

Advancing the potential and impact of the International Court of Justice through increased acceptance of its compulsory jurisdiction

A Roundtable Discussion
Thursday October 10, 2024. 15:30–17:00
Followed by refreshments/reception until 18:00
Het Nutshuis – Commissarissenzaal Room,
Riviermarkt 5, 2513 AM Den Haag

In-person event. Participation by invite only.

The meeting will be held under Chatham House rules.

Register at <https://forms.gle/3aRc5y7hn2UZimMV8>



ABOUT THE EVENT

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was established as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations to assist in the peaceful resolution of international disputes and to strengthen and uphold the rule of law globally.

The authority of the ICJ within the United Nations system, and the unique contribution the ICJ plays with respect to the application of the law, ensures that its decisions exert considerable influence and impact on the parties and other stakeholders in its cases.

However, the role of the ICJ is limited by the fact that its jurisdiction in contentious cases is based on voluntary acceptance, either by mutual agreement of states in a specific dispute, reference through a treaty which provides for ICJ jurisdiction on disputes under that treaty, or through declarations by States “recognizing as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other State accepting the same obligation, the jurisdiction of the Court” (Art. 36, para. 2, of the Statute). Currently 74 countries are bound by such declarations.

This roundtable will explore the ICJ’s roles in articulating international law and assisting the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as well as the importance of further acceptance of ICJ compulsory jurisdiction.

For further information contact +420 773 638 867

SPEAKERS

Neshan Gunasekera (Sri Lanka/Sweden)

International Lawyer. Visiting Fellow, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Co-convenor, ImPACT Coalition on Just Institutions and the International Court of Justice. Former Director, Weeramantry International Centre founded by C.G. Weeramantry, ICJ Judge 1990-2002

Rebecca Shoot (USA)

Lawyer. Executive Director, Citizens for Global Solutions. Chair, Washington Working Group for the International Criminal Court. Co-convenor, ImPACT Coalition on Just Institutions and the International Court of Justice.

Phon van den Biesen (Netherlands)

Lawyer at Van Den Biesen. Agent or Counsel in ICJ cases for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Marshall Islands and Djibouti. Vice-President, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.

Alyn Ware (New Zealand/Czech Republic)

International Representative, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace. Program Director, World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy. Co-convenor, ImPACT Coalition on Just Institutions and the International Court of Justice

Roberto Zamora (Costa Rica)

Lawyer. Board Member of International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. Successful litigant in Supreme Court cases on the constitutional ban on militarism and war.

“Increasing the number of States that accept the Court’s jurisdiction will enable the Court to better reach its full potential in contributing to the peaceful settlement of disputes, to the maintenance of international peace and security as well as to the development of friendly relations among nations on the basis of the rule of law.”

Handbook on accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice published by Switzerland, the Netherlands, Uruguay, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Japan and Botswana.

This event is organized as part of the **Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War)** initiative established by the cosponsoring organizations (below) and supported by the *Global Challenges Foundation*



Law not War



Citizens for
Global Solutions



Global
Challenges
Foundation



INSTITUTE
for GLOBAL
POLICY



World
Future
Council