Issue, 16 July 2025)

In its decision of **16 July 2025**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Professor Juan Fernández-Armesto with co-arbitrators Mr Henri C. Alvarez KC and Mr Alexis Mourre) issued its Decision on the Bifurcated Issue rejecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo's jurisdictional objection in a dispute brought by Afriland First Group SA and other shareholders of Afriland First Bank Congo Démocratique SA. The case concerns measures allegedly affecting the claimants' banking investment in the DRC.

The respondent argued that the tribunal lacked jurisdiction because the interministerial order containing the DRC's consent to ICSID arbitration had either expired or been cancelled by a 2010 decree abolishing certain tax and customs exemptions. The

claimants maintained that the guarantees contained in the order, including consent to arbitration, remained valid.

The tribunal held that the dispute resolution guarantees contained in the interministerial order survived the withdrawal of fiscal incentives and that the claimants had validly accepted the DRC's offer to arbitrate. The tribunal therefore upheld its jurisdiction and ordered the proceedings to continue to the merits phase.

See Decision.

Espíritu Santo Holdings, LP and L1bre Holding, LLC v. United Mexican States (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/13) **– (Award, 26 March 2026)**

In its award of **26 March 2026**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Eduardo Zuleta with co-arbitrators Charles Poncet and Raúl E. Vinuesa) dismissed a US $2 billion claim brought by US and Canadian investors (Espíritu Santo Holdings and Libre Holdings) against Mexico under NAFTA Chapter 11 concerning a taxi technology concession in Mexico City.

The tribunal dismissed the claims brought under NAFTA by Espíritu Santo Holdings and L1bre Holding against Mexico arising from a concession related to the development of the "L1bre System," a digital taxi platform intended for use in Mexico City. The claimants alleged that Mexico unlawfully suspended and undermined the concession following a political transition in the city administration.

The tribunal rejected Mexico's jurisdictional objections but ultimately found that the claimants failed to establish breaches of NAFTA provisions concerning expropriation, minimum standard of treatment, and national treatment. The dispute involved significant factual controversy regarding the authenticity and legal status of concession documents and the treatment of the investment by Mexican authorities.

The award was accompanied by a dissenting opinion from arbitrator Charles Poncet disagreeing with aspects of the majority's assessment of the evidence and Mexico's conduct toward the investment.

See Award.

Reported awards and new cases

Reported award in *Plaza Centers N.V. v. Romania (ICSID Case No. ARB/22/15)* - (Award, 10 April 2026)

It has been reported on **10 April 2026**, that an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Lawrence Collins with co-arbitrators Todd Weiler and Pierre Mayer) declined jurisdiction over a €425 million claim brought by Dutch-registered developer Plaza Centres against Romania under the Netherlands–Romania BIT, resulting in the dismissal of the case.

The dispute concerned a 2007 public-private partnership for the redevelopment of the Casa Radio site in Bucharest. The claimant alleged that Romania's regulatory and administrative actions prevented completion of the project and caused substantial losses.

It is reported that the majority of the tribunal rejected jurisdiction, while arbitrator Todd Weiler issued a partial dissenting opinion. The tribunal reportedly based its decision in part on findings relating to the claimant's conduct and historical agreements. The parties were ordered to bear their own costs. The award and dissenting opinion have not yet been published by ICSID.

Plaza Centers N.V. report and Romania Journal.ro.

Reported award in *APG SGA SA and D.O.O. za promet i usluge Alma Quattro Beograd v. Republic of Serbia (ICSID Case No. ARB/21/13)* - (Award,13 April 2026)

It has been reported that on **13 April 2026**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Wendy J. Miles KC with co-arbitrators John M. Townsend and Maxi Scherer) issued an award dismissing a €175 million claim brought by Swiss company APG SGA and its Serbian subsidiary Alma Quattro against Serbia under the Switzerland–Serbia BIT.

The dispute arose from a 2017 concession agreement for outdoor advertising in Belgrade. The claimants alleged that Serbia breached exclusivity rights by granting a competing concession for digital billboards and violated protections including fair and equitable treatment, full protection and security, and expropriation.

The tribunal rejected the claims in their entirety, finding that the concession did not confer exclusive rights and that the alleged treaty breaches were unfounded. Serbia was awarded approximately US $3.5 million in legal costs. The award has not yet been made public by ICSID.

APG | SGA statement and Williams & Connolly Press Release.

Reported award in *Banesco Holding Latinoamérica, S.A. and Banesco (Panamá), S.A. v. Republic of Panama (ICSID Case No. ARB/23/41)* – (Award, 5 May 2026)

It has been reported that on **5 May 2026**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Franz X. Stirnimann Fuentes with co-arbitrators Rafael Rincón Ordoñez and Álvaro Galindo) rejected a US

$13.5 million claim brought by subsidiaries of the Banesco banking group under the Spain–Panama BIT.

The dispute concerned bonds issued by Banesco to guarantee public works contracts in Panama and the subsequent execution of those bonds by Panamanian state entities after the underlying projects were allegedly left incomplete.

According to Panama, the tribunal found that the respondent's conduct was neither arbitrary nor intended to harm the claimants and concluded that the claimants had access to judicial remedies before the Panamanian courts. The tribunal further held that the fair and equitable treatment standard did not shield investors from ordinary commercial risks. The claimants were reportedly ordered to contribute US $900,000 toward Panama's legal fees and costs.

The award is expected to be published in due course by ICSID.

Press Release from the Republic of Panama.

Reported award in *Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd and others v. Federal Republic of Germany (ICSID Case No. ARB/21/26)* – (Award, 13 May 2026)

It has been reported that on **13 May 2026**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Wendy J. Miles, with co-arbitrators Charles Poncet and Antolín Fernández Antuña) dismissed a €353 million Energy Charter Treaty claim brought by Irish renewable energy investor Mainstream Renewable Power against Germany concerning regulatory reforms affecting offshore wind projects.

The dispute arose from changes to Germany's offshore wind regime between 2012 and 2017, including the transition from a subsidy-based system to a tender-based framework.

It is reported that the tribunal rejected Germany's intra-EU jurisdictional objection by majority but found on the merits that Germany had not breached the fair and equitable treatment standard or unlawfully expropriated the investment. The tribunal concluded that Germany had not made specific commitments guaranteeing the continuation of feed-in tariffs or other incentives and that the reforms were not arbitrary or disproportionate.

The award was accompanied by a partially dissenting opinion by arbitrator Antolín Fernández Antuña, who considered that the tribunal lacked jurisdiction in light of EU law concerning intra-EU investment arbitration.

See News Release by Global Arbitration Review.

Reported award in *Sanitek S.a.r.l., Sari Haddad and Elias Doumet v. Republic of Armenia (ICSID Case No. ARB/21/17)* – (Award, 22 May 2026)

It has been reported that on **22 May 2026**, an ICSID tribunal (chaired by Laurence Shore with co-arbitrators Bernard Hanotiau and Pierre Mayer) dismissed a US $36 million claim brought by Lebanese waste management company Sanitek and its shareholders against Armenia concerning waste collection concessions in Yerevan.

The dispute arose after Armenian authorities terminated Sanitek's concession contracts in 2019, alleging persistent failures in waste collection services and non-compliance with contractual obligations.

According to public statements by the Armenian government, the tribunal unanimously found that Sanitek had failed to adequately perform its contractual duties and held that Armenia's termination of the contracts was reasonable and justified, particularly in light of the public health implications associated with waste management services. The tribunal also reportedly rejected allegations that the authorities had acted for political reasons following Armenia's 2018 political transition.

The tribunal is also understood to have rejected Armenia's corruption-based illegality objection, finding insufficient evidence to establish that the concession contracts had been procured improperly. It reportedly upheld jurisdiction under the Armenia–Lebanon BIT, while declining jurisdiction over certain umbrella clause claims on the basis of contractual forum-selection clauses. The tribunal ordered each party to bear its own legal costs and to share the arbitration costs equally.

See Armenia's official news.

Potential new case – ICSID claim against Nicaragua over alleged expropriation of gold facility

It has been reported on **25 March 2026** that US and UK investors in BHMB Mining are preparing to file an approximately US $80 million ICSID claim against Nicaragua over the alleged seizure of a gold-processing facility.

The claim would stem from the takeover of a processing plant in northern Nicaragua in 2025, after authorities ordered operations to cease and the facility was subsequently occupied by a Chinese mining company with armed security. The investors allege direct and unlawful expropriation of their investment and intend to pursue claims under the UK–Nicaragua BIT (with earlier references also made to CAFTA-DR).

Nicaragua has indicated that it will address the matter in accordance with its international obligations.

See Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa.

Potential new case – Bulgarian investor announces ICSID claim against San Marino

It has been reported on **1 April 2026** that Bulgarian investor Assen Christov and his company Starcom Holding served a notice of dispute on San Marino under the Bulgaria–San Marino BIT, threatening to initiate ICSID arbitration after the expiry of a six-month cooling-off period.

The claim arises from the attempted acquisition of a majority stake in Banca di San Marino. The claimants allege that criminal proceedings and asset seizures (linked to money laundering allegations) halted the transaction and resulted in the freezing of significant funds.

The investors deny wrongdoing and contend that the measures constitute breaches of the BIT, including violations of the Fair and Equitable standard of treatment, expropriation, and restrictions on the transfer of funds. They indicate potential claims of at least €150 million. If initiated, the case would represent the first known investment arbitration against San Marino.

STARCOM Holding's News Release.

Potential new case - treaty claim by Estonian investor against Ukraine over plant seizure

It has been reported on **22 April 2026** that Estonian company GIG Holdings is preparing a potential investment treaty claim against Ukraine following the seizure and transfer of an electrical insulator manufacturing plant by state authorities.

The dispute arises from measures taken since 2022, when Ukrainian authorities initiated criminal proceedings alleging links between the company and Russian interests, leading to the seizure of assets and subsequent transfer of the facility to a state-owned entity without a bidding process.

The investor disputes these allegations, asserting that Russian shareholders had exited the company and that the measures amounted to an unlawful expropriation, causing significant financial losses and operational collapse.

See Business Vedomosti.

Institutional Developments

Honduras signs the ICSID Convention

On **6 March 2026**, Honduras signed the ICSID Convention becoming the 166th signatory State. Upon ratification, Honduras will become a full ICSID Member State, gaining access to arbitration and conciliation mechanisms under the Convention and representation on the ICSID Administrative Council.

See Press Release.

ICSID announces establishment of Paris Office

On **24 March 2026**, ICSID announced the establishment of a new office in Paris, which will serve as its first staffed office in Europe and its second location outside Washington, D.C., following the opening of its Singapore office in 2025.

The Paris Office will function as a regional hub, supporting the administration of cases, expanding capacity-building and training activities, and strengthening engagement with States, practitioners, and other stakeholders across Europe.

See Press Release.

2. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

Reported developments, awards and new cases

Deutsche Lufthansa AG (Germany) v. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – Arbitrator disqualified

On **20 March 2026**, the Secretary-General of the PCA upheld a challenge brought by Venezuela to arbitrator Kaj Hobér in a UNCITRAL arbitration between Lufthansa and the State (PCA Case No. 2022-03).

The challenge was based on Hobér's failure to disclose his concurrent role as counsel in separate proceedings involving similar issues concerning the interpretation of most-favoured-nation clauses. The Secretary-General found that this created justifiable doubts as to his impartiality and independence, particularly due to the risk of overlapping and direct tension between the positions advanced in the two proceedings.

The decision emphasised that the non-disclosure could not be characterised as "inadvertent", as "an honest exercise of discretion", or "as an aberration on the part of a conscientious arbitrator". Rather, it sufficed to warrant his disqualification (despite Hobér's subsequent withdrawal from the parallel proceedings).

The arbitration concerns Lufthansa's claim arising from Venezuela's currency exchange regime and continues with a reconstituted tribunal.

The parties are awaiting a decision on Venezuela's jurisdictional objection, that it has not consented to arbitrate the dispute under the UNCITRAL rules, following a hearing in Paris from 8 to 9 April 2025.

See Decision.

African Asset Finance Company Holdings B.V. (The Netherlands) v. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia – Reported award

It has been reported that on **8 April 2026**, a PCA-administered UNCITRAL tribunal dismissed a €334 million claim brought by a Dutch affiliate of African Asset Finance Company (AAFC) against Ethiopia under the Netherlands–Ethiopia BIT.

The dispute arose from regulatory changes requiring leases to be denominated in local currency, which the investor alleged rendered its business unviable and amounted to indirect expropriation.

It is reported that, while the tribunal affirmed jurisdiction, it rejected the claims on the merits, finding that Ethiopia had adopted legitimate, non-discriminatory regulatory measures in a developing legal framework. Ethiopia was reportedly successful on the merits and awarded costs. The award has not been made public.

See Ethiopian News Agency (ENA).

MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas PLC. v. the Republic of Croatia – Reported award

It has been reported that on **27 May 2026**, a PCA Tribunal (chaired by Laurent Lévy with co-arbitrators Kathleen Paisley and Klaus Peter Berger) dismissed a contractual claim brought by Hungarian oil and gas company MOL against Croatia concerning alleged unlawful increases in hydrocarbon royalty rates under an amended gas master agreement. The tribunal reportedly rejected MOL's claim in its entirety and ordered the company to pay €775,000 in costs.

The dispute formed part of a broader series of arbitrations between MOL and Croatia relating to the jointly owned Croatian energy company INA. MOL had argued that Croatia breached contractual provisions limiting royalty increases, while Croatia again raised

allegations that MOL's chairman had secured management rights in INA through bribery. According to public statements by MOL, the tribunal unanimously rejected the bribery allegations.

The award follows earlier ICSID and UNCITRAL proceedings between the parties, including a 2022 ICSID award that partially upheld MOL's claims while declining jurisdiction over the royalty dispute on the basis that it fell within the contractual dispute resolution clause.

See News by State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia.

(1) World Wide Minerals Ltd. and (2) The Estate of Mr. Paul A. Carroll, QC v. The Republic of Kazakhstan - World Wide Minerals resubmits Kazakhstan mining claim before PCA

It has been reported on **30 March 2026**, that Canadian uranium company World Wide Minerals (WWM) and the estate of its former CEO, Paul Carroll QC, have initiated a new UNCITRAL arbitration against Kazakhstan before the PCA concerning a long-running dispute over uranium mining operations and export licences.

The newly constituted tribunal is chaired by former International Court of Justice President Joan Donoghue, alongside Sir Daniel Bethlehem KC and Sir Christopher Greenwood KC.

The arbitration follows earlier proceedings in which UNCITRAL tribunals found Kazakhstan liable for breaching the Canada–USSR BIT by refusing to grant export licences, awarding WWM compensation based on sunk costs. However, UK courts twice set aside the quantum awards for serious irregularity, finding that the tribunals failed adequately to address key causation and damages arguments raised by Kazakhstan.

The newly resubmitted arbitration represents the third round of proceedings concerning the dispute, which originally arose from Kazakhstan's alleged actions leading to the collapse of WWM's uranium processing investment in the country.

See case details (PCA's website) and News Release by Global Arbitration Review.

Petrogas Exploration & Production LLC (The Sultanate of Oman) v. The Kingdom of the Netherlands - PCA tribunal hears Omani investor's claim against Netherlands over windfall energy levy – Reported new case

It has been reported that on **19 May 2026**, a tribunal constituted under the UNCITRAL Rules and administered by the PCA has begun hearing an investment treaty claim

brought by Omani company Petrogas Exploration and Production against the Netherlands.

The claim arises from Dutch measures implementing an EU-mandated "solidarity contribution" on windfall profits in the oil and gas sector following the surge in energy prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Petrogas commenced the arbitration in 2025 under the Oman–Netherlands BIT, alleging that the Netherlands breached the treaty through the imposition of the solidarity levy on part of its 2022 profits, as well as temporary increases in excise duties under the Dutch Mining Act for 2023 and 2024.

The London-seated tribunal is chaired by Campbell McLachlan KC, sitting alongside Barton Legum and Hélène Ruiz Fabri.

See Dutch Letter to Parliament.

III. Human Rights Courts

1. African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)

Docket

***Application 040/2020 - Abdul Omary Nondo v. United Republic of Tanzania* and *Application 043/2020 Deusdedit Valentine Rweyemamu and Paul Revocatus Kaunda v. United Republic of Tanzania* (Consolidated Applications) – the AfCHPR finds Tanzania's Electoral Law provisions violate fair trial and equal protection rights – Judgments (Merits and reparations)**

On **6 March 2026**, the AfCHPR held that provisions in the constitutions of Tanzania and Zanzibar excluding judicial review of decisions of the National Electoral Commission and Zanzibar Electoral Commission violate the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The case was brought by Tanzanian nationals challenging several provisions governing the composition and powers of the electoral commissions.

The AfCHPR found admissible only the claims concerning constitutional provisions ousting the jurisdiction of domestic courts to review actions of the electoral commissions. It held that these provisions violated the rights to equal protection of the law and to have one's cause heard under Articles 3(2) and 7(1)(a) of the Charter, as they effectively denied individuals access to judicial remedies in electoral matters.

As reparation, the Court ordered Tanzania to adopt the necessary constitutional and legislative reforms within 24 months to bring the impugned provisions into conformity with the Charter.

See Judgment and Judgment Summary.

Application 041/2020 - Legal and Human Rights Centre and Liberatus Mwang' Ombe v. United Republic of Tanzania – the AfCHPR partly admits challenge to Tanzania's voting restrictions – Rulings (Jurisdiction and Admissibility)

On **6 March 2026**, the AfCHPR issued a ruling partly admitting an application challenging restrictions on the voting rights of detainees and Tanzanian citizens residing abroad. The applicants alleged that provisions of Tanzania's Constitution and electoral legislation unlawfully restricted the rights to vote, equality, and political participation.

The AfCHPR rejected Tanzania's objections to jurisdiction and held that it had competence to examine the alleged violations under the African Charter and other human rights instruments. However, the AfCHPR found that the applicants had failed to exhaust local remedies regarding the constitutionality of the National Elections Act, while dismissing objections related to constitutional petitions under the Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act (BRADEA).

Accordingly, the Court declared the application partly admissible and reserved its decision on the merits, reparations, and costs for a later stage of the proceedings.

See Ruling and Summary of Ruling.

Application 045/2019 - Moses Amos Mwakasindile v. United Republic of Tanzania – the AfCHPR rejects fair trial challenge in Tanzania narcotics conviction case – Judgments (Merits and reparations)

On **6 March 2026**, the AfCHPR dismissed an application brought by Tanzanian national Moses Amos Mwakasindile, who challenged his conviction and life sentence for trafficking *Catha edulis* (khat). The applicant alleged violations of his rights to equality before the law, liberty, life, and fair trial during criminal proceedings before Tanzanian courts.

The Court rejected Tanzania's objections to jurisdiction and admissibility and found that the applicant had exhausted local remedies through proceedings before the Court of Appeal. On the merits, however, the Court held that the applicant failed to substantiate his allegations of unfair trial, including claims concerning the chain of custody of evidence, search and seizure procedures, and the taking of his caution statement.

Accordingly, the Court found no violation of Articles 3, 4, 6, or 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and dismissed the applicant's requests for reparations.

See Judgment and Summary of Judgment.

In a separate opinion, Judge Rafaâ Ben Achour argued that the applicant's life sentence for trafficking khat was manifestly disproportionate and inconsistent with international human rights standards. The judge observed that khat is not internationally controlled as a narcotic substance and is generally regarded as carrying a relatively low risk of addiction compared to drugs such as heroin or cocaine.

Judge Ben Achour further expressed concern regarding the imposition of life imprisonment without a realistic possibility of review or release, describing such punishment as potentially inhuman and degrading. Drawing on comparative European human rights jurisprudence, the opinion emphasised that life sentences should remain reducible and offer prisoners a genuine prospect of rehabilitation and reintegration.

See Separate Opinion of Judge Rafaâ Ben Achour.

Application 046/2020 - Ado Shaibu and 5 others v. United Republic of Tanzania – the AfCHPR orders Tanzania to reform constitutional bar on presidential election challenges – Judgments (Merits and reparations)

On **6 March 2026**, the AfCHPR held that Article 41(7) of Tanzania's Constitution, which bars courts from reviewing presidential election results, violates Articles 1 and 7(1) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The case was brought by members of the opposition political party ACT Wazalendo, who alleged violations of political participation and fair trial rights during Tanzania's 2020 general elections.

The Court determined admissible only the claims relating to the lack of judicial remedies to challenge presidential elections, while declaring inadmissible other allegations due to failure to exhaust local remedies. On the merits, the Court held that excluding judicial scrutiny of presidential election results deprived individuals of the right to have their cause heard.

As reparation, the Court ordered Tanzania to amend Article 41(7) of its Constitution within one year and to align it with the African Charter. The Court also directed Tanzania to publish the judgment in English and Kiswahili and report periodically on implementation measures.

See Judgment and Summary of Judgment.

In a joint separate opinion appended, Judges Blaise Tchikaya and Stella I. Anukam agreed with the Court's final ruling but expressed reservations regarding aspects of the Court's reasoning. The judges emphasised that the case involved two distinct issues: alleged physical violence during the 2020 elections and the broader constitutional challenge concerning restrictions on judicial review of presidential elections.

The judges further observed that the Court's finding that Article 41(7) of Tanzania's Constitution violates the African Charter closely mirrors the Court's earlier ruling in *Jebra Kambole v. Tanzania*. They questioned whether the Court sufficiently addressed concerns relating to *res judicata* and the duplication of claims already determined in the Kambole case.

Nevertheless, the judges suggested that the Court may have proceeded with the case in order to reiterate Tanzania's continuing failure to implement the earlier *Kambole* judgment requiring reforms to allow judicial challenges to presidential election results.

See Separate Opinion of Judges Blaise Tchikaya and Stella I. Anukam.

Application 060/2019 - Elinazi Eliabu @ Mshana v. United Republic of Tanzania – the AfCHPR rejects fair trial and excessive force claims in Tanzanian armed robbery case

On **6 March 2026**, the AfCHPR dismissed an application brought by Tanzanian national Elinazi Eliabu alias Mshana, who challenged his conviction and 30-year prison sentence for armed robbery. The applicant alleged violations of his rights to a fair trial, liberty, dignity, and to be tried within a reasonable time under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Court rejected allegations relating to the evaluation of evidence and witness identification, finding that the domestic courts had properly assessed the evidence and that the proceedings disclosed no manifest errors or miscarriage of justice. The Court also held that the duration of the trial and appellate proceedings, including the seven-day period between arrest and arraignment, was reasonable in the circumstances of the case.

The Court further found no violation arising from the use of force during the applicant's arrest, noting that police officers used force after the applicant attempted to flee arrest and failed to stop following a warning shot. Accordingly, the Court held that Tanzania had not violated Articles 5, 6, or 7 of the Charter and dismissed the applicant's requests for reparations.

See Judgment and Summary of Judgment.

In a separate opinion appended, Judge Rafaâ Ben Achour agreed with the Court's finding that no violation occurred in the particular case but expressed concern regarding

Tanzania's criminal procedure legislation governing police custody. The judge criticised the use of the phrase "as soon as practicable" in Tanzanian law to determine when arrested persons must be brought before a court, noting that the absence of a specific time limit grants excessive discretion to law enforcement authorities.

Judge Ben Achour argued that the lack of clear statutory time limits creates risks of arbitrariness, weakens judicial oversight, and increases the vulnerability of detainees, particularly in serious criminal cases. Referring to international human rights standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and African Commission jurisprudence, the opinion suggested that Tanzania's legal framework contains a structural deficiency inconsistent with Articles 6 and 7 of the African Charter.

See Separate Opinion of Judge Rafaâ Ben Achour.

Application 066/2019 - Song Lei v. United Republic of Tanzania – the AfCHPR rejects fair trial challenge in Tanzania rhino horn trafficking case

On 6 March 2026, the AfCHPR dismissed an application brought by Chinese national Song Lei challenging his conviction and 20-year prison sentence in Tanzania for unlawful dealing in and possession of rhinoceros horns. The applicant alleged violations of his rights to a fair trial, dignity, equality before the law, and equal protection of the law under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Court rejected allegations relating to the evaluation of evidence, the competence of the interpreter, and the denial of bail, finding that the domestic proceedings did not reveal manifest errors or miscarriages of justice. The Court also held that the applicant failed to substantiate claims that his sentence violated his dignity or that he suffered discriminatory treatment. Accordingly, the Court determined no violation of Articles 3, 5, or 7 of the Charter and dismissed the applicant's requests for reparations.

See Judgment and Summary of Judgment.

Institutional Developments

Regional human rights courts adopt "Arusha Declaration" to strengthen judicial cooperation

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights adopted the "Arusha Declaration" during the Fourth International Human Rights Forum held in Arusha, Tanzania, on 3 - 4 March 2026. The Forum brought together judges and officials from the three regional human

rights courts to discuss common challenges relating to democracy, the rule of law, digital technologies, climate change, and freedom of expression.

Through the Declaration, the three courts reaffirmed their commitment to continued judicial dialogue and cooperation and agreed to consolidate the International Human Rights Forum as a permanent platform for interregional engagement. The Courts also signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights across their respective regional systems.

See Press Release.

AfCHPR reaffirms commitment to complementarity with African Commission

During the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation and complementarity with the African Commission. The Court highlighted the importance of continued institutional collaboration in advancing the protection and promotion of human rights across Africa.

Representatives of the Court emphasised the complementary roles of the two institutions within the African human rights system and underscored ongoing efforts to enhance judicial dialogue, implementation of decisions, and broader access to justice for individuals and communities on the continent.

See Press Release.

AfCHPR Court's 20th anniversary highlighted at international conference on human rights evidence

The AfCHPR marked its 20th anniversary during the international conference "Evidence Matters Before Regional Human Rights Courts: The African Court in Critical and Comparative Perspective", held in Pretoria, South Africa, from **11 to 13 May 2026**. The conference brought together academics, judges, and practitioners to examine evidentiary standards and practices before regional human rights courts.

Discussions focused on issues such as standards of proof, judicial fact-finding, access to evidence, and comparative approaches adopted by the AfCHPR, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The event also served as a reflection on the African Court's first two decades of jurisprudence and its evolving role within the African human rights system.

See Press Release.

2. European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

Decided cases

28 May 2026 – Judgment concerning the Czech Republic: violation of arrested journalist's freedom of expression.

Tožičková v. the Czech Republic concerned the arrest of a journalist during an environmental protest at a coal mine. The Court found that the domestic courts had not provided adequate reasoning to justify the arrest, the main effect of which had been to prevent the applicant, first, from performing her journalistic duties and communicating to the public information on a matter of general interest, and, secondly, from fulfilling her role as a "public watchdog" reporting on the police's conduct towards the demonstrators.

Press Release

26 May 2026 – Judgment: Examination of asylum claim by Greek authorities in 2016 met Convention standards.

J.B. v. Greece concerned the potential return of a Syrian national from Greece to Türkiye under the EU-Türkiye Statement of 18 March 2016, which aimed at stopping the flow of irregular migration via Türkiye to Europe. In this case, the Court found that there had been no violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in conjunction with Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the European Convention. The Court found that the authorities had conducted a thorough examination of J.B.'s asylum claim. At the judicial stage, J.B. had benefited from legal assistance, had been able to challenge the finding that Türkiye was a safe third country and had received a detailed reply to his arguments. Regarding, however, his detention in Mytilene police station, the Court found that there had been a violation of Article 3.

Press Release

Two decisions concerning application by asylum-seeker in Belgium

21 May 2026 – *Mouelhi v. Belgium declared inadmissible - Abuse of right of application by asylum-seeker who claimed to be living on streets in Belgium while actually accommodated in Netherlands.*

The case concerned an applicant for international protection who complained that he had not been provided with accommodation or material assistance in Belgium, as required by law, despite the final judgment of the Brussels Employment Tribunal. The Court found that the applicant's conduct amounted to abuse of the right of individual application (Article 34). It noted that the applicant had deliberately attempted to mislead

it by submitting false information in support of his request for an interim measure. The Court declared the case inadmissible. The decision is final.

Press Release

09 April 2026 – Several violations of the Convention in case concerning applications for international protection in Belgium.

M.V. and Others v. Belgium concerned four applicants for international protection who had not been provided with accommodation or material support for several months in Belgium despite final decisions by the Brussels Employment Tribunal ordering the Belgian State to grant them such assistance. The Court held that there had been several violations of the European Convention: Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) - the applicants were homeless, with no means of providing for their essential needs -; Article 6 (right to a fair hearing) - the time taken to enforce the court decisions concerning the applicants was not reasonable. The Court also held that the Belgian authorities had failed to fulfil their obligations concerning the right of individual application (Article 34) because the time taken between the indication of interim measures and their application by the authorities had not been reasonable.

Press Release

21 May 2026 - Judgment concerning Poland - Refusal in 2008 by then Polish President to appoint candidates to judicial posts breached the Convention.

Sobczyńska and Others v. Poland concerned a refusal in 2008 by the then President of the Republic to appoint the applicants to vacant judicial posts, without giving reasons, despite their having successfully participated in a competitive selection procedure, and the absence of judicial review of that decision. The Court found that the applicants had had a right to a fair procedure in the examination of their applications for a judicial post and had had a legitimate and reasonable expectation they would be given proper consideration. As the applicants had not been informed of the reasons for the President's refusal to appoint them and had been unable to challenge that refusal, they had not been protected against what could legitimately be suspected to be an arbitrary decision. The Court found that there had been a violation of Article 6 (access to a court) of the European Convention.

Press Release

19 May 2026 – Judgment concerning Georgia: no violation of freedom of expression in viral TikTok case.

The case *Miladze v. Georgia* concerned the applicant's administrative conviction for a video he had posted on TikTok criticising the new transport policies in Tbilisi and alleging misconduct by public officials. The video had gone viral. The Court found that the Georgian courts had carried out a thorough and calibrated balancing exercise in the case,

distinguishing robust political criticism from hostile personal denigration which was not protected under the Convention. It took into account in particular the aggressive and vulgar language used and the potential impact, especially for young people, of sexually explicit personal insults on a widely used social-media platform.

Press Release

12 May 2026 - Judgment concerning Switzerland: continued preventive detention of convicted paedophile in view of risk of reoffending did not breach Convention.

B.M. v. Switzerland concerned the rejection of the application for release on licence made by the applicant, a paedophile who had been in preventive detention since 2005 following his conviction for sexual assault of minors. The Court found that there had been no violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) of the European Convention as the Federal Supreme Court had adopted an approach consistent with the principles set out in the ECHR's case-law when it had held that the legal interests at stake were of high importance because they involved the physical and mental well-being of children, who were vulnerable individuals. The Court further held that there had been a violation of Article 5 § 4 (right to a speedy decision on the lawfulness of detention) of the Convention. It found that it had been necessary for the Administrative Court to examine the applicant at a hearing in view of the judicial authority's duty to assess his personality, his vulnerability and the lack of a recent expert assessment.

Press Release

12 May 2026 - Judgment concerning Spain - Expulsion of suspected jihadist recruiter on national security grounds did not breach the Convention.

In *Fal v. Spain*, concerning an expulsion and re-entry ban imposed, as an administrative sanction, on a suspected jihadist recruiter, the Court held that there had been no violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention. The Court found that the decision-making process had been fair, and the expulsion decision subject to judicial review in adversarial proceedings. The Court found nothing to suggest that Mr Fal, or his wife or daughters, would face any hardship in Morocco.

Press Release

7 May 2026 - Judgment concerning Switzerland: criminal conviction of organiser of peaceful demonstration for non-violent disruptions by demonstrators breached the Convention.

Batou v. Switzerland concerned the applicant's conviction, in her capacity as organiser of a demonstration on International Women's Day in 2019, for failure to comply with the conditions laid down for the holding of that demonstration. The Court held that there has

been a violation of Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention. Having regard to the absence of any reprehensible acts on the applicant's part - including on the responsibility which an event could reasonably be required to assume - and given the fact that the demonstration had not caused any significant disruption or danger, the Court considered that the applicant's conviction, even though the amount of the fine imposed had been minimal, had not been proportionate to the legitimate aim referred to by the Swiss courts. Further, it could have a "chilling effect".

Press Release

5 May 2026 - Grand Chamber judgement concerning applicant's conviction for membership of an armed terrorist organisation in Türkiye and the conditions of his detention.

Yasak v. Türkiye is one of many sets of criminal proceedings brought against persons accused of membership of an armed terrorist organisation, namely the group described by the Turkish authorities as the "Fetullahist Terror Organisation/Parallel State Structure" ("the FETÖ/PDY"), an organisation that the Turkish authorities have held responsible for the attempted coup d'état in Türkiye on 15 July 2016.

The Court found that the domestic courts had failed conduct an individualised assessment of criminal liability. The Court also found a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the European Convention with regards to the applicant's detention for almost four years in conditions that had cumulatively amounted to treatment attaining the level of severity required to fall within the scope of Article 3.

Video Explainer

Press Release

30 April 2026 - Judgment concerning Belgium: death of dangerous individual caused by police officers acting in self-defence during his arrest did not violate the Convention.

In *Benladghem v. Belgium,* the Court held that there had been no violation of the right to life. The case concerned the death of the applicant's brother, who was shot by members of the special units of the Belgian federal police during his arrest. He had been the subject of two investigations in Belgium and was considered to be particularly dangerous. The Court found that the shots fired by the officers had been in response to the threat posed by the applicant's brother, who had seized his gun and pointed it at one of the officers and held that there had been no violation of Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention.

Press Release

21 April 2026 – Judgment: Dutch system for reviewing life sentences meets Convention standards.

In the case of *F.B. and Others v. the Netherlands,* the Court held that there had been no violation of the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3 of the European Convention). Having examined the system of review put in place by the Advisory Board Life-Sentence Prisoners Decree in 2017, the Court found that the Dutch authorities had set up and implemented a system for the review of life sentences which enabled the applicants to know what they had to do to be considered for release, and under what conditions a review of the sentences would take place. Having also reviewed the applicants' individual circumstances, it found that their life sentences could not be considered as irreducible, either in law or in practice.

Press Release

21 April 2026 - Judgment concerning the Netherlands: refusal to disclose minutes of government meetings about handling of MH17 disaster did not breach Convention.

The case of *Nederlandse Omroep Stichting and Others v. the Netherlands* concerned requests by two broadcasting organisations and a newspaper - made under the Transparency of Public Administration Act - for the disclosure of information relating to the Dutch Government's handling of the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in 2014. The Court held that the reasons relied on by the national authorities when refusing to disclose certain (parts of) documents had been relevant and sufficient - including the confidential nature of discussions that had taken place in a ministerial committee's meeting. There had therefore been no violation of Article 10 (right to receive and impart information and ideas) of the European Convention.

Press Release

9 April 2026 – Case inadmissible: restrictions on poplar harvesting in a nature reserve in Italy struck a fair balance between environmental protection and property rights.

The Court has declared the application in the case of *Vendrame and Others v. Italy* inadmissible. The application concerned the imposition of land-use restrictions on private plots of land belonging to two of the applicants due to the incorporation of the land into a newly instituted nature reserve. The applicants challenged the incorporation of the land in the nature reserve, arguing, in particular, that that they had not been provided with compensation for such restrictions. Paying particular regard to the State's leeway in the context of environmental protection policies, the Court considered that a fair balance had been struck between the general interest and the applicants' right to decide how to use their land. Press release

26 March 2026 – Judgment in case concerning risk of ill-treatment facing an Afghan national if deported from Sweden.

In the case of *D.M. v. Sweden*, the Court held that the cumulative effect of the applicant's personal circumstances, against the background of the general human-rights situation in Afghanistan, created a real risk of ill-treatment if the applicant were deported, in violation of the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3 of the European Convention). The applicant's removal was ordered after several unsuccessful applications for asylum since 2015. The Court held that, while the general security and human-rights situation in Afghanistan were not sufficient on their own to conclude that any removal to that country would necessarily breach Article 3, the applicant faced heightened risks due to his Hazara ethnicity and was at risk because he had adapted to a Western way of life in Sweden over the last ten years, especially bearing in mind the current repressive regime in Afghanistan, which punished severely any failure to adhere to the rules and restrictions in place.

Press Release.

Q & A on D.M. v. Sweden.

10 March 2026 – Judgment concerning Albania: refusal to admit candidate to School of Magistrates on account of spent conviction as a minor breached the Convention.

In the case of *Manjani v. Albania*, Court held that there had been a violation of the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8 of the European Convention). The case concerned a refusal to admit the applicant to the School of Magistrates for training as a prosecutor on account of a conviction he had received when he was a minor, for which he had been legally rehabilitated. The Court held that the national authorities had failed to undertake a thorough and individualised analysis of the circumstances relevant to the ban. They had disregarded the fact that the applicant had only been 15 at the time of the offence in question and had treated him in the same way as they would have an adult offender. Furthermore, they had failed to consider other relevant circumstances, such as the nonviolent and impulsive nature of the offence. The ban on his admission to the School of Magistrates had been disproportionate.

Press release.

5 March 2026 – Judgment concerning Moldova: informal caste system among prisoners indicative of structural issue in Moldovan prisons.

In the case of *Petrov v. the Republic of Moldova* the Court held that there had been a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) taken together with Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention, and a violation of Article 4 § 2 (prohibition of forced labour).

The case concerned the applicant's complaint about the "caste" system in place in Moldovan prisons, which was linked to an informal prisoner hierarchy. The applicant had been downgraded to the "lowest outcast group" and subjected to humiliating treatment and forced labour by fellow prisoners. The Court noted that the prison system in the Republic of Moldova was faced with a structural issue linked to the existence of an informal prisoner hierarchy. It found that the applicant had endured degrading treatment at the hands of fellow prisoners over a period of years, and that the authorities, who had been fully aware of the situation, had failed to take any appropriate measures to protect him. In the Court's view, the combination of several factors clearly demonstrated that the authorities' inaction had not constituted a mere failure to protect him against degrading treatment in prison, but indeed a tolerance, or even condoning, of such treatment, reflecting a discriminatory attitude towards him motivated by his status in the informal prisoner hierarchy.

Press release.

5 March 2026 – Judgment concerning Belgium: the applicant's conviction in absentia on appeal and the dismissal of his action to have that judgment set aside did not breach the Convention.

In the case of *Khattab v. Belgium* the Court held that there had been no violation of the right to a fair trial. The applicant complained about his conviction in absentia, arguing that he had been detained in Türkiye after being arrested at the Syrian border carrying false documents. The Court considered that the Belgian authorities could not be held responsible for the applicant's voluntary decision to travel to Syria, which he had made despite the fact that the trip would inevitably jeopardise his participation in the appeal hearing and the preparation of his defence. The applicant could have reasonably foreseen the consequences of his actions. The Court further found that the Belgian courts had carefully examined the reasons given by the applicant to justify his failure to appear before them and had rejected them in duly reasoned decisions that did not appear arbitrary.

Press release.

Docket

29 May 2026 - Notification to Italian Government of two cases brought by alleged victims of former Libyan chief of police.

The two applications concern the Italian authorities' alleged failure to enforce an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against Osama Elmasry Njeem, former chief of the Libyan paramilitary police, who is accused of crimes against humanity. Mr Njeem was arrested in Italy in January 2025, but was repatriated to Libya shortly

afterwards. The applicants in the case, nationals from Sudan and the Ivory Coast, allege that they were victims of torture and ill-treatment when detained in prisons under Mr Njeem's control.

Press Release.

Notification (often referred to as "communication") does not mean that a case is admissible or that there has been a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court's ruling in the case is made at a later stage.

12 May 2026: the Court accepts two requests for advisory opinions.

Request by Slovenia's Supreme Court: the ECHR is asked to provide guidance on whether allowing the issuance of a building permit and the construction of a motorway without first expropriating the affected land constitutes an unjustified interference with the landowners' property rights, as protected by Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention and Article 33 of the Constitution of Slovenia.

Press Release

Request by from Luxembourg Constitutional Court: the request concerns the obligation for lawyers to appear in person before disciplinary bodies, failing which they may not be represented by counsel or apply for fresh hearing after ruling against them. The request was submitted in the context of disciplinary proceedings brought against a former lawyer of the Luxembourg Bar. The case is currently pending before the Luxembourg Court of Cassation, which referred a preliminary question to the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court has in turn requested an advisory opinion from the European Court.

Press Release

Protocol No. 16 enables member States' highest national courts and tribunals to ask the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the European Convention or its Protocols. The advisory opinions are not binding. The Court has delivered eight advisory opinions since Protocol No. 16 came into force on 1 August 2018.

Relinquishments to Grand Chamber

7 May 2026 - *Relinquishment to Grand Chamber of two Italian cases concerning confiscations of assets in the absence of criminal convictions.*

The Chamber to which the cases of *Macagnino and Marzo v. Italy* and *Cavallotti and Others v. Italy* had been allocated has relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand

Chamber. The cases concern confiscations of assets, known as "preventive confiscations" in Italian law, which are measures taken in respect of individuals who, on account of their behaviour and lifestyle and on the basis of factual evidence, may be regarded as habitually living, even in part, on the proceeds of crime (on grounds of "ordinary dangerousness"), and in respect of individuals suspected, inter alia, of membership of a mafia-type organisation (on grounds of "special dangerousness").

Press Release

29 April 2026 - Relinquishment to Grand Chamber of cases concerning the seclusion of two patients detained in psychiatric hospitals in Denmark.

The Chamber to which the cases *Ahmad v. Denmark* and *Makki v. Denmark* had been allocated has relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber. The applicants complain of their detentions prior to, and at, the High-Security Psychiatric Unit. Both suffer from schizophrenia and have histories of violent behaviour.

Press Release

Relinquishments to the Grand Chamber are exceptional. The Chamber to which a case is assigned can relinquish it to the Grand Chamber if the case raises a serious question affecting the interpretation of the Convention or if there is a risk of inconsistency with a previous judgment of the Court. See Grand Chamber Q & A.

6 May 2026 - Interim measure granted concerning Poland in the case of judges elected to the Polish Constitutional Court.

Dziurda and Others v. Poland concern four legal professionals who were elected as judges of the Constitutional Court in March 2026, but who have so far not been allowed to take up their duties. The applicants submitted their request for interim measures on 30 April 2026 and have until 2 June 2026 to lodge a full application to the Court.

The Court has decided to provisionally grant an interim measure and has asked the Polish Government to ensure that the applicants are not hindered in taking up and exercising their duties as judges of the Constitutional Court until any further decision is taken on their request for interim measures. The Court has also requested the Government to submit, by 20 May 2026, information concerning the applicants' situation.

Press Release

Interim measures under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court are decided in connection with proceedings before the Court, without prejudging any subsequent decisions on the admissibility or merits of the case itself. The Court grants requests for such measures only on an exceptional basis.

More on interim measures

13 April 2026 - Notification to the Government of Türkiye of case brought by a member of the main opposition party currently detained in Instanbul.

İmamoğlu v. Türkiye concerns Ekrem İmamoğlu's pre-trial detention on suspicion of establishing and leading a criminal organisation, accepting bribes, interfering with public tenders and unlawfully obtaining personal data. Currently detained in Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu is a member of the main opposition party, namely the Republican People's Party (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi). He was elected Mayor of Istanbul in the local elections held in 2019 and was re-elected in 2024. While serving his second term of office as Mayor, he was designated as a candidate in the next presidential elections. The statement of facts submitted to the Government in response to questions from the Court is available here.

Notification of a case is a stage in the Court's proceedings when a Government is informed that an application against it is pending and that the Court is requesting more information. Notification (often referred to as "communication") does not mean that a case is admissible or that there has been a violation of the European Convention. The Court's ruling in the case is made at a later stage.

1 April 2026 - Grand Chamber hearing on informed consent and the scope of the duty on medical professionals to provide appropriate information to patients.

The case of *S.O. v. Spain* concerns the removal of the applicant's nipple and areola, allegedly carried out without her consent, during an operation to save her breasts from cancer, and subsequent court proceedings.

In its judgment of 26 June 2025, the Court held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention. On 3 November 2025 the case was referred to the Grand Chamber at the Spanish Government's request. The Governments of Ireland, Romania and Slovakia, and the Spanish General Medical Council (Organización Médica Colegial de España) were granted leave to intervene in the written proceedings as third parties.

Webcast of the hearing.

25 March 2026 - Grand chamber hearing in a case concerning Türkiye.

The Court held a Grand Chamber hearing in the case of *Kavala v. Türkiye (No. 2)*. The applicant has been deprived of his liberty since 18 October 2017. In a judgment delivered on 10 December 2019, concerning his initial and continued pre-trial detention, the Court had found several violations of the European Convention. Further, under Article 46 (binding force and execution of judgments), it indicated that Türkiye was to put an end to the applicant's detention and secure his immediate release. In this new application, the applicant complains about all of the measures taken against him following the judgment

of 10 December 2019, in particular his detention, the criminal proceedings brought against him and his conviction.

Press release.

Webcast of the hearing.

Court

5 March 2026 - Response to request for advisory opinion from Ukraine's Supreme Court

The Court issued its response to a request from Ukraine's Supreme Court for an advisory opinion concerning a dispute pending before Ukraine's Supreme Court between a monastery of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and a former nun over her right to live in a convent owned by the monastery. The Court advised that a cell in a monastery or convent could be considered "home", within the meaning of Article 8 (right to respect for the home) of the European Convention read in the light of Article 9 (freedom of religion) of the Convention, for people who maintained sufficient and continuous links to those premises. If those links were solely based on religious grounds, then the status of those people within the religious community occupying the premises was particularly important. As for the second question, the Court clarified that the issue of which type of court should have jurisdiction over the dispute was not governed directly by Article 6 § 1 (right of access to court) of the Convention. Rather, the relevant issue was whether or not the proceedings concerned a right that was recognised in national law. This was primarily for the requesting court to decide.

Overall, the Court stressed the importance of the principle of the autonomy of religious organisations in this context. Video of the Advisory Opinion's delivery.

Protocol No. 16 enables member States' highest national courts and tribunals to ask the Court to give advisory opinions on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the European Convention or its Protocols. Advisory opinions are not formally binding. The Court has now delivered eight advisory opinions since Protocol No. 16 came into force on 1 August 2018. Q & A on Advisory Opinions.

27 April 2026 - Swearing-in of new judges.

New judges were elected in respect of Cyprus and the Netherlands. Judge Nicholas Emiliou and Judge Corinna Wissels were formally sworn in in the Court's Main Hearing Room on 27 April 2026.

Judges of the Court, and election process

Institutional Developments

20 March 2026 - Biennial meeting with NGOs and litigators.

The Court's biennial meeting with NGOs and litigators brought together around 80 participants in person and 100 online. Judges and Registry members discussed practical aspects of bringing cases and the functioning of the Convention system.

The President of the Court highlighted the key role of civil society throughout proceedings and in promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The Registrar of the Court emphasised the ECHR's openness and the importance of NGO engagement, noting over 1,800 third-party interventions between 2021 and 2025.

The programme included three sessions on case processing, communication with applicants and third parties, case law developments, and procedural issues, with contributions from judges and Registry officials.

3 March 2026 - live Q&A session on YouTube.

On 3 March 2026, President Mattias Guyomar and Registrar Marialena Tsirli hosted a live Q & A session on YouTube, where they answered questions from viewers. The recording of the session is available here.

3. Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR)

Decided cases

Judgment - *Garífuna Community of Cayos Cochinos and its members v. Honduras* - Honduras is responsible for violating Garífuna community consultation rights

On **4 March 2026** (Series C No. 576), the IACtHR found Honduras internationally responsible for violating the right to prior, free and informed consultation of the Garífuna Community of Cayos Cochinos in relation to measures affecting their ancestral territory and marine resources.

The Court held that the State failed to ensure the community's participation in the designation and management of a protected area, as well as in related regulatory and economic activities, including tourism and fishing. This resulted in violations of rights to collective property, participation, access to information, cultural identity, food, and personal integrity of the Garífuna Community of Cayos Cochinos and its members.

The Court also found that restrictions on access to marine resources, coupled with a climate of threats, violence, and lack of effective investigations, adversely affected the community's subsistence, way of life, and cultural identity.

As reparation, the Court ordered Honduras to adapt its domestic legal framework on consultation, ensure the community's participation in managing the protected area, investigate reported acts of violence, and provide compensation and other remedial measures.

See Press Release.

Judgment - *Chavarría Morales et al. v. Nicaragua* - Nicaragua is responsible for attacks against electoral observer

On **4 March 2026** (Series C No. 588), the IACtHR found Nicaragua internationally responsible for violations arising from attacks, threats, and harassment against opposition electoral observer Jaime Antonio Chavarría Morales and his family during and after the 2008 municipal elections.

The Court ruled that the State failed to protect the victims from violence carried out in a context of political hostility and electoral irregularities, and that authorities failed to intervene despite being present during the attacks. It recognised electoral observers as human rights defenders, entitled to protection in the exercise of their functions.

The Court also found that subsequent investigations were ineffective and unduly delayed, leading to impunity, and that continued threats and harassment (partly involving or tolerated by state agents) violated the victims' rights to personal integrity, political participation, freedom of expression, and family life.

The Court ordered reparations, including measures to investigate the facts, protect the victims, and compensate damages.

See Press Release.

Judgment - *Ramos Durant et al. v. Peru* - Peru is responsible for forced sterilisation and death

On **5 March 2026** (Series C No. 579), the IACtHR found Peru internationally responsible for the forced sterilisation and subsequent death of Celia Edith Ramos Durand, as well as for the lack of due diligence and delays in investigating the case.

The Court determined that the sterilisation occurred within the framework of a state policy under the National Reproductive Health and Family Planning Program (1996–2000),

which promoted mass sterilizations (particularly targeting women in vulnerable situations) often without free and informed consent.

The Court held that the victim's consent was obtained under coercion and without adequate information, constituting reproductive violence, and that the State violated multiple rights, including the rights to life, personal integrity, liberty, privacy, health, and family life, in connection with the obligations set forth in the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

The Court also found violations of judicial guarantees and protection, noting that investigations were ineffective and excessively delayed, contributing to ongoing impunity. It further recognised the significant harm suffered by the victim's family, including her children.

The Court ordered various reparations, including measures of compensation, investigation, and institutional reforms.

See Press Release.

Judgment - *Iglesias et al. v. Argentina* - Argentina is internationally responsible for the death of a child

On **9 March 2026** (Series C No. 580), the IACtHR found Argentina internationally responsible for violations arising from the death of a six-year-old child caused by the collapse of an unsafe public sculpture, and for the subsequent lack of access to justice for her parents.

The Court declared that Argentina failed to adequately regulate, supervise, and ensure safety in public spaces, particularly in relation to activities carried out by private actors, thereby violating the child's right to life. It further found that prolonged and ineffective criminal proceedings (lasting over nine years and resulting in impunity) violated guarantees of due process and judicial protection.

The Court also recognised the impact on the parents' personal integrity and family life, noting that the loss and lack of justice profoundly affected their life project. As reparation, the Court ordered measures including public acknowledgment of responsibility, creation of a memorial space, dissemination of the judgment, and payment of compensation.

See Press Release.

Judgment - *Fiallos Navarro v. Nicaragua* - Nicaragua is responsible for the violation of the rights of the former candidate for mayor of Managua, Alejandro Fiallos Navarro

On **12 May 2026** (Series C No. 589), the IACtHR held Nicaragua internationally responsible for violating the rights of Alejandro Fiallos Navarro, a former candidate for mayor of Managua, in connection with criminal proceedings initiated against him during the 2004 municipal elections.

The Court found that Mr Fiallos Navarro was subjected to illegal and arbitrary detention and that the proceedings against him failed to comply with judicial guarantees and judicial protection under the American Convention on Human Rights.

The case arose from criminal charges of abuse of authority and threats brought against Mr Fiallos Navarro while he was campaigning for office. The Court identified several procedural irregularities affecting his right to defence, including the introduction *ex officio* of an extortion charge during the proceedings. Although the extortion conviction was later overturned on appeal, the domestic courts upheld sanctions including fines, arrest, and disqualification from holding public office.

Accordingly, the Court concluded that Nicaragua had violated multiple provisions of the American Convention, including rights relating to personal liberty, judicial guarantees, political participation, judicial protection, and ordered Nicaragua to adopt reparations measures.

See Press Release.

Docket

Precautionary measures & Cases referred to the IACtHR

From **27 February to 28 May 2026**, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in the following cases: 33/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favour of Onaikel Infante Abreu, who is deprived of liberty in Cuba; 34/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures to Kakataibo people in the Kakataibo Norte y Sur Indigenous Reserve in Peru; 38/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures to the adolescent J.J.A.S., Juan José Arias Corona, and their immediate family in Mexico; 43/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures to public defender Óscar Eduardo Jordán in Colombia; 52/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of activist Roilán Álvarez Rensoler in Cuba; 54/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of journalist Jorge Bello Domínguez and his family in Cuba; 57/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Yorman Bladimir Acevedo Murillo in Venezuela; 58/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in

favor of Bayardo Arce Castaño and his family in Nicaragua; 62/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Cruz García Domínguez, privado de libertad en Cuba; 65/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Nilson Eduardo Hernández y su núcleo familiar, en Colombia; 67/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Víctor Hugo Quero Navas y su madre, en Venezuela; 68/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Pedro Domingo Díaz Díaz, privado de libertad en Venezuela; 70/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Elías Alonso Urbina Cruz, desaparecido en México; 72/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares al adolescente J.D.M.B., privado de la libertad en Cuba; 74/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures to César Antonio Alfonso Omaña and his father in Venezuela; 75/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Argentine national Germán Darío Giuliani in Venezuela; 79/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures to Carmelo, Daniel, and Levin De Grazia in Venezuela; 87/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Orlando Laufer, who is deprived of liberty in Venezuela; 88/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Rodolfo José Berrio Rojas y su núcleo familiar en Venezuela; 90/26—IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Breider Murcia Correa in Colombia and 91/26—CIDH otorga medidas cautelares a Alain Piedra Hernandez en Nicaragua.

[The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) investigates human rights violations and issues merits reports with recommendations. It is composed of seven independent members who serve in a personal capacity. If violations are found by the Commission and not resolved, it can refer cases to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). The Court delivers binding judgments on States that have accepted its jurisdiction.]

Institutional Developments

Regional human rights courts hold Fourth International Forum in Arusha

From **3 to 4 March 2026**, the IACtHR together with the ECHR, and the AfCHPR, participated in the Fourth International Forum on Human Rights, held in Arusha, Tanzania.

The forum addressed key contemporary issues in human rights protection, including access to justice for vulnerable groups, the impact of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, digital surveillance on freedom of expression and privacy, environmental jurisprudence, and challenges to democracy and the rule of law.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Declaration of Arusha and the signing of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding among the three regional courts, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening judicial dialogue and cooperation between their regional systems for the protection of human rights.

See Press Release of the IACtHR, Press Release of the AfCHPR, Press Release of the ECHR, and video of the 4th International Human Rights Forum Highlight.

IACtHR clarifies State obligations regarding illicit trafficking of firearms (Advisory Opinion No. 30/2025)

On **5 March 2026**, the IACtHR notified its Advisory Opinion No. 30/2025, issued in response to a request by Mexico concerning States' human rights obligations in relation to the illicit trafficking of firearms.

The Court affirmed that States have a duty of due diligence to prevent human rights violations linked to arms trafficking, encompassing obligations to: (i) regulate and adopt domestic legal frameworks; (ii) monitor and supervise corporate activities; (iii) ensure effective judicial remedies for victims; and (iv) cooperate internationally.

It further outlined specific preventive measures, including the marking, tracing, and control of firearms, risk assessments for arms transfers, and safeguards against diversion, particularly to protect vulnerable groups.

The Court emphasised that States have a duty to cooperate in good faith to prevent the illicit trafficking of firearms, as such cooperation is essential to safeguarding fundamental rights, including the rights to life and personal integrity, and to addressing the escalation of violence linked to arms trafficking.

See Press Release.

IACtHR holds 187th Regular Session in Brasília

From **16 to 20 March 2026**, the IACtHR held its 187th Regular Session in Brasília, Brazil, at the invitation of the Brazilian Government.

During the session, the Court held a public hearing on a request for an advisory opinion submitted by Guatemala concerning democracy and its protection within the inter-American human rights system. The proceedings saw extensive participation, with over 200 written submissions and more than 110 delegations taking part.

The session also included a range of institutional and outreach activities, such as an international seminar on climate change and human rights, the signing of cooperation agreements with regional and international institutions, and high-level meetings with Brazilian judicial and governmental authorities.

See Press Release.

New Registrar and Deputy Registrar assume office at the IACtHR

On **1 April 2026**, Gabriela Pacheco Arias began her duties as Registrar of the IACtHR, becoming the first woman to hold this position in the Court's history.

In accordance with the Court's Statute and Rules, she appointed Javier Mariezcurrena as Deputy Registrar, who also assumed office on the same date.

See Press Release.

IACtHR holds 188th Regular Session

From **13 to 24 April 2026**, the IACtHR held its 188th Regular Session virtually.

The IACtHR issued several judgments, orders, and procedural decisions concerning contentious cases, compliance proceedings, and provisional measures. The Court delivered four judgments addressing preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs in cases against Venezuela, Peru, and Nicaragua, including *Revilla Soto et al. v. Venezuela*, *Bravo Garvich et al. v. Peru*, *Puracal et al. v. Nicaragua*, and *Rojas Riera et al. v. Venezuela*.

The Court also conducted private hearings to monitor compliance with judgments in cases concerning Indigenous communities in Argentina and victims of sexual torture in Mexico. In addition, it issued compliance-monitoring orders in cases involving Colombia, Honduras, and Mexico.

Further, the Court adopted orders extending provisional measures in two matters concerning Nicaragua, including *Chavarría Morales et al. v. Nicaragua* and *Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. v. Nicaragua*. The session also involved deliberations on pending contentious cases, advisory opinion requests, compliance monitoring, and various administrative matters.

See Press Release.

IACtHR holds 189th Regular Session in Panama

On **4 May 2026**, the IACtHR inaugurated its 189th Regular Session in Panama City, marking the third occasion on which the Court has held sessions in Panama.

The opening ceremony, hosted at the invitation of the Government of Panama, was attended by senior national and international authorities, including the President of the Court, Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, and high-ranking Panamanian officials.

In his remarks, Judge Mudrovitsch highlighted the symbolic significance of holding the session during the bicentennial commemorations of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama and stressed the continuing importance of multilateralism and regional human rights protection mechanisms in the face of contemporary challenges. Panamanian Foreign Minister Javier Eduardo Martínez-Acha Vásquez reaffirmed Panama's commitment to the inter-American human rights system and to compliance with the Court's decisions.

The Court announced that, during the session, it would hold three public hearings in contentious cases and several academic activities, including an international seminar on *"The human right to care: from jurisprudential dialogue to public policies."* The session also included continued work on pending cases, compliance monitoring, and institutional matters.

See Press Release.

IACtHR holds 190th Regular Session

From **11 to 15 May 2026**, the IACHR held its 190th Regular Session virtually, during which it issued several judgments and continued work relating to pending cases, compliance monitoring, and administrative matters.

During the session, the Court delivered three judgments concerning preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs in cases against Venezuela and Argentina, namely *Navarro López et al. v. Venezuela*, *Ygarza et al. v. Venezuela*, and *López de Belva et al. v. Argentina*. The Court also continued deliberations on pending contentious cases and advisory opinion requests, monitored compliance with prior judgments, and addressed requests for provisional measures and other institutional matters.

See Press Release.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

IACHR announces its Board for 2026

On **2 March 2026**, the IACHR announced the composition of its board for 2026, following internal elections. The new leadership structure includes the President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President, who will guide the Commission's work during the year.

The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights in the Americas, emphasising priorities such as democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

See Press Release.

IACHR concludes its 195th Period of Sessions in Guatemala

On **13 March 2026**, the IACHR announced the conclusion of its 195th Period of Sessions, held in Guatemala City, marking an increased on-site presence of the Commission in the Americas.

During the sessions, the Commission held multiple public hearings, working meetings, and thematic discussions addressing a wide range of human rights issues in the region. These included matters related to democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

The Commission emphasised the importance of direct engagement with States, civil society, and victims, highlighting that holding sessions within member States strengthens accessibility, transparency, and regional impact.

See Press Release.

IACHR presents its 2025 Annual Report

On **23 April 2026**, the IACHR published its 2025 Annual Report, providing a comprehensive overview of human rights developments and the functioning of the inter-American system.

The report reviews the Commission's activities across its core mandates, including the petition and case system, precautionary measures, monitoring of country situations, and follow-up on recommendations, while also assessing progress and persistent challenges in the region.

It highlights advances in areas such as land rights, environmental protection, and dialogue mechanisms, alongside ongoing concerns related to accountability, protection of vulnerable groups, and structural human rights challenges.

See Press Release.

IACHR and REDESCA issue resolution on fiscal policies and human rights in the Americas

On **28 April 2026**, the IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) have adopted a Resolution on Fiscal Policies and Human Rights in the Americas, providing guidance to States on the design and implementation of fiscal policies consistent with international human rights obligations. The Resolution addresses issues relating to taxation, public spending, debt, fiscal sustainability, and budgeting within the framework of the inter-American human rights system.

The Resolution recognises that fiscal policies may significantly affect the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, while also acknowledging that States retain discretion in determining their fiscal and economic priorities. It emphasises, however, that such discretion must be exercised consistently with international human rights obligations.

The instrument seeks to systematise inter-American standards applicable to fiscal policy, including principles such as equality and non-discrimination, progressivity and non-regressivity, transparency, participation, accountability, and the mobilisation of maximum available resources. It also addresses topics such as climate change, business activity, corruption prevention, just transition, and protection of vulnerable groups.

See Press Release.

IV. Other Institutions

1. International Organization for Mediation (IOMed)

Uzbekistan, Mozambique, Tajikistan and Liberia sign the Convention on the IOMed

On **14 March**, **20 April**, **11** and **19 May of 2026**, Uzbekistan, Mozambique, Tajikistan and Liberia, signed the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for

Mediation, marking their intention to join the newly created intergovernmental body dedicated to resolving international disputes through mediation.

The Convention establishes a multilateral framework aimed at promoting mediation as an alternative to litigation and arbitration, enhancing cooperation among States, and facilitating the peaceful settlement of disputes.

See Press Release Uzbekistan, Press Release Mozambique, Press Release Tajikistan and Press Release Liberia.

IOMed hosts Global Mediation Summit in Hong Kong

On **8 May 2026**, IOMed hosted the Global Mediation Summit in Hong Kong bringing together government officials, legal practitioners, academics, and dispute resolution specialists to discuss recent developments and future trends in international mediation. The event formed part of broader efforts to promote mediation as a mechanism for resolving international disputes, including commercial, investment, and inter-State disputes.

The Summit highlighted the growing role of mediation within global governance and international dispute settlement frameworks, particularly following the establishment of IOMed as the world's first intergovernmental organisation dedicated specifically to mediation.

See Press Release and Opening Remarks from Secretary-General Prof Teresa Cheng.

2. UNCITRAL Working Group III: Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform

At its 54th session in Vienna from **23 to 27 March 2026**, UNCITRAL Working Group III focused on the draft statutes for a permanent tribunal and an appellate mechanism for international investment disputes as part of the ISDS reform.

See Annotated provisional agenda.

Key discussions addressed the possible inclusion of State-to-State dispute settlement within the system, the scope of jurisdiction of the proposed bodies, and the extent to which that jurisdiction should be exclusive, including how such exclusivity could be operationalised in practice.

Discussions centred on: (i) the design of a standing multilateral mechanism (often framed as a multilateral investment court), including issues of jurisdiction, structure, and appointment of adjudicators; (ii) procedural and cross-cutting reforms, such as

transparency, consistency, and efficiency in proceedings; (iii) guidelines on damages and compensation, aiming to improve predictability in valuation; and (iv) broader tools for dispute prevention and mitigation, alongside the potential role of an advisory centre to assist States.

Delegations highlighted persistent divergences on key structural questions (particularly between those favouring incremental reform of arbitration and those advocating for a permanent adjudicatory mechanism) while nonetheless making technical progress on draft texts.

Working Group III outlined a sequenced roadmap for upcoming sessions, indicating that the 55th session will focus on completing outstanding provisions of the procedural rules, addressing cross-cutting issues, and advancing draft guidelines on the calculation of damages and compensation in ISDS.

Subsequently, the 56th session (2027) is expected to consider revised draft Statutes for both a permanent tribunal and an appellate tribunal, with a view to their potential finalisation at the 57th session.

See UNCITRAL Report.

3. Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine & Claims Commission for Ukraine

Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine

[Information and updates on the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine are available on the Council of Europe's dedicated webpage: https://www.coe.int/en/web/special-tribunal-ukraine/frequently-asked-questions.]

On **26 March 2026**, the European Commission adopted a proposal to initiate the process for the European Union to become a founding member of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

Following approval by EU Member States, the EU will formally notify its participation and assume a central role in the tribunal's governance, including membership in the Management Committee responsible for overseeing its functioning.

The tribunal, established within the framework of the Council of Europe, will have jurisdiction to prosecute senior political and military leaders responsible for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, addressing a gap in existing international criminal mechanisms. See Press Release.

On **16 April 2026**, Ukrainian authorities reported significant progress in the establishment of the tribunal, noting that the initiative has moved from legal design to practical implementation.

An advance team has been deployed in The Hague and Strasbourg since February 2026, tasked with preparing the tribunal's organisational framework, including infrastructure, staffing, and the creation of a Management Committee.

The tribunal has secured broad international support exceeding the minimum required threshold, with at least 20 States confirming participation, paving the way for formal approval within the Council of Europe.

Once fully operational, the tribunal will proceed to investigations, indictments, and trials concerning the crime of aggression, targeting senior political and military leadership.

See Office of the President of Ukraine.

On **15 May 2026**, the Council of Europe announced broad international support for the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine during the Committee of Ministers' meeting held in Chișinău, Moldova. Thirty-six countries and the European Union endorsed the Enlarged Partial Agreement establishing the tribunal's Management Committee, marking a significant step toward the tribunal's operational implementation.

The adopted Resolution establishes the framework for the tribunal's governance and administration, including oversight of financing, adoption of internal rules, and the future appointment of judges and prosecutors. The tribunal is intended to prosecute individuals bearing the greatest responsibility for the crime of aggression arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The initiative forms part of broader international efforts led by the Council of Europe to address accountability gaps concerning the crime of aggression, which falls outside the full jurisdictional reach of the International Criminal Court in relation to the situation in Ukraine.

The enlarged partial agreement was adopted via a resolution of the Committee of Ministers. Thirty-four Council of Europe member states (Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United

Kingdom), and the European Union, Australia and Costa Rica, have expressed their intention to participate in the Partial Agreement.

See Press Release and Resolution establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

International Claims Commission for Ukraine

[For further information and updates on the Register of Damage for Ukraine, please refer to its official webpage: https://www.rd4u.coe.int/en/.]

On **10 March 2026**, the Register of Damage for Ukraine announced the launch of a new claims category, *A3.5 – Loss of Individual Enterprise*, enabling individual entrepreneurs to submit claims for loss of profits resulting from Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The category applies to individuals registered as entrepreneurs who have suffered business losses on or after 24 February 2022. Claimants must provide evidence of their entrepreneurial activity, the events causing the loss, and supporting financial documentation, including tax records.

Claims submitted under this category will be recorded in the Register and subsequently transmitted to the future International Claims Commission for Ukraine, which will determine compensation.

See Council of Europe, Press Release.

On **11 March 2026**, Estonia's parliament (Riigikogu) approved legislation ratifying the Convention establishing the International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

Estonian authorities emphasised that the Commission, together with the already operational Register of Damage, is intended to ensure accountability and prevent impunity, while underscoring that a key remaining challenge is the establishment of practical mechanisms to finance and pay out compensation.

See Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Press Release.

On **19 March 2026**, the Register of Damage for Ukraine convened a forum in Kyiv titled *"Supporting Affected Persons on the Path to Compensation for War-Related Damage"*, bringing together over 100 representatives from international institutions, donors, and civil society.

The event focused on enhancing coordination and support mechanisms for claimants, particularly vulnerable groups, in accessing the compensation process. Discussions addressed key challenges in submitting claims and emphasised the need for sustained resources, outreach, and capacity-building efforts.

The Register reaffirmed its victim-centred approach, prioritising accessibility, dignity, and effective support for individuals seeking compensation for damage caused by Russia's aggression.

See Council of Europe, Press Release.

On **29 April 2026**, the Register of Damage for Ukraine launched new claims categories allowing businesses, public entities, and the State of Ukraine to submit claims relating to infrastructure damage, destruction of assets, and broader economic losses caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The new categories cover damage to critical and non-critical infrastructure, as well as losses suffered by enterprises and public authorities.

The expansion marks a significant step in the development of the international compensation mechanism for Ukraine, extending the Register's scope beyond individual claims to include large-scale economic and institutional losses. Recorded claims are expected to form part of future proceedings before the planned International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

See Council of Europe, Press Release.

On **30 April 2026**, during its 11th Board Meeting, the Register of Damage for Ukraine announced that it has surpassed 45,000 recorded claims relating to losses caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The Board also approved the opening of additional claims categories, including claims by businesses, public entities, and the State of Ukraine concerning infrastructure damage and economic losses.

See Council of Europe, Press Release.

On **11 May 2026**, Canada signed the Council of Europe Convention establishing the International Claims Commission for Ukraine, becoming the first non-European State to join the future compensation mechanism addressing damage caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

See Council of Europe, Press Release.

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