



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Communiqué**  
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**Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (New Application: 2002)**  
**(Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda)**

**Fixing of time-limits for the filing of pleadings concerning the jurisdiction of the**  
**Court and the admissibility of the Application**

THE HAGUE, 20 September 2002. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has decided that the written pleadings in the case concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (New Application: 2002) (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda) shall first be addressed to the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the Application. In an Order of 18 September 2002, it fixed the following time-limits for the filing of those pleadings:

- 20 January 2003 for the Memorial of the Rwandese Republic;
- 20 May 2003 for the Counter-Memorial of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The subsequent procedure was reserved for further decision.

The Order was made taking account of the views of the Parties, as expressed at a meeting held by the President of the Court with their representatives on 4 September 2002.

In its Order the Court refers to its earlier Order of 10 July 2002 (see Press Release 2002/19) on the Congo's request for the indication of provisional measures, in which it, on the one hand, held that it "does not in the present case have the prima facie jurisdiction necessary to indicate those provisional measures requested by the Congo" and, on the other, "in the absence of a manifest lack of jurisdiction", rejected Rwanda's request that the case be removed from the List; the Court further held that its findings in no way prejudged the question of its jurisdiction to deal with the merits of the case or any questions relating to the admissibility of the Application, or relating to the merits themselves.

#### History of the proceedings

On 28 May 2002 the Democratic Republic of the Congo instituted proceedings against the Rwandese Republic in respect of a dispute concerning "massive, serious and flagrant violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law" alleged to have been committed "by Rwanda on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in flagrant breach of the sovereignty and territorial integrity [of the latter], as guaranteed by the United Nations and OAU Charters".

In its Application the Congo, in order to found the jurisdiction of the Court, relied on a certain number of compromissory clauses in treaties.

On the same day, 28 May 2002, the Congo submitted a request for the indication of provisional measures.

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The full text of the Court's Order of today will be available on the Court's website at the following address: **<http://www.icj-cij.org>**.

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