



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2019/14

1 April 2019

**Appeal Relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article II,  
Section 2, of the 1944 International Air Services Transit Agreement  
(Bahrain, Egypt and United Arab Emirates v. Qatar)**

**The Court directs the submission of a Reply by the Applicants and  
a Rejoinder by the Respondent and fixes the time-limits  
for the filing of these written pleadings**

THE HAGUE, 1 April 2019. By an Order dated 27 March 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has directed the submission of a Reply by Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (the Applicants) and a Rejoinder by Qatar (the Respondent) in the case concerning Appeal Relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article II, Section 2, of the 1944 International Air Services Transit Agreement (Bahrain, Egypt and United Arab Emirates v. Qatar).

The Court fixed 27 May 2019 and 29 July 2019 as the respective time-limits for the filing of these written pleadings.

The Court made this Order taking into account the views of the Parties. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

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For a complete history of the proceedings, see paragraphs 254-262 of the Annual Report of the Court for 2017-2018 and press release No. 2018/42 of 2 August 2018, available on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)).

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The full text of the Order of 27 March 2019 can be found in the case documents on the Court's website (under "Cases" > "Pending Cases").

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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 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 Court (ICC, the only permanent international criminal court, which was established by treaty and 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), the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT, mandated to take over residual functions from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda) the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office (an ad hoc judicial institution which has its seat in The Hague), 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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