



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Certain Questions of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Djibouti v. France)

Additional information regarding the hearings opening on Monday 21 January 2008

THE HAGUE, 17 January 2008. The Registry of the International Court of Justice informs the press of the following, with regard to the hearings opening on Monday 21 January 2008 in the case concerning Certain Questions of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Djibouti v. France).

With respect to the composition of the Court, it should be noted that Judge Ronny Abraham (France) deemed that he should not take part in the decision of the case and informed the President of the Court of this, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Statute. Pursuant to Article 31 of the Statute and Article 37, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court, France has appointed Mr. Gilbert Guillaume (France) as judge ad hoc for the case.

Since the Court does not include upon the Bench a judge of the nationality of Djibouti, that State has availed itself of its right, under Article 31, paragraph 2, of the Statute, to choose a judge ad hoc to sit in the case: it chose Mr. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia).

Both judges ad hoc will make the solemn declaration prescribed by the Statute and the Rules of Court at the opening of the hearings.

With respect to the composition of the Parties' delegations, it is to be noted that Djibouti informed the Court in early January that it had appointed a new Agent in the case, His Excellency Mr. Siad Mohamed Doualeh, Ambassador of Djibouti to the Swiss Confederation, in place of Mr. Djama Souleiman Ali, State Prosecutor of Djibouti, who will remain a member of Djibouti's legal team as Counsel.

It is recalled that **media representatives** wishing to attend the above-mentioned hearings are subject to an **accreditation procedure**, the details of which can be found on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org) under "Press Room" — "Accreditation".

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