



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)**

#### **The Republic of Croatia files a declaration of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute**

THE HAGUE, 19 October 2022. Today, the Republic of Croatia, invoking Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, filed in the Registry of the Court a declaration of intervention in the case concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*.

Pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute, whenever the construction of a convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, each of these States has the right to intervene in the proceedings. In this case, the construction given by the judgment of the Court will be equally binding upon them.

To avail itself of the right of intervention conferred by Article 63 of the Statute, Croatia relies on its status as a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

In its declaration, Croatia states that “[i]t is [its] understanding . . . that the Genocide Convention is of [the] utmost importance to [the] prevent[ion] and punish[ment of] genocide”. It observes that “[t]he prohibition against genocide is a *jus cogens* norm in international law” and that “[t]he rights and obligations enshrined by the Convention are owed to the international community as a whole (rights and obligations *erga omnes partes*)”.

In accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Court, Ukraine and the Russian Federation have been invited to furnish written observations on Croatia’s declaration of intervention.

Croatia’s declaration of intervention will be available on the Court’s [website](#) shortly.

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## **History of the proceedings**

The history of the proceedings can be found in [press releases](#) Nos. 2022/4, 2022/6, 2022/7, 2022/11, 2022/25, 2022/26, 2022/27, 2022/28, 2022/29, 2022/31, 2022/33, 2022/34, 2022/35, 2022/36, 2022/37, 2022/38, 2022/39, 2022/41, 2022/42, 2022/43, 2022/45, 2022/46, 2022/48, 2022/50, 2022/51 and 2022/52, available on the Court's website.

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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 Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, through judgments which have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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