



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean** **(Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)**

#### **Appointment of experts**

THE HAGUE, 23 June 2016. The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has appointed independent experts in the case concerning Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua), whose task is to determine the state of the coast between the point suggested by Costa Rica and the point suggested by Nicaragua in their pleadings as the starting-point of the maritime boundary in the Caribbean Sea.

By an Order dated 16 June 2016, the following two experts were appointed:

- Mr. Eric Fouache, of French nationality, professor of geography, Vice-Chancellor of Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), senior member of the Institut Universitaire de France and President of the International Association of Geomorphologists;
- Mr. Francisco Gutiérrez, of Spanish nationality, professor of geology and geomorphology at the University of Zaragoza (Spain), former member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Geomorphologists.

The Order states that, by letters dated 2 June 2016, the Registrar informed the Parties of the Court's decision to obtain an expert opinion (Press Release No. 2016/17 of 9 June 2016) and of the fact that it had identified two potential experts, and invited the Parties to communicate to the Court any observations they might wish to make on the choice of the said experts.

It further indicates that, by a letter dated 10 June 2016, Costa Rica stated that it had no objections to the two experts identified by the Court and that it was ready to provide any necessary assistance to the expert mission, and that, in a letter of the same date, Nicaragua made no specific observations regarding the two experts, but expressed its full disposition to assist the Court in the organization of the mission.

Finally, the Order notes that the experts may inform the Registry of the Court of any technical assistance which they consider to be required for the performance of their task.

## **History of the proceedings**

The history of the proceedings in the case concerning Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua) can be found in Press Release No. 2016/17 of 9 June 2016, which is available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)).

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Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

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The full text of the Order will be available shortly on the Court's website.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the "World Court", it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an international judicial body with an independent legal personality, established by the United Nations Security Council upon the request of the Lebanese Government and composed of Lebanese and international judges), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

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