



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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**Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria**  
**(Cameroon v. Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea intervening)**

**The Court will hold public hearings from**  
**Monday 18 February to Thursday 21 March 2002**

THE HAGUE, 28 January 2002. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroon v. Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea intervening) from Monday 18 February to Thursday 21 March 2002 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, seat of the Court.

In its Application instituting proceedings dated 29 March 1994, Cameroon described the dispute as “relat[ing] essentially to the question of sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula”, which it claimed was in part under military occupation by Nigeria, and requested the Court to “determine the course of the maritime boundary between the two States beyond the line fixed in 1975”. In an additional application of June 1994, Cameroon extended the case to a further dispute with Nigeria relating to “the question of sovereignty over a part of the territory of Cameroon in the area of Lake Chad”, which it claimed was also occupied by Nigeria. Cameroon asked the Court to specify definitively the frontier between itself and Nigeria from Lake Chad to the sea, to order the withdrawal of Nigerian troops from Cameroonian territory and to determine reparation for the material and non-material damage inflicted. Nigeria rejected the claims made by Cameroon. In May 1999, Nigeria, in counter-claims, asked the Court to declare that the reported incidents in different sectors of the boundary “engage[d] the international responsibility of Cameroon, with compensation in the form of damages, if not agreed between the Parties, then to be awarded by the Court in a subsequent phase of the case”.

The programme of the hearings will be as follows:

**First round of oral arguments**

Monday 18 to Tuesday 26 February 2002:	Cameroon
Thursday 28 February to Friday 8 March 2002:	Nigeria

**Second round of oral arguments**

Monday 11 to Tuesday 12 March 2002:	Cameroon
Thursday 14 to Friday 15 March 2002:	Nigeria

Equatorial Guinea intervening

First round of oral arguments

Monday 18 March 2002:	Equatorial Guinea
Tuesday 19 March 2002 (morning):	Cameroon
Tuesday 19 March 2002 (afternoon):	Nigeria

Second round of oral arguments

Wednesday 20 March 2002 (afternoon):	Equatorial Guinea
Thursday 21 March 2002 (afternoon):	Cameroon
Thursday 21 March 2002 (afternoon):	Nigeria

Hearings will generally take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; on Monday 11, Thursday 14 and Tuesday 19 March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; on Wednesday 20 March from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and on Thursday 21 March from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and from 4.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.

History of the proceedings

As indicated hereabove, Cameroon filed its Application instituting proceedings against Nigeria on 29 March 1994. As a basis for the jurisdiction of the Court, Cameroon relied on the declarations made by both States whereby they accepted that jurisdiction as compulsory (Art. 36, para. 2, of the Statute of the Court). It filed an Additional Application on 6 June 1994.

By an Order of 16 June 1994, the Court noted that Nigeria had no objection to the Additional Application being treated as an amendment to the initial Application, and accordingly fixed 16 March 1995 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Cameroon and 18 December 1995 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by Nigeria. The Memorial of Cameroon was filed within the time-limit thus prescribed.

On 13 December 1995, within the time-limit for the filing of its Counter-Memorial, Nigeria raised preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of Cameroon's claims. The proceedings on the merits were accordingly suspended and the President of the Court fixed 15 May 1996 as the time-limit within which Cameroon had to present a written statement of its observations and submissions on those preliminary objections. That statement was filed within the time-limit thus prescribed.

On 12 February 1996, Cameroon requested the Court to indicate provisional measures after "serious armed incidents" had taken place between Cameroonian and Nigerian forces in the Bakassi Peninsula. Public hearings were held between 5 and 8 March 1996 and, on 15 March 1996, the Court made an Order stating that "both Parties should ensure that no action of any kind, and particularly no action by their armed forces, is taken which might prejudice the rights of the other in respect of whatever judgment the Court may render in the case, or which might aggravate or extend the dispute before it".

On 11 June 1998, the Court delivered a Judgment whereby it rejected seven of the preliminary objections raised by Nigeria and declared that an eighth one would have to be dealt with during the proceedings on the merits of the dispute. It further declared that it had jurisdiction in the case and found Cameroon's claims admissible. This Judgment formed the object of a request for interpretation by Nigeria, which, in separate proceedings, was declared inadmissible by a Judgment of 25 March 1999.

By an Order of 30 June 1998, the Court, after ascertaining the views of the Parties, fixed 31 March 1998 as the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial of Nigeria. At the request of Nigeria this time-limit was extended to 31 May 1999 by an Order of 3 March 1999.

Nigeria's Counter-Memorial was filed within the time-limit thus extended. It contained counter-claims, which have been referred to above.

By an Order of 30 June 1999, the Court ruled that those counter-claims were "admissible as such and form[ed] part of the current proceedings". It decided that Cameroon should submit a Reply and Nigeria a Rejoinder, relating to the claims of both Parties, and fixed the time-limits for those pleadings at 4 April 2000 and 4 January 2001 respectively.

On 30 June 1999, Equatorial Guinea filed an Application for permission to intervene in the case, stating that the purpose of its intervention would be "to protect [its] legal rights in the Gulf of Guinea by all legal means" and "to inform the Court of Equatorial Guinea's legal rights and interests so that these may remain unaffected as the Court proceeds to address the question of the maritime boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria". Equatorial Guinea made it clear that it did not seek to intervene in those aspects of the proceedings that relate to the land boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria, nor to become a party to the case. The Court fixed 16 August 1999 as the time-limit for the filing of written observations by Cameroon and Nigeria on Equatorial Guinea's Application. Those written observations were filed within the time-limit thus prescribed.

By an Order of 21 October 1999, the Court authorized Equatorial Guinea to intervene in the case "to the extent, in the manner and for the purposes set out in its Application for permission to intervene". It fixed 4 April 2001 as the time-limit for the filing of a written statement by Equatorial Guinea and 4 July 2001 as the time-limit for the filing of written observations by Cameroon and by Nigeria on that statement. Those documents were filed within the time-limits thus prescribed.

In the above-mentioned Order of 30 June 1999, whereby it had found that the counter-claims submitted by Nigeria were admissible, the Court, after indicating that it considered it necessary for Cameroon to file a Reply and for Nigeria to file a Rejoinder, relating to the claims of both Parties, had added the following:

"it is necessary moreover, in order to ensure equality between the Parties, to reserve the right of Cameroon to present, within a reasonable period of time, its views in writing a second time on the Nigerian counter-claims, in an additional pleading which may be the subject of a subsequent Order" (see Press Release 99/37).

Upon a request by Cameroon and after Nigeria had indicated that it had no objection, the Court, by an Order of 20 February 2001, authorized the submission by Cameroon of such an additional pleading. It decided that the additional pleading, which would relate solely to the counter-claims submitted by Nigeria, should be filed no later than 4 July 2001. The pleading was filed within the time-limit thus prescribed.

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#### NOTE TO THE PRESS

1. The public hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Mobile telephones and beepers are allowed in the courtroom **provided they are turned off or set on silent mode**. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2. Members of the Press will be entitled to attend on presentation of a press card. The tables reserved for them are situated on the far left of the public entrance of the courtroom.

3. Photographs may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the sittings. Television crews may film, but advance notice should be given to the Information Department (see paragraph 7).

4. In the Press Room, located on the ground floor of the Peace Palace (Room 5), the Court's proceedings will be relayed through a loudspeaker.

5. The verbatim records of the public sittings will be published daily on the Court's website (<http://www.icj-cij.org>).

6. Members of the Press who wish to make telephone calls may use the phone located in the Press Room for collect calls or the public telephones in the Post Office in the basement of the Peace Palace.

7. Mr. Arthur Witteveen, First Secretary of the Court (tel.: + 31 70 302 2336), and Mrs. Laurence Blairon, Information Officer (tel.: + 31 70 302 2337), are available to deal with any requests for information and for making arrangements for television coverage.

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