

International Courts for Human Rights.

International law, anchored in the Charter of the United Nations, is the very foundation of the Organization. Promoting development and respect for international obligations has always been a core aspect of United Nations activities. Efforts in this sphere include encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification, support to the growing network of international treaties, and international dispute resolution mechanisms. These efforts are based on the core values and principles of the United Nations, and contribute significantly to the collective international effort to maintain international peace and security, promote human rights and foster sustainable development.

Conflict and post-conflict situations require the progressive restoration of the rule of law. The United Nations supports these situations through different forms of humanitarian assistance. Justice, including transitional justice, is a fundamental building block of sustainable peace in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. The United Nations assists and supports countries in addressing serious violations of human rights and providing redress to victims upon their request.

The backbone of the freedom to live in dignity is the international human rights framework, together with international humanitarian law, international criminal law and international refugee law. Those foundational parts of the normative framework are complementary bodies of law that share a common goal: the protection of the lives, health and dignity of persons.

Fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks are also important for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development, economic growth and employment, generating investment and facilitating entrepreneurship, and in modernizing and harmonizing international trade law.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Court has a twofold role: to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (Contentious cases) and to give advisory opinions (Advisory proceedings) on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. In Contentious proceedings, when a dispute is brought before the Court by a unilateral application filed by one State against another State, the names of parties in the official title of the case are separated by the abbreviation v. for the Latin versus (e.g., Cameroon v. Nigeria). When a dispute is submitted to the Court on the basis of a special agreement between two States, the names of the parties are separated by an oblique stroke (e.g., Indonesia/Malaysia).

International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC), governed by the Rome Statute, is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The ICC is an independent international organisation, and is not part of the United Nations system.

- [International Criminal Court](#)
- [Coalition for International Criminal Court](#)

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) includes 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 different countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Permanent Court of Arbitration

- [Permanent Court of Arbitration](#)

The PCA is an intergovernmental organization with over one hundred member states. Established in 1899 to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between states, the PCA has developed into a modern, multi-faceted arbitral institution that is now perfectly situated at the juncture between public and private international law to meet the rapidly evolving dispute resolution needs of the international community. Today the PCA provides services for the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties.