

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE: MANDATE AND RECENT ACTIVITIES

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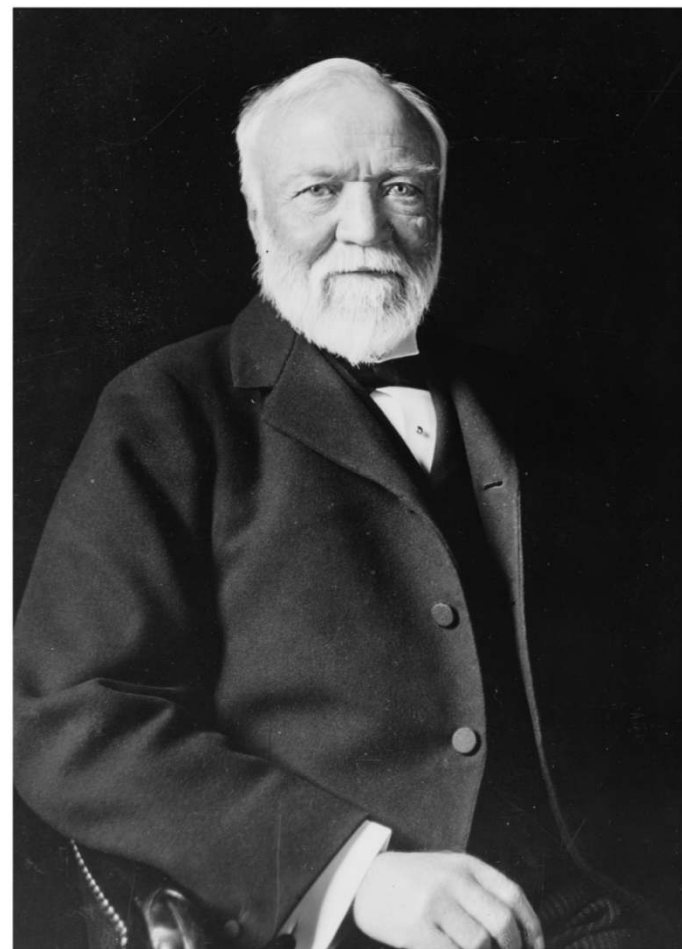
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A. The Peace Palace









B. The International Court of Justice

Composition of the Court



President
IWASAWA Yuji
(Japan)



Vice-President
Julia SEBUTINDE
(Uganda)



Judge Peter
TOMKA
(Slovakia)



Judge Ronny
ABRAHAM
(France)



Judge XUE
Hanqin
(China)



Judge Dalveer
BHANDARI
(India)



Judge Georg
NOLTE
(Germany)



Judge Hilary
CHARLESWORTH
(Australia)



Judge Leonardo
BRANT
(Brazil)



Judge Juan M.
GOMEZ ROBLED
(Mexico)



Judge Sarah
H. CLEVELAND
(USA)



Judge Bogdan
Lucian AURESCU
(Romania)



Judge Dire
TLADI
(South Africa)



Judge Mahmoud
D. HMOUD
(Jordan)



Judge Phoebe N.
OKOWA
(Kenya)

Composition of the Court



The Registry

- **Article 21(2) of the Statute of the Court**

“The Court shall appoint its Registrar and may provide for the appointment of such other officers as may be necessary.”

- **Article 28(1) of the Rules of Court**

“The Registry shall comprise the Registrar, the Deputy-Registrar, and such other staff as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of the Registrar’s functions.”



The Registry

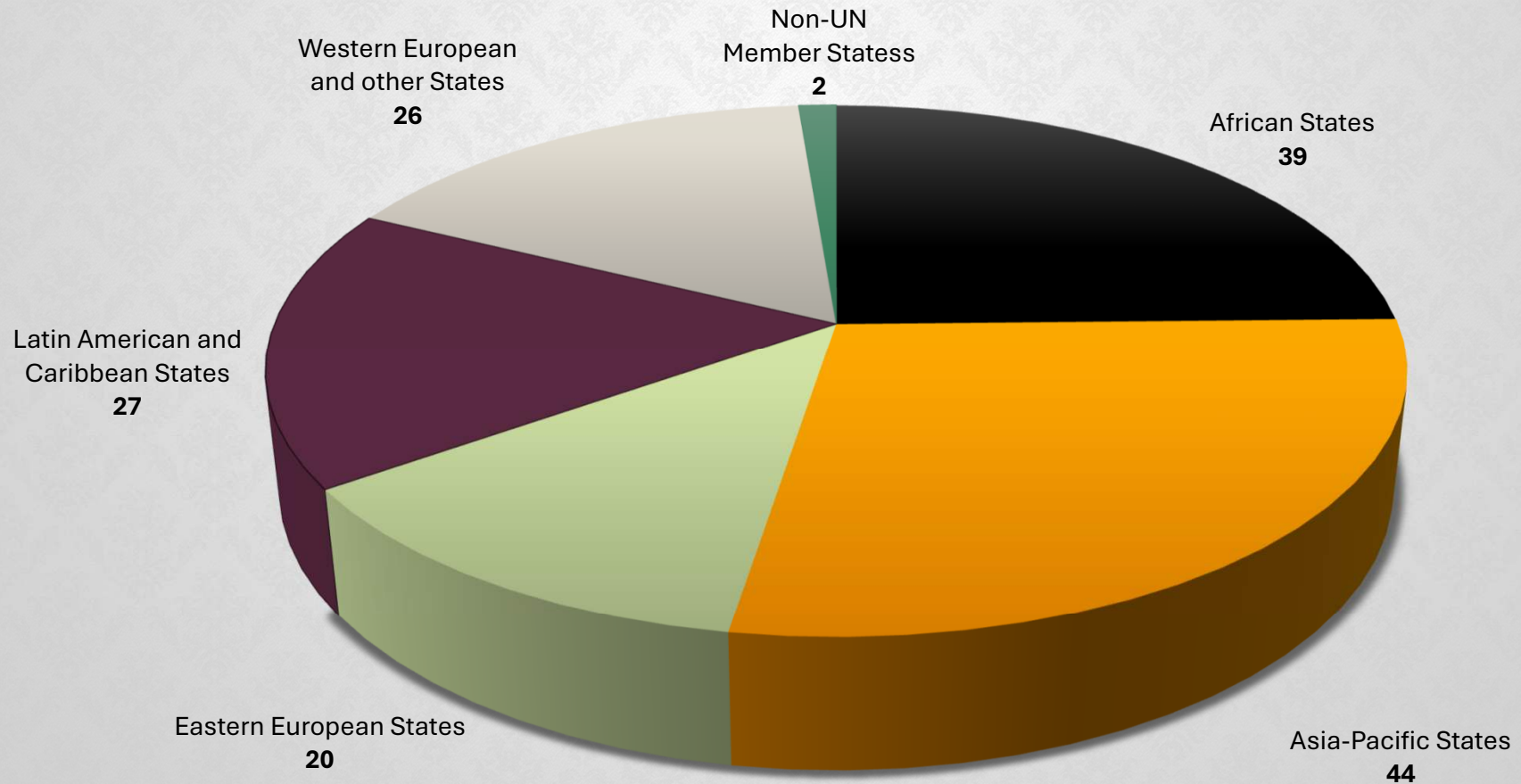
- Acts as the **Court's secretariat**, providing assistance to Judges in their judicial functions and managing administrative and budgetary matters.
- In 2025, **125 established posts** (67 Professional and higher categories; 58 General Services category).
- Led by the **Registrar**, assisted by the Deputy-Registrar, both elected by the Court for 7-year terms.
- Sustained efforts to **streamline working methods and increase efficiency**.



Organizational Structure of the Registry



States that participated in ICJ cases since 1946



The ICJ as the “World Court”

Region	Total UN Member States	Member States Involved in ICJ Cases to Date
 African States	54	39 (72%)
 Asia-Pacific States	55	44 (80%)
 Eastern European States	23	20 (87%)
 Latin American and Caribbean States	33	27 (82%)
 Western European and other States	28	26 (93%)
Total	193	156 (80%)

Official Languages of the Court

Article 39 of the Statute:

United Nations



International Court of Justice



1. The official languages of the Court shall **be French and English**. If the **parties agree** that the case shall be conducted in French, the judgment shall be delivered in French. If the parties agree that the case shall be conducted in English, the judgment shall be delivered in English.

2. In the absence of an agreement as to which language shall be employed, each party may, in the **pleadings**, use the language which it prefers; the **decision** of the Court shall be given in French and English. In this case the Court shall at the same time **determine which of the two texts shall be considered as authoritative**.

3. The Court shall, at the request of any party, authorize a **language other than French or English** to be used by that party.





**International Court of
Justice**



**International Criminal
Court**

Established under the UN Charter and
the ICJ Statute annexed thereto in **1945**

Established by the ICC Statute
("Rome Statute") in **1998**

"Civil" jurisdiction

Criminal jurisdiction

Disputes between **States**
+ Advisory opinions to UN entities

Prosecution of **individuals**

C. The Jurisdiction of the Court

Contentious Jurisdiction

Adjudicate legal disputes between two or more States, issuing binding judgments on any questions of international law.

Advisory Jurisdiction

Give advisory opinion on any legal question at the request of UN organs and authorized agencies on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

Advisory Jurisdiction

Article 96 UN Charter

1. The **General Assembly** or the **Security Council** may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question.
2. **Other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies**, which may at any time be so **authorized** by the General Assembly, may also request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.



Advisory Jurisdiction

Case Title	Advisory Opinion requested by	Status
<i>Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem</i>	UN General Assembly	Opinion delivered in July 2024
<i>Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change</i>	UN General Assembly	Opinion delivered in July 2025
<i>Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87</i>	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Under deliberation (hearings held in October 2025)
<i>Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory</i>	UN General Assembly	Opinion delivered in October 2025

Contentious Jurisdiction



**Bases of the
Court's
contentious
jurisdiction**

(a) Special agreement
(a.k.a. "*compromis*")

(b) Compromissory clause
in an international treaty

(c) Optional declaration
recognizing the Court's
jurisdiction as compulsory

(a) Special
agreement (a.k.a.
“compromis”)

***Frontier Dispute
(Burkina Faso/Niger)***

COMPROMIS
DE SAISINE DE LA COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE
AU SUJET DU DIFFEREND FRONTALIER
ENTRE LE BURKINA FASO
ET LA REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER

Article 1^{er} : Saisine de la Cour Internationale de Justice

1. Les Parties soumettent le différend défini à l'article 2 ci-dessous à la Cour Internationale de Justice.
2. Chacune des Parties exercera le droit que lui confère le paragraphe 3 de l'article 31 du Statut de la Cour de procéder à la désignation d'un juge ad hoc.

Article 2 : Objet du différend

La Cour est priée de :

1. déterminer le tracé de la frontière entre les deux pays dans le secteur allant de la borne astronomique de Tong -Tong (Latitude : 14° 25' 04" N/Longitude 00° 12' 47" E) au début de la boucle de Botou (Latitude 12° 36' 18" N/Longitude 01° 52' 07" E).
2. donner acte aux Parties de leur entente sur les résultats des travaux de la Commission Technique Mixte d'Abornement de la frontière Burkina Faso-Niger en ce qui concerne les secteurs suivants :
 - a) le secteur allant des hauteurs du N'Gouma à la borne astronomique de Tong-Tong ;
 - b) le secteur allant du début de la boucle de Botou jusqu'à la Rivière Mékrou.

Article 3 : Procédure écrite

1. Sans préjuger d'aucune question relative à la charge de la preuve, les Parties prient la Cour d'autoriser la procédure suivante au regard des pièces de procédure écrite :
 - a) un mémoire soumis par chacune des Parties au plus tard neuf (9) mois après la saisine de la Cour ;
 - b) un contre-mémoire soumis par chacune des Parties au plus tard neuf (9) mois après l'échange des mémoires ;
 - c) toutes autres pièces de procédure écrite dont le dépôt, à la demande de l'une ou l'autre des Parties, aura été autorisé par la Cour ou prescrit par celle-ci.

Article 2

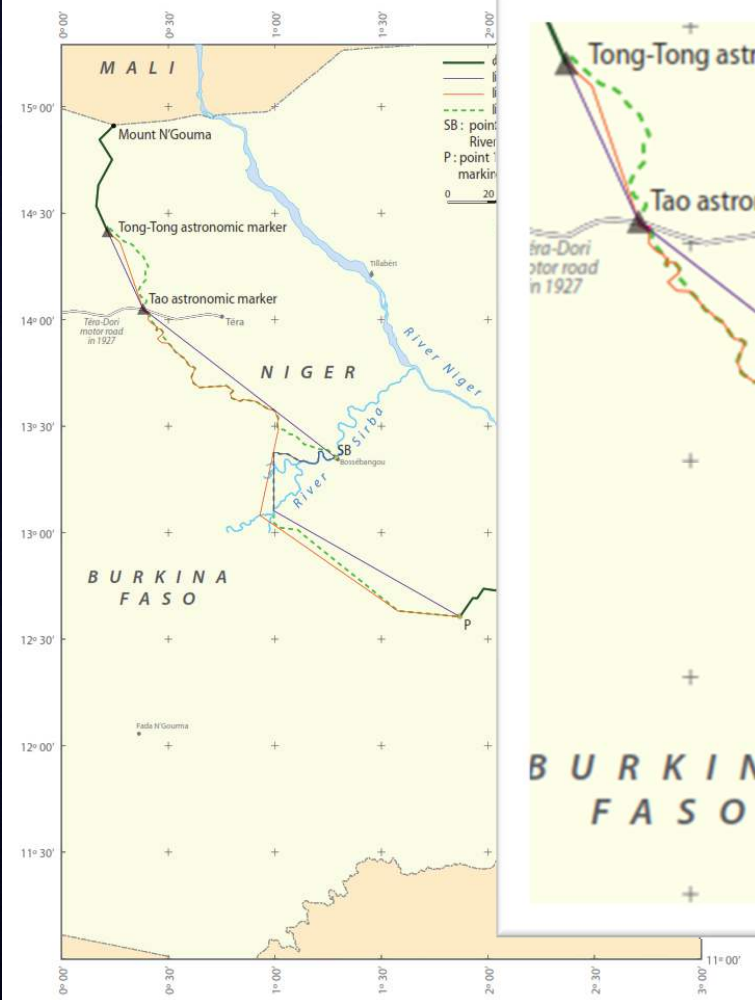
Subject of the Dispute

The Court is requested to :

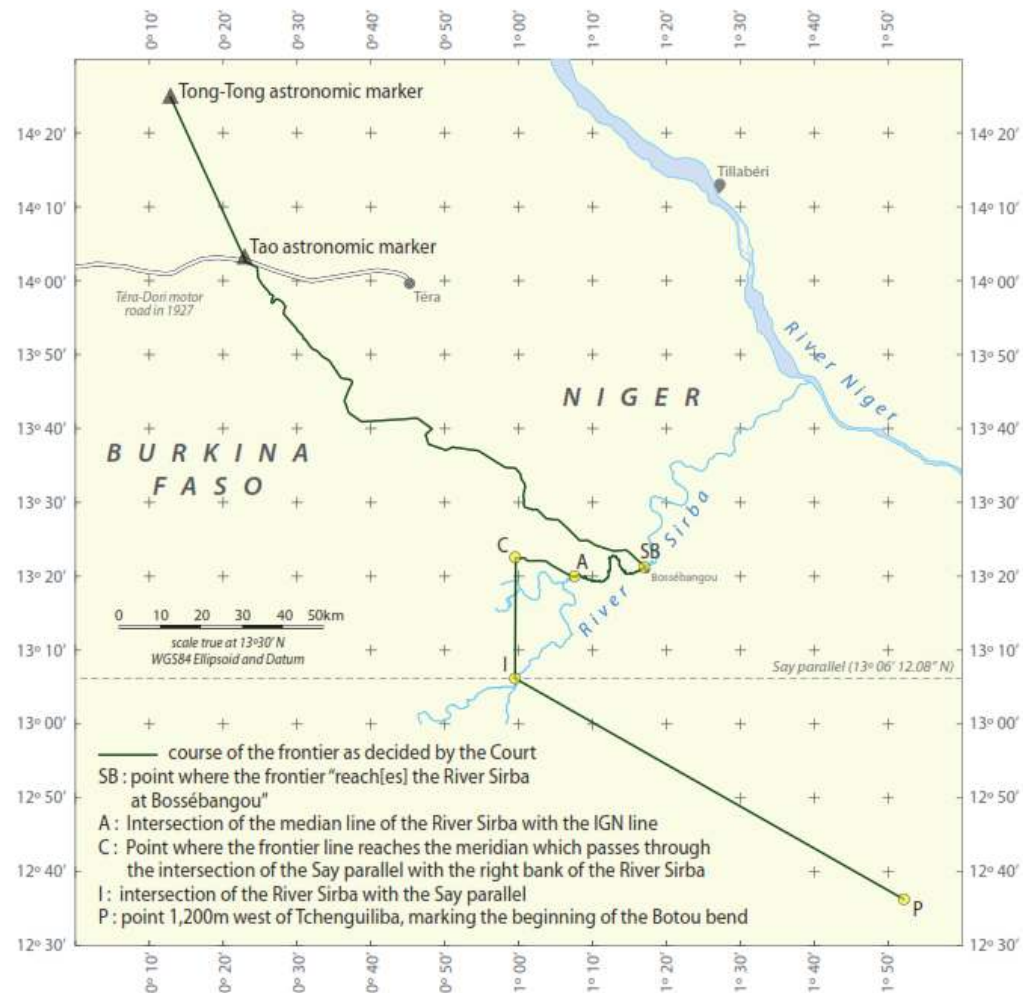
1. determine the course of the boundary between the two countries in the sector from the astronomic marker of Tong-Tong (latitude 14°25'04" N; longitude 00°12'47" E) to the beginning of the Botou bend (latitude 12°36'18" N; longitude 01°52'07" E);

[...]

Sketch Map 1:
PARTIES' CLAIMS AND LINE DEPICTED ON THE 1960 IGN MAP
This sketch map has been prepared for illustrative purposes only



Sketch Map 4:
COURSE OF THE FRONTIER AS DECIDED BY THE COURT
This sketch map has been prepared for illustrative purposes only



**(b) Compromissory
clause in an
international treaty**

Article 22 CERD

Any dispute between two or more States Parties with respect to the **interpretation or application of this Convention**, which is not settled by negotiation or by the procedures expressly provided for in this Convention, shall, **at the request of any of the parties** to the dispute, be referred to the **International Court of Justice** for decision, unless the disputants agree to another mode of settlement.



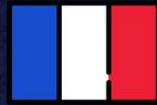
**(c) Optional
declaration
recognizing the
Court's jurisdiction
as compulsory**

Article 36(2) of the Statute:

“The states parties to the present Statute may at any time declare that they **recognize as compulsory** *ipso facto* and without special agreement, **in relation to any other state accepting the same obligation**, the jurisdiction of the Court in **all legal disputes concerning**:

- a. the interpretation of a treaty;
- b. any question of international law;
- c. the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of an international obligation;
- d. the nature or extent of the reparation to be made for the breach of an international obligation.”

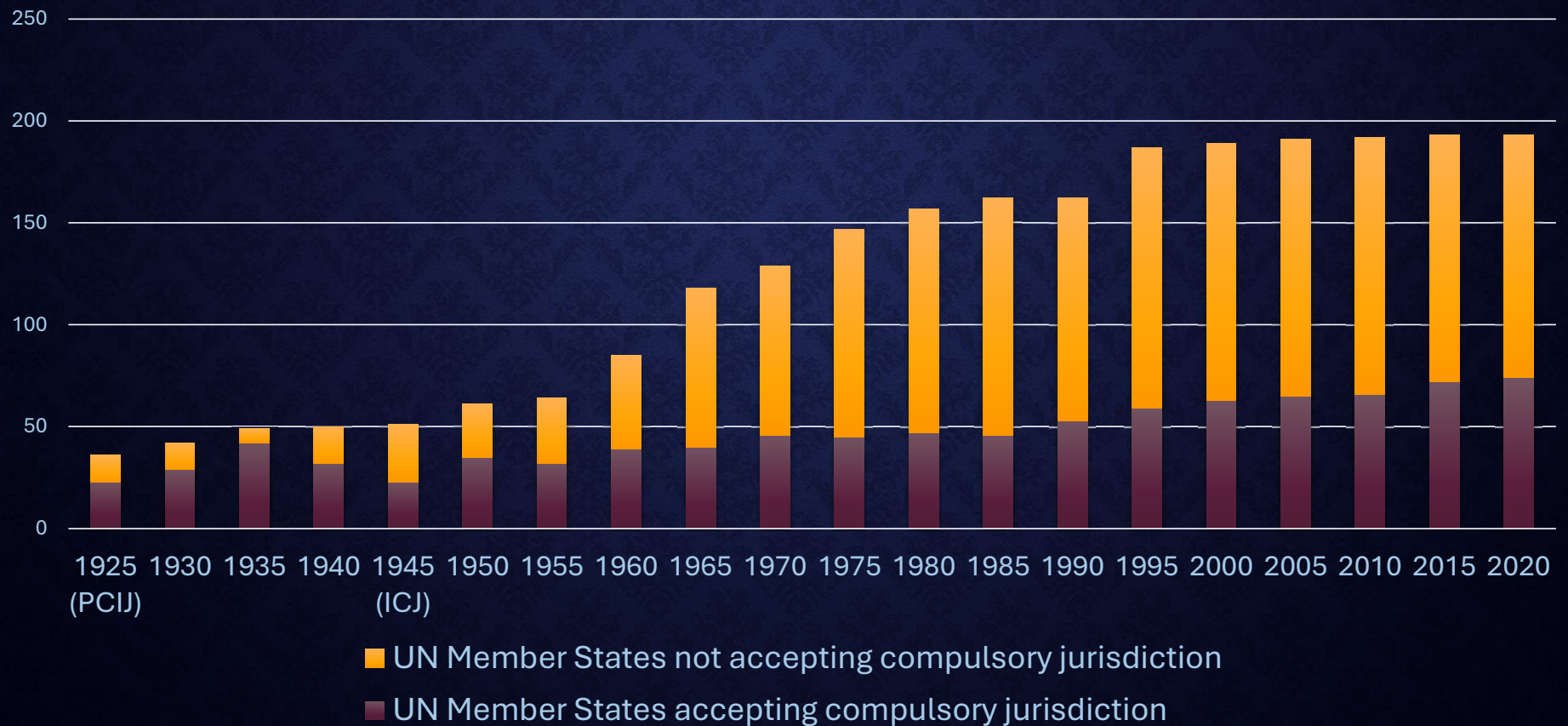
UN Member States



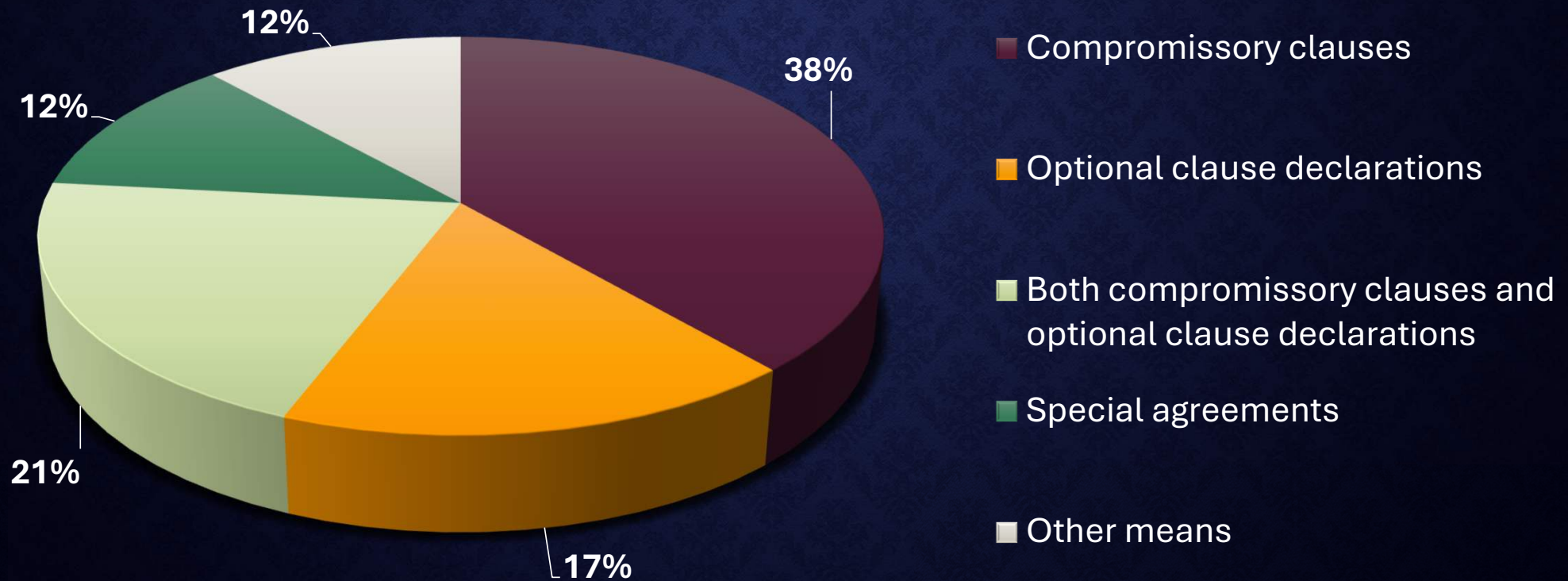
States that made Art. 36(2) Declaration



Proportion of UN Member States accepting the Court's Jurisdiction as compulsory



Bases of Jurisdiction Invoked in Contentious Cases (1946-2024)

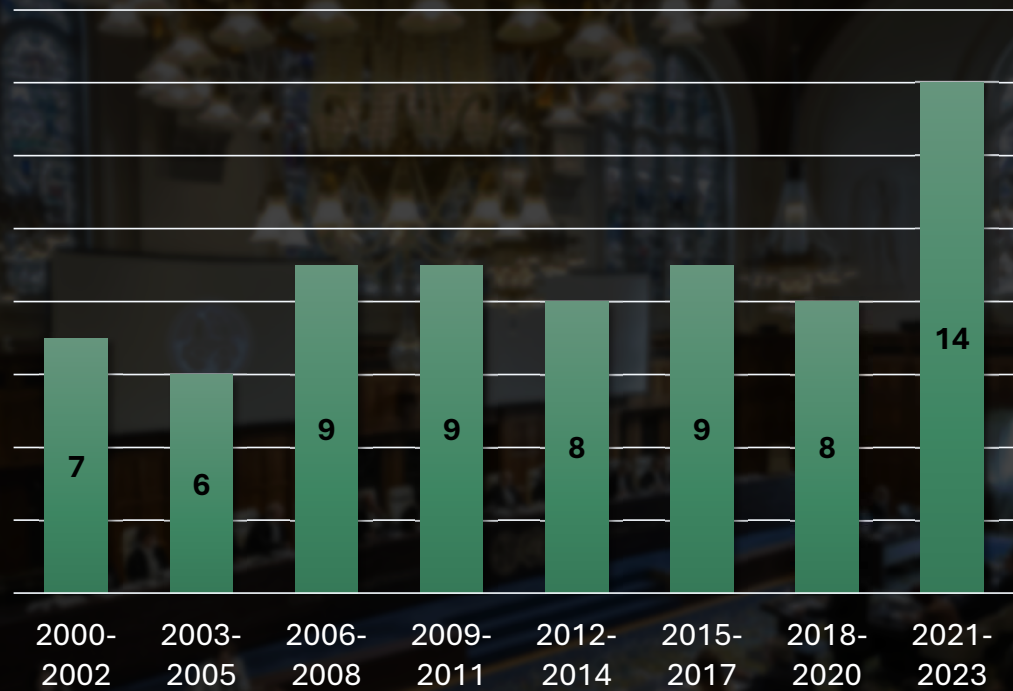


D. Recent Judicial Activities

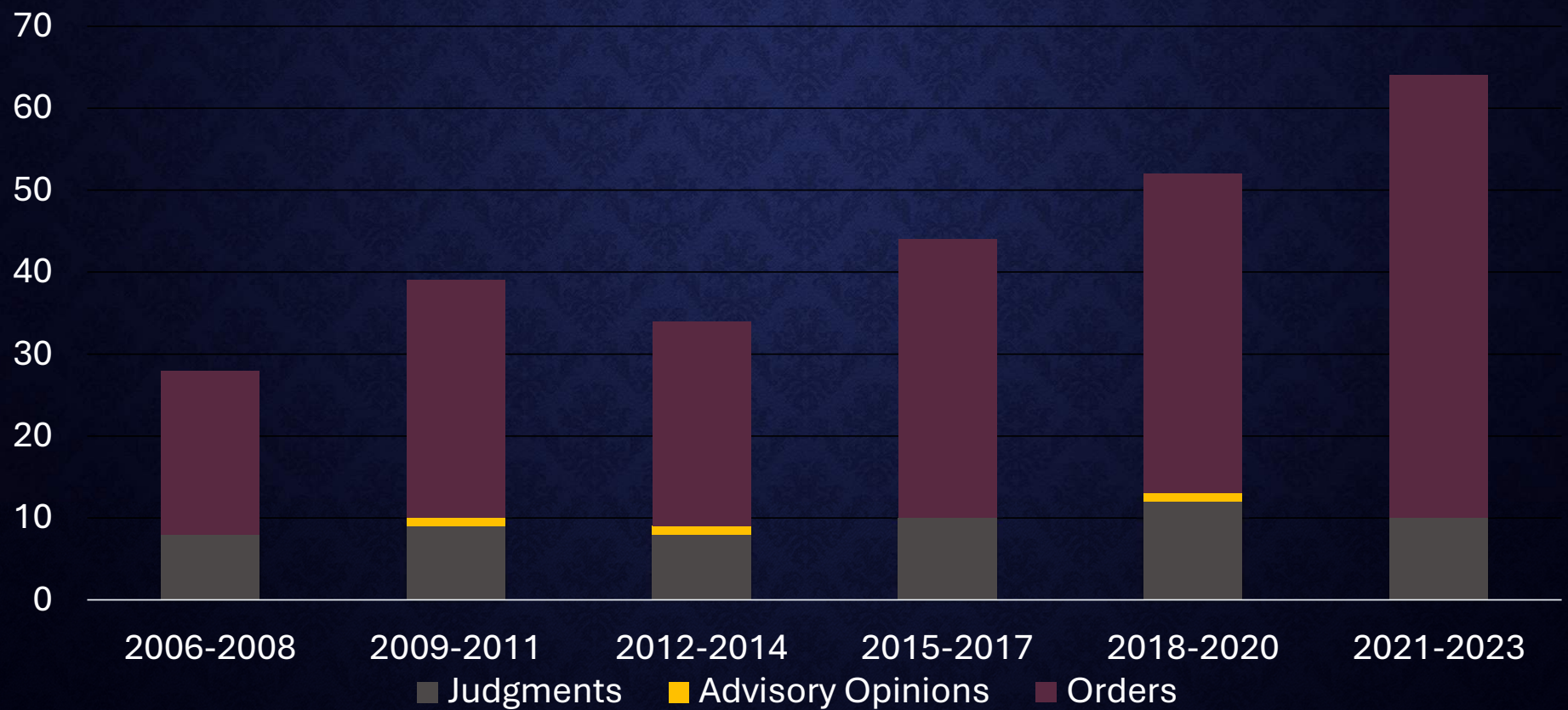
Cases pending before the ICJ (April 2025)

1. Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary/Slovakia)
2. Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)
3. Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)
4. Alleged Violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)
5. Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America)
6. Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)
- 7. Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)**
8. Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)
9. Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)
10. Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)
11. Questions of jurisdictional immunities of the State and measures of constraint against State-owned property (Germany v. Italy)
12. Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)
13. Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)
14. Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)
15. Alleged Violations of State Immunities (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada)
16. Aerial Incident of 8 January 2020 (Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom v. Islamic Republic of Iran)
- 17. Right to Strike under ILO Convention No.87 (Advisory Opinion)**
18. Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)
19. Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)
20. Embassy of Mexico in Quito (Mexico v. Ecuador)
21. Glas Espinel (Ecuador v. Mexico)
22. Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)
23. Alleged Smuggling of Migrants (Lithuania v. Belarus)
24. Appeal from the ICAO Council decision dated 30 June 2025 (Russian Federation v. Australia and Netherlands)

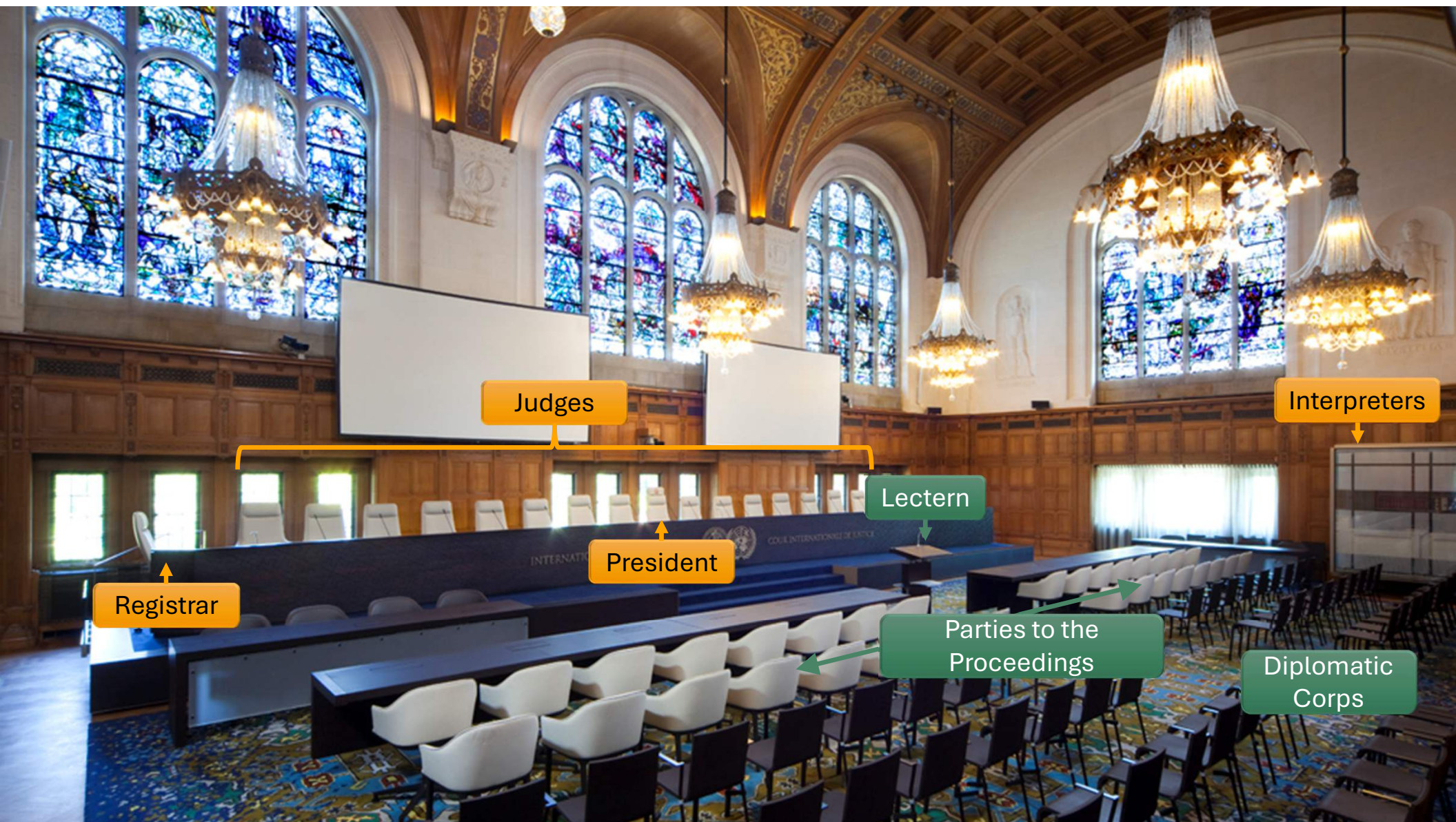
Number of Proceedings Instituted by Triennium



Increase in Incidental Proceedings



E. The Great Hall of Justice





Window I:
The
Primitive
Age



Window II: The Age of Conquest



Window III:
The
'Present'
Age





Window IV:
**A future of
achieved
peace**