International Court of Justice

Rules of Procedure and Guidebook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

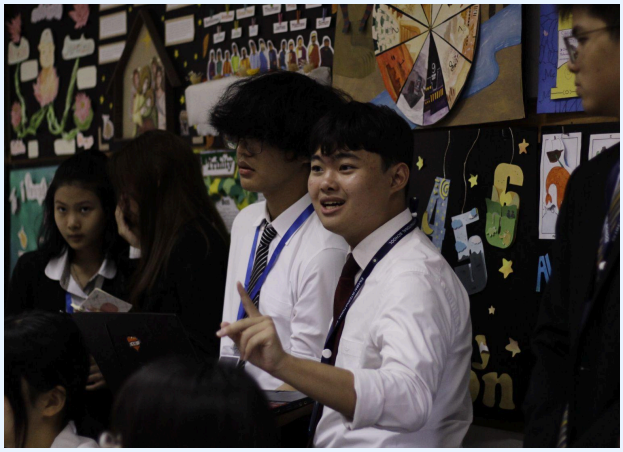
A Letter to the Thailand International Court of Justice Committees (2024)

For the past 5 ICJ committees between the years 2023-24, the International Court of Justice committee has acted as a learning tool with more than two dozen participants leaving the court learned of how international law works.

After too many late night preparation, helpline and therapy sessions, it should be the case that the president of the court devotes themselves to the committee and finds an approach to the committee at their own focus; to find ways to make the committee work and optimize learning from this committee. At best, the discretion of this ROP is at the current president of the court whether they would find ways to present equity to both sides, jump over the proceedings so the committee finishes in time or go meta to explain what the topic is midway; these are all significant steps a court may take to make this simulation successful.

I have been told that the awards for the ICJ are too many. I disagree. The preparations for this committee would result in one of the most quality discussions that any participant in the court learns and in turn, chairs will have the best commitment any committee has. It is this challenging nature of the committee that makes it work so well. After 5 conferences in development, this is the time to bless this committee and let it pass on to others to carry on this committee's work. This edition of the procedures should ensure that most procedural gaps should be filled and the Model UN ICJ as a tool for learning the structure of International Law in high school can be easily achieved.

All the best,
Akira Keene Teotrakool
THAIMUN XI Secretary-General
2023-2024 ICJ Circuit President



Section A: Rules of Procedure

Procedural Notes - The Docket

A rough schedule for usual proceedings will be given by the chairs as follows:

Morning Sessions	**Approx. Time**
Opening Statements + Questions	30 minutes allotted (10 max. per side + Q)
Stipulations are read out	5 minutes allotted
Presentation of Evidence + Questions	60 minutes allotted (30 minutes per side)
Evidence Rebuttal	25 Minutes allotted (10 max. per side + No Q)
Judges' Evidence Deliberation*	40 minutes allotted
Applicant Witness 1 (DQ, CQ, JQ)	30 minutes allotted (DQ 7 / CQ 7 / JQ 10)
Respondent Witness 1 (DQ, CQ, JQ)	30 minutes allotted (DQ 7 / CQ 7 / JQ 10)
Afternoon Sessions	
Applicant Witness 2 (DQ, CQ, JQ)	30 minutes allotted (DQ 7 / CQ 7 / JQ 10)
Respondent Witness 2 (DQ, CQ, JQ)	30 minutes allotted (DQ 7 / CQ 7 / JQ 10)
Witness Rebuttal	20 minutes allotted (10 max. per side + No Q)
Judges' Final Questions	30 minutes allotted
Closing Statements	20 minutes allotted (10 max. per side + No Q)
Judges' Final Deliberation*	15 minutes allotted
Judges' write verdicts and opinions*	30 minutes allotted
Verdict is read out	5 minutes allotted
Social Activity	Remaining time

DQ = Direct Questioning, CQ = Cross Questioning/examination, JQ = Judge's Questioning;
(*) = Advocates will not be in the room when the procedure happens

It should also be further stated that the minimum and maximum for speeches should be subject to change. In addition, the ROP may give several suggestions for speaking time but please note that this is not strictly enforced. Lastly, some procedures in the ROP that have been stated that have "no time limit" may be elapsed due to time constraints as stated above.

Sample Docket from Past ICJs:

ICSMUN III ICJ Docket

Day 1 - February 17, 2024

Asylum (Colombia v. Peru)

Section	Time	Allotted
Conference Registration	07.30 - 08.00	30
Opening Ceremony	08.00 - 09.00	60
Case Preparation Time	09.00 - 09.55	55
Swearing in	09.55 - 10.00	5
Opening Statement by Colombia	10.00 - 10.10	10
Judges' Questions	10.10 - 10.20	10
Opening Statement by Peru	10.20 - 10.30	10
Judges' Questions	10.30 - 10.40	10
First Deliberation/Opinion Writing	10.40 - 11.00	20
Break	11.00 - 11.20	20
Evidence Presentation by Colombia	11.20 - 11.40	25
Evidence Presentation by Peru	11.40 - 12.05	25
First Rebuttal by Colombia	12.05 - 12.10	5
First Rebuttal by Peru	12.10 - 12.15	5
Evidence Deliberation/Opinion Writing	12.15 - 13.00	45
Lunch	13.00 - 14.00	60
Colombia Witness 1	14.00 - 14.30	30
Peru Witness 1	15.00 - 15.00	30
Colombia Witness 2	15.00 - 15.30	30
Break	15.40 - 16.00	20
Peru Witness 2	16.00 - 16.30	30
Closing Statement by Colombia	16.30 - 16.40	10
Closing Statement by Peru	16.40 - 16.50	10
Final Questions to Advocates	16.50 - 17.00	10
Opinion Writing and Verdict Decision	17.00 - 17.25	25
Inertia	17.25 - 17.30	5
Court Adjourns	17.30	(X)

Introduction to the International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), known as the "World Court," is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). Established in 1946 under the UN Charter and based in The Hague, Netherlands, the ICJ plays a vital role in resolving international disputes and upholding international law. It serves as a forum where UN member states can peacefully settle disputes covering a wide range of issues, from territorial disputes to human rights violations. In addition to settling contentious cases, the ICJ provides advisory opinions on legal matters referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. These opinions help interpret international law and contribute to a more harmonious global legal framework. Every UN member state is subject to the ICJ's jurisdiction, and its verdicts are binding. Non-member states can join voluntarily. The ICJ's inclusive approach supports the UN's mission of maintaining global peace and security by fostering diplomacy, justice, and adherence to international law.

ICJ is different from all other committees in that it is a court dealing with legal issues rather than a forum dealing with political issues. This means that you need to approach ICJ with three ways of thinking that are different to most committees.

Firstly, ICJ is not about having people agree with you, it is about being right. You are trying to convince other people that you are right, but they do not have their own interests and you can't win them over with compromise, you have to convince them that you are unequivocally correct.

Secondly, ICJ is about what the law is. In other committees you create new law, discuss what it should be, ICJ is largely about what law applies between the countries which are represented. This means that you should know very clearly what law you are trying to invoke, and you should know it precisely. For instance, if you were referencing the international convention for the suppression of terrorist financing, you could refer to the offense under Art 2, 1., Art 2, 5. etc. but you couldn't say 'terrorist financing' or anything so vague.

Thirdly, ICJ is about what the facts are. In other committees the facts don't matter so much as the interpretation of them, in the ICJ advocates need to convince the judges of your factual narrative, the other side will have their own factual narrative and they will differ substantially, you need to build a factual narrative that is both supported by the evidence and supports your legal case, if the facts don't fit the law you want to apply, you can either change the facts or the law, but you need evidence to change the facts, and there is a limited amount of law, so you have to compromise.

General Rules governing Court

- Respect the decisions and authority of the judges.
- Only one advocate can speak at a time per side
- Dialogue between advocates is NOT appropriate
- Advocates MUST stand to speak.
- Don't interrupt unless you are making an objection.
- Advocates must ask the judges for permission to submit physical evidence.
- All physical evidence must be labeled with a number (applicants) or letter (respondents).
- Be on time at the beginning of each session and from any break.
- Place any suit jackets and bags away from judges' or advocates' desks.

Committee Roles

Presidents (Chair):
The role of the president is similar to that held by the head chair. Like other committees, there is only one head chair, or in this case, one President. The President is responsible for implementing Rules of Procedure as per the Statute of the ICJ. They will outline and implement the proceedings of the court. The President in any ICJ case is referred to, simply, as President <<Last name>>.

Advocates:
Each case in the ICJ consists of two teams of advocates. Each team is composed of two advocates each - a total of 4 advocates for a case. One of these two groups will play the role of the Applicant. This is the team who initiated the proceedings at the court. The other team will play as the Respondent. This is the team of advocates who will defend the allegation of the applicant team. The Advocates act as a counsel, providing legal representation for their representing state to the court. Each team of advocates will draft a memorandum, a list of evidence, a combined list of stipulations, and will examine witnesses. (These documents will be elaborated on later in the guidebook.) The advocates are the core center of the proceeding case. Any advocate in the ICJ is referred to as Advocate <<Last name>> of <<Country they are representing>>.

Applicant: An Applicant is the party that brings the case to the Court. By making the claim, they must first submit an application—hence the name Applicant. Applicants need to meet the burden of proof, showing that the other party has violated a certain international law. For the sake of simplicity, we will not dig deeper into the technicalities of what burdens of proof the Court will use. In short, the Applicant needs to show that there is a "sufficiency of the evidence" to meet this burden.

Respondent: A Respondent is the party that responds to the claims made by the Applicant. The Respondent does not need to meet the burden of proof. They are to propose arguments to show that the opposition has not met that standard to make a claim. This can come in multiple forms of challenges before and during the hearing. Before the hearing, the Respondent can challenge the Applicant's claim on grounds of the Court's jurisdiction. During the hearing, challenges can also be brought on grounds of legal and factual objections.

Judges:
During the hearings, judges will listen to the arguments from both sides and are expected to ask questions to the advocates throughout the session, aside from certain restricted timeframes. There will be time for closed deliberations among the judges throughout the day, where judgment notes will be drafted. These notes will be the foundation for the final verdict of the Court on the final day of the conference.

ICJ also comprises a panel of 6-9 judges. They are responsible for ruling on the case, this scope of duties also determining the validity of a piece of evidence. Being a judge depends on what you find and perceive to be true in the proceedings. ICJ Judges will also assess the arguments presented by each team of advocates and deliberate on a final verdict regarding the case. In general, there are two broad outcomes that Judges can conclude.

1) The ICJ does not have jurisdiction to rule on the case, and the case is dismissed.
2) The Applicant Party has met their burden of proof, thus Judges will create a verdict accordingly as "punishment" or "reparations" for the parties.

The Applicant Party has not met their burden of proof, thus the Respondent Party is free of applicant from all counts."Judges are referred to as Judge <<last name>> or Judge #(x) or Judge of <<country>>.

Order of Proceedings Short Form

1. Swearing in - Before the Court may convene for the contentious case, advocates must give an oath before the registrar: each advocate swears in
    - "I solemnly declare that the case I present before the International Court of Justice, and the evidence and documents referred to therein, shall be the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth as best I know it."

2. Opening Statements – each side tells the court what you intend to show/argue by the presentation of your case. In the presentation of the opening statements, it is permitted for respective parties to yield the floor to their colleagues
    - Applicants - introduce their case and its main arguments. Overheads or other visual aids outlining the case or the main arguments are highly suggested.
    - Respondents - introduce the response and main counter-arguments. Overheads or other visual aids outlining the case or the main arguments are highly suggested.

3. Presentation of Evidence (the "Body of the Case") - This procedure is repeated until all of the evidence is motioned and presented.
    - Evidence is alternatively presented between the applicants and respondents.
    - Applicants/Respondents present their Evidence – Objects or documents
        - The Applicant/Respondent then gives a pleading of their evidence, establishing its credibility and importance to the case
    - The judges, then the opposing advocates, inquire and ask questions about the evidence presented

4. Witness Testimonies - Witnesses give their testimonies as direct examination then cross and judges' examinations follow.
    - Witnesses are alternatively presented between the applicants and respondents
    - Witnesses have to swear in "I solemnly swear before the International Court of Justice, that I shall speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth as best I know it."

5. Rebuttal - Each side is given an opportunity to refute the positions supported by the opposing side.
    - Applicant's Rebuttal
    - Respondent's Rebuttal

6. Judges' Final Questions - Judges are encouraged to ask questions on everything that has been presented in the case. There is no time limit but judges should ask to clarify anything that has not been clarified.
7. Closing Arguments
    - Applicant's – interpretation of the evidence, presentation of the "prayer", and if necessary the amount of damages each side wishes to ask for and why. Again, visual aids are highly suggested here.
    - Respondents – interpretation of the evidence, presentation of the "prayer", and if necessary the amount of damages each side wishes to ask for and why. Again, visual aids are highly suggested here.
8. Judges Deliberate - Advocates vacate courtroom
    - Judges need to be clear about what the verdict is and the reasons why they made the ruling. The amount of damages awarded need to be included (if applicable.)
9. Verdict is read to advocates
    - Both the majority, and dissenting opinions (if applicable) are read aloud

Order of Proceedings Long Form

1. OPENING STATEMENTS

a. PRESIDENT calls the court to order
   i. ADVOCATES swear in and make their opening Statements: in all proceedings the applicants will proceed first, followed by the respondents.

2. PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE – PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

a. REAL EVIDENCE - The evidence will be presented in an alternating fashion between the opposing parties. Applicants present the first piece of evidence, along with their pleading. Each piece of evidence must be assigned a letter and be presented in the following manner.
   i. Advocates present a piece of evidence:
      - If the applicant is presenting: "Your honor the country of would like to present source (A...)"
      - If the respondent is presenting: "Your honor the country of would like to present source (1...)"
   ii. A copy of each piece of evidence must then be presented or shared with the JUDGES. Each piece of evidence must be labeled.
   iii. The applicant will then present and might choose to do so by reading the document or text, stating the author, date of publication and the such. The presentation of the evidence is not a pleading.
   iv. ADVOCATE'S pleading: The advocate then explains their interpretation of the credibility and importance of the evidence presented. The pleading is similar to an MUN "For" speech for the evidence you are presenting.

b. QUESTIONING - After the ADVOCATE has finished presenting, there will be time allocated for points of inquiry regarding the evidence and the pleading made by the applicant.
   i. The ADVOCATE must state that he/she is finished with their pleading and presentation of the evidence.
   ii. The president will open the floor for points of inquiry or points of information to the panel of JUDGES.

iii. If and only if the judges are finished asking questions, the presidents will open the floor for points of inquiry from the opposing party.

c. The presentation of the evidence will alternate between the applicant and respondent party, until the trial comes to a suspension in order for the judges to deliberate and weigh the evidence that has been presented to them.

3. EVIDENCE REBUTTAL

Rebuttal

i. ADVOCATES have the opportunity to counter the evidence presented by the opposing ADVOCATES during their presentation of evidence.

- Purpose:
    1. Discredit the witnesses or real evidence presented by the opposing ADVOCATES by focusing on its limitations
    2. Provide counter-arguments to the arguments presented by the respondents
    3. No new evidence for their case can be brought up, unless it is used to counter the respondent's evidence which has been presented.

4. TESTIMONY of the WITNESSES:

a. ADVOCATES: "Your honor (country) would like to call to the stand.

i. The applicants then DIRECTLY question the witness

- Purpose:
    1. To establish the credibility of the witness
    2. To get the witness to provide evidence to support the charges they have brought to the court.

ii. Opposing ADVOCATES to now question the witness

- Purpose:
    1. To call into question the credibility of the witness
    2. This process is repeated for each witness
    3. This process is repeated for each advocacy

iii. Once the questioning has been completed, parties may say "No further questions"

5. WITNESS REBUTTAL

a. There will be a round of rebuttals to be entertained, which will allow for both the Applicant parties and Respondent parties to counter the newly presented evidence as well as the testimonials given by the witnesses in the trial.

6. JUDGES' FINAL QUESTIONS

a. Judges will take turns to ask questions of the advocates about their witnesses, evidence, or arguments that will clarify the case for them before submitting evidence.

7. LAWYERS SUBMIT EVIDENCE TO THE COURT

a. ADVOCATES rise and ask the court to ADMIT the real or physical evidence they have used to make their case.
    i. ADVOCATE: "Your honor, (country) would like to ask the court to admit evidence A through F (for example)."
b. Unless evidence is missing or not labeled, the judges will declare that the evidence presented is in order.
c. THIS PROCESS IS REPEATED FOR BOTH ADVOCACIES

8. CLOSING ARGUMENTS

a. The PRESIDENTS invite the ADVOCATES to begin their closing arguments:
    i. Applicants then present their closing Arguments in which they should summarize the charges, their main arguments and evidence
        - Visual aids are highly suggested here.
        - Presentation of the "prayer" – what the applicants would like out of the case. This is the time for the applicants to outline the amount of damages they wish for and why.
    ii. Respondents then present their closing arguments, in which they should summarize their case for the dismissal of the charges.
        - Visual aids are highly suggested here.
    iii. After all witnesses and evidence has been presented, the ADVOCATES announces the completion of their case.
        - ADVOCATES: "Your Honor, we rest our case".

9. JUDGES DELIBERATE AND WRITE VERDICT

b. All JUDGES will be asked to state their opinion, along with their reasoning (examples of evidence, their weight, etc.)
    i. Speaking for 1-2 minutes in turn without interruption.
    ii. At the end of this, JUDGES will inquire into each other's positions, before reaching a final verdict via vote.
    iii. Dissenting and Concurring opinions will be entertained, as such JUDGES will divide into these groups and prepare their statements for a chosen JUDGE to present formally

c. Judges need to be clear about what the verdict is and the reasons why they made the ruling. The amount of damages awarded need to be included (if applicable.)
d. If there is a dissenting opinion, it may also be read (at the PRESIDENTS' discretion)

10. VERDICT IS PRESENTED (and Damages, if applicable)

Explanation of Procedures

1. Introduction: The Presidency introduces themselves, sets out an agenda, and asks each advocate and judge to present and introduce themselves to the court.

2. Opening Statements: The advocates present their opening speech and position on the case. This document will be elaborated on later in the guidebook; however, it primarily consists of the main arguments from each side giving the judges a brief overview of the case. Each team of advocates will have a minimum of 9 minutes and a maximum of 12 minutes to present this statement, with the applicant going first and then the respondent.

3. Judges' Questioning: After both teams of advocates have completed their opening statements, the Presidents will go around the room, asking every individual judge if they have any questions regarding the advocates' stance or their opening statements. Presidents have discretion as to how long this process will go on. Preferably, they will choose to make as many rounds as needed until all questions are exhausted, however they can also end questioning for time constraints.

   *Unlike other committees where a delegate can choose to refrain from being asked a point of information or can choose to answer in note form, this is not the case for advocates, who have to be able to answer any questions posed to them.

4. Stipulations: This document will also be elaborated on later in the guidebook but it is essentially a list of facts agreed on by both parties. This list should be created prior to the conference and at this stage, is read out to the court by the Presidents.

5. Presentation of Evidence: Both teams of advocates present their pieces of evidence in the form of an evidence manifest, which must be shared with the opposing advocates before the trial starts. This document will be elaborated on later in the guidebook. For this as well, with the applicant going first, both teams of advocates have to individually present each piece of evidence to the court by stating its origin, a brief description of the piece, the date published, and a way for the judges to access this evidence. This step is a presentation and not a pleading. There is no time limit for this step.

6. Deliberation of Evidence: After the advocates have presented all their evidence, the judges will have an opportunity to ask either team of advocates an unlimited amount of questions they may have about any pieces of evidence. There is no time limit on judges' questioning and this round of questioning will only end once there are no more questions in the court. After this round of questioning is finished, the advocates will have to leave the room and the judges will have the opportunity to deliberate on this evidence using the following criteria: 1) bias 2) relevance 3) reliability 4) importance

   Each judge will be given a different piece of evidence to study from both parties and after a certain amount of time, the President will go around the room asking each judge for their evaluation of the evidence. After each piece of evidence is presented by any judge, there will be a vote on whether that particular piece of evidence should be struck out from the manifest or kept, based on its score.

   *If a piece of evidence is struck out from any advocate's manifest, that piece of evidence or its contents cannot be brought up in the court again.

   **During this round of deliberation, because the advocates are not in the room, they should use this time to prepare their witnesses for witness examination.

7. Direct Witness Examination: Prior to the conference, each team of advocates need to have come up with a list of two - three different real-life people, who can help their case in some way. Examples of the same include foreign ministers, officers, former presidents etc. No witness can be repeated between the applicants or the respondents. Starting with the applicant's first witness and alternating from then on, the counsel who has presented the witness will be given the opportunity to ask their witness any kind of questions as they see fit. However, if the opposing counsel believes that a certain question isn't appropriate, they can object. Objections will be mentioned later in the guidebook.

   *Direct Examination questions are typically open ended, with exception to expert witnesses.

   **Advocates should prepare their witness prior to the conference and ask them to have a very thorough knowledge of the person they are going to represent. At times, advocates may also give the witness a script for direct examination and/or bullet points to help guide them for cross examination and judges' questioning.

8. Cross - Witness Examination: After one team of advocates is finished asking their first witness questions, the opposing party will have the opportunity to cross-examine the same witness asking him any questions they see fit. In this case, if the counsel who had presented the witness believes a question is inappropriate, they can object.

9. Judges' Witness Examination: After cross examination, each judge will have the chance to question the witness about anything that has already been said or about anything relating to his area of expertise. However, during the judges' examination, objections are not in order. Again, the judges' questioning has no time limit and this will go on for as many rounds until no judges have any questions left. After the judges have finished examining a witness, the party who presented this witness will have a final opportunity to ask them any questions after which, the opposing party will then present their witness to the court.

10. Judges' Final Questions to Advocates: After the applicant and the respondent teams have both examined all their witnesses, the judges will have a final opportunity to ask the advocates questions in the same format as has been carried out through the case; however, now, they are able to ask either pair of advocates any question about anything and everything that has been stated throughout the case. Once again, there is no time limit with this step and the President will only stop going around the room asking individual judges if they have questions after no judge wants to ask more questions.

11. Closing Statements: This is the advocates' final opportunity to address the court in the form of a closing argument. The statement should ideally be around 15 - 20 minutes long for each advocate team. This will be elaborated on later in the guidebook but it is essentially the last chance for either advocate team to prove their case and encourage the judges to vote for their side. It is also an opportunity for the advocates to rebut anything that has been broughten up throughout the case or even support and reinstate any of their previous points. It is also a final opportunity to answer or address any of the judges' doubts and requests but no evidence that isn't a part of the evidence manifest can be brought up in this statement. Again, the applicant will speak first following which the respondent will come.

12. Final Deliberation: After both parties have presented their closing statements, the advocates will be made to leave the room so that the judges can have a final opportunity to deliberate on the overall case and reach a verdict. During this time, judges will discuss any points of consideration they have about either side and will also examine the advocates' memorandums and prayer for relief to understand what it is they would be guaranteeing for either side winning. In addition to this, they will also examine the

effectiveness of the witnesses and the pros and cons of each. Finally, each judge will express which party has convinced them most and with a majority, reach a verdict. While this process should ideally last for around 30 minutes, the judges should have as long as they need to reach a clear verdict.

13. Verdict: This section will be elaborated on later in the guidebook, but after judges' deliberation, using majority voting structure, the President will conclude which party one and read out their prayer for relief.

*Advocates will not know the verdict until the end of the conference.

This process will then be repeated in its entirety for as many cases as are going to be presented.

Key Legal Concepts

The following are some key legal concepts that may be applied to the ICJ simulation:

Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction refers to the authority or power of a court or legal body to hear and make decisions in a particular case. In the context of international law and institutions like the International Court of Justice (ICJ), jurisdiction determines whether a court has the right to adjudicate a specific dispute. Jurisdiction can be based on factors like the subject matter of the case, the parties involved, or the location where the events in question occurred. If a court lacks jurisdiction, it cannot hear the case.

International Court of Justice Statute - Article 36

1. The jurisdiction of the Court comprises all cases which the parties refer to it and all matters specially provided for in the Charter of the United Nations or in treaties and conventions in force.
2. 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:
    - the interpretation of a treaty;
    - any question of international law;
    - the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of an international obligation;

- the nature or extent of the reparation to be made for the breach of an international obligation.

3. The declarations referred to above may be made unconditionally or on condition of reciprocity on the part of several or certain states, or for a certain time.
4. Such declarations shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the parties to the Statute and to the Registrar of the Court.
5. Declarations made under Article 36 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice and which are still in force shall be deemed, as between the parties to the present Statute, to be acceptances of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice for the period which they still have to run and in accordance with their terms.
6. In the event of a dispute as to whether the Court has jurisdiction, the matter shall be settled by the decision of the Court.

Burden of Proof

The burden of proof is the responsibility placed on a party in a legal proceeding to provide sufficient evidence to support their claims or allegations. It essentially determines which party has the obligation to convince the court or tribunal of the truth of their assertions. In most cases, the party bringing a claim bears the burden of proof. This means they must present evidence and persuasive arguments to demonstrate that their claims are valid and should be upheld. If the party with the burden of proof fails to meet this obligation, their claim may be dismissed.

Standard of Proof

The standard of proof sets the level of certainty or persuasion required to establish a claim or fact in a legal proceeding. Different standards of proof are used in various legal contexts. The most common standard is the “Preponderance of Evidence”.

Preponderance of evidence

Preponderance of evidence is a standard of proof used in civil cases. It requires a party to provide enough evidence to convince the trier of fact (usually a judge or jury) that their version of events is more likely true than not. In practical terms, this means that if the evidence slightly tips the scale in favor of one party's argument, that party has met the preponderance of evidence standard. It does not require absolute certainty, but rather a greater weight of evidence in one direction. This standard is associated with the idea that the party with the burden of proof must establish their case by a "51% probability" or by a "greater weight of evidence" in their favor.

Sources of International Law

International law derives from various sources that establish its legal norms and principles. These sources guide the conduct of states and international actors on the global stage. Article 38(1) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) outlines the principal sources of international law that the ICJ may rely upon when making its judgments. These sources include:

1. International conventions (treaties): Treaties are formal agreements between states that establish legal obligations. They play a crucial role in shaping international law.
2. International customary law: Customary law arises from consistent state practices that are followed out of a sense of legal obligation. Over time, widespread and consistent state practice can become binding as customary law.
3. General principles of law: These are legal principles that are recognized by civilized nations and form part of their domestic legal systems. The ICJ may refer to these general principles when making decisions.
4. Judicial decisions and teachings of highly qualified publicists: The ICJ may consider decisions of international and national courts and the writings of respected legal scholars as supplementary sources of law.

Section B: Guide for Advocates

Opening Statements

The purpose of an opening statement is to provide the court with an overview of what your side intends to demonstrate or establish during the presentation of your case. It serves as an opportunity to outline your party's overall case strategy. Rather than making absolute assertions like "we will prove," it's advisable to express your intention as "we intend to show." Importantly, advocates should refrain from making commitments or promises to the court that cannot be fulfilled. It's essential to be realistic and accurate in setting expectations. Additionally, keep in mind that speaking time may need to be divided among different members of the advocate team.

Rebuttals

Rebuttals occur after the examination of witnesses, providing advocates with the opportunity to counter the arguments presented by their opponents up to that point. A recess will be provided between rebuttals to allow advocates time for preparation. During rebuttals, both written evidence and witness testimonies should be addressed. They serve to challenge, counter, or refute the claims, evidence, or points made by the opposing party during their presentation. Rebuttals are an integral part of the debate or legal proceedings, allowing advocates to address weaknesses in the opposing case or to provide alternative interpretations of the evidence. Effective rebuttals require a thorough understanding of the opposing arguments and strong reasoning skills to dismantle or undermine those arguments.

Closing Statements

Closing statements provide advocates with an opportunity to consolidate their case and explain its overall implications. Each side typically has around 15 minutes to summarize their arguments and connect the evidence presented to the legal elements of the case. The prosecution or plaintiff usually presents their closing statement first. During this phase, both legal teams must state their "prayer," which is essentially their request or plea for a judgment from the court. Advocates should use closing statements to clarify the key issues at hand, provide their proposed resolutions, and articulate what they believe the court's decision should be. If the case involves damages or potential prison sentences, advocates should specify the amount or sentence they recommend, providing clear justifications for their requests. Closing statements aim to leave a lasting impression on the court and persuade the judges to rule in favor of one's side.

Memorandum

This is a document that each counsel has to write individually (one for each team of advocates) and acts as a position paper or like a political statement.

(See example here: [Case 2] Pakistan - Memorandum)

This document is split up into five sections including:

I. Statement of Jurisdiction: This section is a summary of the case in your country's perspective. Here, rather than talking about all the background information on the case and its historical context, use it as a way of describing the most relevant connections and describing the origins of the case and what led to it being taken to the ICJ.

*This isn't an argumentative section but rather an outline to how both parties are relevant to the case

II. Statement of Law: This section is a legal summary of the case, referring to specific laws (international or domestic) or treaties and how these have been broken by the respondent. This gives the case a legal standpoint to help the judges better understand the judicial points of the case. It also helps provide a legal legitimacy to the case and its grounds. It is this legal legitimacy that the opposing counsel will be defending or trying to prove. *This is one of the most crucial parts of the memorandum because it is what the whole case is based on.

**Very important that the advocates find and choose the laws or treaties they are going to present in this section wisely in relation to the case and also be sure to list the same in their evidence manifest.

III. Statement of Facts: This being a fairly simple section of the memorandum, the advocates have to provide clear and detailed facts that support their stance and some of these facts should also include any previous attempts made by either side to resolve the issue prior to getting it to the ICJ.

IV. Arguments: This section comprises each party's main points and why they believe they should win relating this back to the specific laws. This section also works as a counterclaim to the other party's viewpoints and rebuts their point of view. Advocates here will have to apply the principles of the laws and facts to the case and prove legitimacy and validation to their claim.

*This is the most crucial part of a memorandum because it gives your claim validation by being able to connect your points to your position and is what gives your country a stance with reasoning to back this up.

V. Summary and Prayer for Relief: This section is essentially what each party expects from the case and what they would like to achieve from the deliberation of the case. The summary of this section should only be around 1-2 sentences long following the Prayer for Relief which acts as a solution to the case considering that the party who is writing this memorandum has won. Keep in mind that this section is the final basis on which the judges will reach a verdict so this prayer for relief should be as neutral as possible and amount to a solution for both parties rather than holding only one side accountable.

There is no limit on how long a memorandum needs to be but remember that each pair of advocates has to write one memorandum each and both memorandums will be shared with the judges prior to the conference.

For Applicants only (Memorandum/memorial)

To the Registrar

I, the undersigned, duly authorized by the Government of _____ of which I am the Agent, have the honor to submit to the International Court of Justice, in accordance with Articles 36 (I) and 40 (I) of its Statue and Article 38 of its Rules, an application instituting proceedings brought by the _____ against the _____ in the following case.

For Respondents only (Counter-memorial)

To the Registrar,

I, the undersigned, duly authorized by the Government of _____, of which I am the Agent, have the honor to submit to the International Court of Justice, in response to the application instituting proceedings brought by _____ against _____, the following counter-memorial.

This counter-memorial is submitted in accordance with Articles 36 (I) and 40 (I) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and Article 38 of its Rules. In light of the application presented by [Applicant's Country], [Your Country] deems it necessary to provide a comprehensive response, affirming its commitment to a fair and just resolution of the matter at hand.

Stipulations

This document is a list of written evidence presented by both parties (only one for each case). These pieces of evidence should be points or facts that both counsels agree on and not up for debate during the case. Stipulations are written together by both parties and its main purpose is to establish a basis for the judges on pieces of evidence that are not debatable and prevent disagreement between parties.

(See example here: [THAIMUN X - ICJ] Case 2 Vetted Stipulations.pdf)

Stipulations are written entirely in bullet points but can also be divided into the following sections that both sides agree on:

I. key terms and their definitions

II. important historical events or a timeline

III. activities by both countries or by an individual country

IV. treaties passed or agreements made

**During the process of writing stipulations, if one side doesn't agree with a particular fact, they have to have a clear reason why this is untrue and the side proposing this stipulation should have evidence to support this to allow it to be a part of the document.

Format:

STIPULATIONS

Submitted by:

Kim Wexler **Advocate of Australia**

Saul Goodman **Advocate of Japan**

Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia vs. Japan)

Both parties agrees that:

I. **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

II. **KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

III. **TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

IV. **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Evidence Manifest

An Evidence Manifest is a compilation of all the evidence you will use to support your argument. One such document must be written by each pair of advocates. Any piece of evidence not included in this evidence manifest cannot be brought up by either side. Any piece of evidence listed in one of the manifests can be used by both sides.

(See Example Here: Pakistan - Evidence Manifest)

The type of evidence in this document is only real evidence, and testimonial evidence comes in the form of witness testimonies. 4 – 12 pieces of evidence shall be submitted for this procedure. Examples of the kinds of evidence in this manifest include:

I. Treaties

II. Resolutions

III. Newspaper articles

IV. Sections from books

V. Audio or video recordings

VI. Letters

VII. Websites

The presentation of evidence during trial is governed by principles called rules of evidence. Judges use a balancing test carefully weighing whether a trial would be fairer with or without a piece of evidence in question. We generally deal with two types of evidence, “real” and “testimony”. 1) Real evidence consists of objects of any kind which includes papers and documents. 2) Testimony is the statements of competent witnesses. All evidence should be submitted to the judges during the case for their consideration.

It is such categories of evidence that the judges will be evaluating based on the criteria aforementioned so it is vital to get the most reliable and established pieces of evidence because anything in this manifest can be struck down with a majority vote which would disable the advocates from referring back to the same. Also make sure that this evidence works to support your argument and be sure to explain it as strongly as possible to prevent it from being struck down by the judges.

While presenting the evidence, advocates should read it out (as described in the format) and give a 1-2 sentence summary on the same. Then the next party presents their evidence. Judges’ questions are asked after each piece of evidence is introduced, however, the judges do have the option to question any piece of evidence after all the evidence has been submitted as well.

*Remember, applicants always go first and in this case as well, applicants will present their evidence first followed by the respondents.

Format:

The Evidence Manifest is often one of the longest documents in the case because this is what the root of your argument is going to be based on. While not all of your manifest will support your specific position, it does help the judges get a better understanding of it and in some cases, these pieces of evidence could also be points you may want to use in your rebuttal.

For each individual piece of evidence in your manifest, you should have specified the following:

I. The title of the document

II. Date published

III. Source

IV. Author

V. Link or image so the judges can access the evidence

For each piece of evidence, plaintiffs and respondents should both label differently (i.e., alphabets and numbers) however, if a certain party should go over the allocated maximum (i.e., reach Z), they should start labeling as A1, B1 and so on.

The counsel should establish the writer or maker, or source of the evidence. It is the responsibility of the legal counsel to use the author, date, book it came from, cultural background of the author, context, or whatever relevant information possible to help establish the authenticity or credibility of the evidence. If the advocates do not do this, the opposing team will likely convince the judges it should be given little or no "weight."

Weighting, Real Evidence, and Authentication: Weighting of evidence can be very important to the case. If the judge is convinced by a legal team's arguments enough, they may "weigh" the evidence more. If judges are not convinced by the authenticity or credibility of evidence, they may choose to weigh the evidence less. Such decisions by the judges can have a profound influence on the case. Therefore, it is important that the advocates for both sides clearly show why the evidence they are using is believed to be credible and reliable.

Witness Document

Witnesses, once again, are experts or delegates from other countries who specialize in a certain field related to your case. These witnesses will be played by people at the conference but for each case, both parties have to get 2 witnesses each.

(See example here: Witness Information - Adv. Pakistan)

Preparing Witnesses:

The advocates will have to organize for their own witnesses from their schools who are attending the conference in other committees, so they can be prepared prior to the conference. They will also have to prepare the script for said people to play witnesses to follow during direct examination. The character of the witness is to be chosen by the counsels for each side. The advocates should be able to supply the witnesses with information about their character. The character does not have to exist, but the position they hold or expertise they are supposed to have should be as authentic as possible. The witness and advocates must be able to work together and communicate often. The advocates should be able to coach the witness as to what to say and how to say it under direct examination.

Choose your witnesses well in advance. Questioning your own witnesses is done during direct examination. Cross-examination is when you question an opposing side's witness after the witness has been questioned by opposing counsel during their direct examination. In some cases, time may not allow for cross-examination. Instead, rebuttal time can be used to point out weaknesses or counter-arguments to the evidence presented by the opposing counsel. The first point to note regarding direct examination is that witnesses should be very well-prepared, i.e. well-coached. Witnesses should know what questions you intend to ask them on direct examination, what answers are expected (as long as they are truthful), and, most importantly, what questions to expect on cross-examination.

Cross-examination of a witness, which follows direct examination of the witness, is meant to create a dispute about the witness's statements, and/or to place the witness's credibility (believability) into question. This includes the witness's demeanor.

*Remember judges' questions and cross-examination will not be scripted because these questions will be made by the opposition at that time as well as on the spot by the judges, so the advocates will have to prepare the witnesses to have prior knowledge - both legal and general on the case.

Witness Examination

During direct examination, you must follow two basic rules. First, unless a witness is established as an expert, you cannot ask LEADING questions. Whether a witness qualifies as an expert is decided by the court after the witness is asked several specific questions (called voir dire) about his/her expertise in the field –education, years of practice, publications, number of times used as an expert witness in other cases, etc.

Leading questions are those questions which suggest the answer by the very nature of the questions. “You saw him, didn’t you?” “You are a good student, are you not?” Again, only experts in the field can be questioned using leading questions on direct examination. Therefore, when possible it can be beneficial to place experts on the stand. If a leading question is asked when it has not been deemed appropriate to ask a leading question, the party who is not questioning is encouraged to make an objection to the question, and justify it.

Some Quick Pointers for Questioning Witnesses: Try to reinforce the credibility of your witnesses for truth and accuracy, while attempting to establish that the credibility of certain opposing witnesses is poor. Never ask a witness a question to which you yourself do not know the answer. Never ask a witness “Why!?” Do not argue with a witness. Finally, sometimes, it is best to know when to stop. It is a wise lawyer who knows when to say either “No further questions,” or even “No questions your honor”. Strategy and timing are very important.

Objections

An objection is a formal protest or plea made by an advocate during an ICJ session, disagreeing with the procedures or evidence presented by the opposing party. Objections are typically related to the admissibility of evidence or the conduct of questioning. Objections are used to challenge the admissibility of evidence or the manner in which questions are posed to witnesses or advocates. When an objection is raised, it prompts the judge or chair to make a ruling on whether the objection is valid (sustained) or invalid (overruled).

Objections are used when a participant believes that there has been a violation of the rules of procedure, or when they believe that a question or piece of evidence is inadmissible, irrelevant, or improper. Objections can be made during questioning, witness testimonies, or any part of the proceedings where they are relevant.

For witness testimonies, advocates may object in direct and cross examinations but not judges' examinations. Moreover, they may object to the witness' responses or the question asked, depending on the context.

These are a list of permissible objections for this ROP:

Ambiguous/vague	When a statement or question is unclear, unspecific, and requires explanation and facts.
Answer exceeds	When an answer to a question exceeds the concern and scope of the question itself.
Argumentative	When questions do not deduce facts and are prejudicial.
Assumes facts not in evidence	Witnesses have to testify on facts and evidence included in the evidence packet.
Badgering the Witness/advocate	When questioners are quarreling with, displeasing, provoking, and harassing the witnesses or advocates on the stand.
Continued Objecting	When objections against as a side are continuous, and impair the participation and presentation of arguments by the side.
Hearsay	Used when a testimony a witness provides that is not based upon personal knowledge but is a repetition of what someone else said or the question is seeking information relating to another individual, entity, organization, etc. that may not have the capability of defending themselves in court. Hearsay may be more complex than the aforementioned definition. It is usually not admissible because it is impossible to test its truthfulness on cross-examination. The principles directed at achieving truth generally fall under the headings of trustworthiness and relevance. The basic criterion for admissibility of evidence is trustworthiness. The object is to ensure that only the most reliable and credible facts, statements, and/or testimony are presented to the jury. There are many exceptions to this ground
Improper argument	When a team states false information that can be proven untrue and incorrect.

Leading question	When a team states false information that can be proven untrue and incorrect. When a question is asked, suggesting what exactly is the witness supposed to answer. (Allowed in the case of expert witnesses.)
Relevance	When a question asked is irrelevant or is questioned for its relevance along with the testimony presented to the court.
Speculation	When a guess, conjecture, supposition, or assumption is presented on a discussion, case, or evidence.

Additional Suggestions for Advocates

- Advocates should utilize visual aids to present their main arguments clearly and prominently in the courtroom. Ensure that these arguments are visually accessible and straightforward.

- Think ahead to the objections and counter-arguments you will face. Write these down and discuss how you will counter these counter-arguments.

- Verify the authenticity and credibility of the evidence and witness testimonies you present. Demonstrating the reliability of your sources enhances the trustworthiness of your case.

- While it's important to object when necessary, avoid objecting excessively, as it can impact your credibility. Remember that it's your responsibility to object when needed, as judges typically won't intervene in this regard.

- Advocates should try to argue that the “weight” judges give to the evidence by the opposing advocates should be minimal. (The judge will generally not weigh historical evidence minimally, unless the opposing team has severely discredited the source in its rebuttal or cross-examination.)

- Reinforce your primary arguments or charges at strategic points in your presentation to emphasize their significance and impact.

Section C: Guide for Judges

Suggestions of a Judge Role in ICJ

- Judges must maintain impartiality and avoid any conflicts of interest that could compromise their objectivity.
- Thoroughly review all case materials, including submissions from the parties, evidence, and legal arguments, to ensure a deep understanding of the case.
- Familiarize yourself with the legal framework governing the ICJ, including its rules, procedures, and jurisdictional limits.
- Judges are required to take clear and comprehensive notes during the contentious case proceedings to aid in their understanding and recall of key details.
- Judges should avoid any preconceived notions or biases that could influence their decision-making, ensuring that judgments are grounded in the principles of intl. law.
- Develop a systematic approach for assessing the reliability, relevance, and accuracy of presented evidence, and be prepared to explain your evaluation during deliberations.

Deliberation/Weighing of Evidence

During this phase, all pieces of evidence are distributed among the judges. Each judge is responsible for reading, taking notes, and assessing the specific evidence assigned to them. In this evaluation process, judges must consider the reliability, relevance, and accuracy of the evidence, while also taking note of any objections raised.

Subsequently, each judge will present their allocated evidence to the rest of the Panel. This presentation involves summarizing the key points of the evidence and assigning it a weight rating, which can be categorized as high, medium, or low based on its significance and impact. Judges are encouraged to engage in discussions regarding the decisions made by their fellow judges and may request to review any piece of evidence independently for further clarity or examination.

After each piece of evidence is presented by any judge, there will be a vote on whether that particular piece of evidence should be struck out from the manifest or kept, based on its weight. If a piece of evidence is struck out from any advocate’s manifest, that piece of evidence or its contents cannot be brought up in the court again.

Verdict and Opinions

Following deliberation, judges who agree both on a judgment and the underlying rationale for that judgment collectively formulate a mutual opinion. Judges who concur on a judgment but for different reasons than those outlined in the mutual opinion are required to create a concurring opinion. In contrast, judges who do not agree with the judgment must construct a dissenting opinion. The opinion garnering the highest number of votes is designated as the majority opinion, which subsequently serves as the official verdict of the Court. All other opinions are categorized as either "separate but concurring" or "separate and dissenting" opinions. While these additional opinions must be documented, they are primarily for record-keeping purposes.

The verdict is solely determined based on legality, specifically in accordance with treaties and international conventions ratified by the involved parties. Consequently, advocates bear a profound responsibility in diligently identifying and presenting their evidence in a manner consistent with these legal frameworks. The official verdict will only be announced during the Closing Ceremonies by the President of the Court.

Opinions

- Opinions provide a detailed explanation of the court's rationale behind the verdict. They offer insights into the legal principles, precedents, and factual considerations that influenced the court's decision.
- Opinions may be written by individual judges or by a majority of judges. Majority opinions represent the view of the majority of judges and would be presented as the verdict for the case.
- Concurrences and dissents are also possible. Concurrences occur when judges agree with the majority verdict but have different reasons for doing so. Dissents represent the viewpoint of judges who disagree with the majority decision.

The Verdict

- The verdict is a concise and formal statement that summarizes the court's decision regarding the case. It should clearly state whether the court finds in favor of the applicant or the respondent.
- The verdict should also address jurisdiction, indicating whether the court has jurisdiction over the case based on the arguments presented during the proceedings.
- If the court finds in favor of one party, the verdict should outline any specific orders or directives issued by the court as a result of its decision.

- Judges should try writing with the Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion for their analysis. https://www.tourolaw.edu/ADP/StudySkills/IRAC.aspx#:~:text=What%20is%20IRAC%3F,identified%20as%20a%20legal%20problem.

Format:

International Court of Justice

IN THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
OF
[CONFERENCE NAME]

Applicant vs. Respondent

Argued: D, M, Y
Decided: D, M, Y

The verdict/opinion will be as follows:

The majority opinion was signed by and aregged to by justices (last name) … and justice (last name).

The court (has/does not) jurisdiction over the case based on XYZ.

The opinion and explanation of reasons of the court is as follows:

We have found the following statements of fact:

Therefore, the court orders the following:

First, XYZ.
Second, XYZ.
Lastly, XYZ

Sample Opinion (Taken from AMUN ICJ 1993)

In the Court of
American Model United Nations
Japan v. Russia
Argued: November 11, 1993
Decided November 13, 1993

The Majority opinion was signed by and agreed to by Justice Welch of Italy, Justice Brilon of United States, Justice Campbell of the Russian Federation, Justice Luty of Algeria, Justice Weatherwax of the United Kingdom, Justice Seely of France, Justice Zilligen of Norway, Justice Schmidt of Poland, and Justice Stotts of Madagascar.

The court has jurisdiction over the case based on the sovereignty issue based on chapter sections one and four of the United Nations Charter, the interpretation of treaties issued in Article 36 section 2a of the International Court of Justice rules. Since the court is being asked to interpret and/or analyze the Treaties of Russo- Japanese Neutrality Pact, Yalta, Potsdam, and the San Francisco Peace treaty, the court feels that we have jurisdiction under the above statutes.

The court was also asked to examine the treaties of Shimoda, St. Petersburg, and the Cairo Declaration. The court feels that these treaties were not relevant to the arguments because they were nullified by later treaties and/or agreements. Therefore they were not considered in regard to the issues of the case or the issue of jurisdiction.

The petitioner and the respondent have demonstrated conclusive evidence that the issues surrounding the Kuril islands are sufficiently complex and cannot be resolved by the simple reassignment of territory. Specifically this evidence includes the disputed terms of the Potsdam Declaration of 1945 and the San Francisco Peace Treaty of 1951.

The opinion and explanation of reasons of the court is as follows:

The Kuril Islands have no clear original inhabitants and thus no original owners. According to the Potsdam Agreement Japan agreed to allow the Allied Powers, excluding the Soviet Union, to define territory to be divided after World War II. In the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty, Japan renounced all claims to the Kuril Islands. At that time no specific country was declared to have sovereignty over the islands. Having Russian inhabitants present government on the islands was instituted by the USSR and the USSR laid sovereign claim to the islands. The Japanese have only recently taken legal action to reobtain the islands, and then only many years after their agreement in the San Francisco Peace Treaty of 1951. During this time Russia gained acquiescence of the islands by controlling them for a considerable length of time. Although Russia may have taken the islands forcibly, they did so because Japan violated

the neutrality terms of the Russo-Japanese Neutrality pact by allying themselves with Germany. Thus, a state of war existed between the USSR and Japan and the USSR took over the islands as an act of war. Furthermore, the takeover of the island was performed before the San Francisco Peace Treaty. In fact, right after the end of World War II the Soviets reaffirmed their claim to the islands which they were promised by both the Yalta and the Potsdam treaties. Though this was an act of force and aggression, the circumstances of the time allowed this occupation to come about without dispute. Russia has since offered to give Japan Shikotan and the Habomai island group if Japan signs a peace treaty with Russia. Japan has refused to do so and demands control of the entire chain. The court finds no clear geographical or other difference among the islands which would divide them up clearly between the nations.

Therefore, the court orders the following:

- First, that Japan will have possession and control of the islands of Shikotan and Habomai. Sufficient time shall be given to the inhabitants to relocate or decide upon their citizenship, if necessary, as well as for the removal of any property by Russia which was brought to or constructed upon the island by Russia. If an agreement involving these subjects can not be reached by the two countries through incompetence, ignorance, or other incapabilities, the International Court of Justice will settle any such dispute. Russia will maintain possession and control of the rest of the Kuril islands.

- Second, the court orders that the islands of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan, and Habomai be declared a military and nuclear free zone in order to reduce any Russo-Japanese tensions in the region. This demand is made in the interest and requirement of the maintenance of peace and stability in the area in hopes of assurance that conflicts such as the one which resulted in the possession of the Kuril islands by Russia, shall be avoided in the future.

- Third, the court strongly recommends the signing of an official peace treaty between Japan and Russia.

- Fourth, on the issue of reparations, the court finds that no reparations shall be paid by either party involved. Specifically, Japan demonstrated no clear need or concise purpose for which the $1 billion was requested, nor was the derivation of the stated amount proclaimed.

- Fifth, the court orders that before each nation claims the territory awarded to it, (as specified in the first declaration) that the representative nation comply with all international laws and agreements upon environmental concerns. This particular point is particularly relevant to this case because of the use of the land and surrounding waters for their natural (both land and marine) resources.

- Last, the court fiercely condemns armed conquest as a way of resolving conflicts and encourages all nations to solve any differences in a peaceful manner and to respect individual national sovereignty.

Creditories:

Much thanks must go to the following people, without which the development of this Handbook and the committees would not have been possible.

The original THAIMUN ICJ Rules of Procedure

- THAIMUN XIII, IX ICJ President: Anna Timchenko (ISB)
- IASASMUN 2020 ICJ President: Zeki Tan (ISB)
- THAIMUN V Secretariat:
  1. Nafis Mahboob
  2. Jing Jing Piriyalertsak
- IASASMUN 2017 Writing Staff

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