



## ICJ Timeline of Oral Arguments

Saturday, March 23rd, 2023	
10:45am	Justices decide docket using rule 8.4, setting the order of agenda items*
11:00am	Case I: Plaintiff Opening Argument (uninterrupted)
11:05am	Case I: Plaintiff Opening Argument (with question & answer)
11:15am	Case I: Defendant Opening Argument (uninterrupted)
11:20am	Case I: Defendant Opening Argument (with question & answer)
11:30am	Case I: Plaintiff Rebuttal (uninterrupted)
11:35am	Case I: Defendant Rebuttal (uninterrupted)
11:40am	Case I: Plaintiff, Closing Q&A
11:45am	Case I: Defendant, Closing Q&A
11:50am	Case I: Advocates rest, justices begin deliberations & opinion writing
4:00pm	Case I: Opinions due
4:30pm	Case I: Verdict
Sunday, March 24th, 2024	
8:45am	Case II: Plaintiff Opening Argument (uninterrupted)
8:50am	Case II: Plaintiff Opening Argument (with question & answer)
9:00am	Case II: Defendant Opening Argument (uninterrupted)
9:05am	Case II: Defendant Opening Argument (with question & answer)
9:15am	Case II: Plaintiff Rebuttal (uninterrupted)
9:20am	Case II: Defendant Rebuttal (uninterrupted)
9:25am	Case II: Plaintiff, Closing Q&A
9:30am	Case II: Defendant, Closing Q&A
9:35am	Case II: Advocates rest, justices begin deliberations & opinion writing

3:45pm	Case II: Opinions due
4:15pm	Case II: Verdict

\*The docket cannot be rearranged once set at the beginning of day one. The court may choose to move up any given opinion reading if they wish to hear a third case over the course of the conference.

## Roles

***The Chair:*** The ICJ Chair is an AZMUN staff member whose role is to ensure the committee adheres to the above schedule and to moderate deliberations. During deliberations, the chair hears certain points and all motions but does not select speakers or points of inquiry.

***The Advocates:*** The advocates are AZMUN staff members who serve as “attorneys” for each side of the cases. They lay out their arguments and rebuttals, and answer questions from justices during the established time.

***The Justices:*** Delegates in ICJ serve as justices. The justices hear oral arguments, ask questions of the advocates, deliberate amongst each other, and write opinions of the court. During the Q&A portions of opening arguments, justices need not be recognized and may just speak directly to the advocates.

***President:*** It is the role of the President of the ICJ (a delegate) to recognize speakers and points of inquiry during deliberations, but *not* during opening arguments. The president is also responsible for monitoring which justices are working on which opinion(s), and call roll for attendance and voting purposes.

***Vice President:*** The vice president (also a delegate) should be prepared to fill the role of the president in the event that the president is unavailable.

## Opening Arguments

Prior to every session, the President will take attendance via roll call. Formal rules of debate are suspended during opening arguments. Advocates present their case, along with any exhibits, to the justices. During Q&A portions of debate, justices can ask questions to the advocates without being recognized. That being said, justices should ensure that all justices have a fair chance to ask questions. The chair will ensure that the court stays on schedule during opening arguments.

## Deliberations

During deliberations, the ICJ resumes typical rules of formal debate for AZMUN. Justices making points of order or information, or any motions, will be recognized by the Chair. Speakers and points of inquiry will be recognized by the President. There are two motions that are specific to the ICJ:

**13.8 Roundtable Discussion:** This motion requires each justice in the chamber to express their view on a predetermined topic for a set amount of time. This motion requires a second, is debatable, and requires a simple majority to pass. Justices will then express their views one by one.

**13.9 Invite Parties to Dispute:** This motion is used to recall a specific advocate for the case at hand, and ask further questions. This questioning is informal, and justices may choose to speak without being recognized. This motion requires a second, is debatable, and requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  supermajority to pass. The requested advocate, which must be specified by the justice making the motion, will then return to the stand to answer questions.

## Verdict & Opinions

The verdict in an ICJ case is made up of one or more opinions of the court. The ICJ *must* reach a verdict before moving to the next case. A verdict must include a majority opinion, and must include a dissenting opinion only if the case is not decided unanimously. A verdict can have as many concurring opinions as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the president of the ICJ to hold informal votes to determine what the majority opinion will be prior to writing the opinions. It is expected that the ICJ will undergo a significant period of deliberation before beginning to write an opinion. In the event of a tie, deliberations must continue until a majority is reached by one side. Each justice must sign one and only one opinion.

**Majority opinion:** This is the opinion held by the majority of the justices on the court, as determined by the president of the ICJ. The opinion must contain the following:

1. The date of judgment
2. The names and signatures of the judges authorizing the verdict
3. Names of the parties and counsels
4. Summary of the trial
5. Stipulation and facts recognized by the Court
6. Legal ground of the verdict
7. Relief granted to the winning party (damages, injunction, etc.)

**Dissenting opinion:** This opinion can be written and added to the verdict by justices who oppose the judgment of the Court. They must discuss the points at which they disagree with the majority opinion, and explain their preferred outcome.

**Concurring opinions:** These opinions can be written and added to the final verdict by justices agreeing with the final verdict but having different legal basis. They must explain how their interpretation of the facts differs from the majority, but still leads to the same outcome.

**Reaching a verdict:** Once the verdict and all included opinions are complete, they are to be submitted to the chair. Once approved by the chair, a justice shall invoke rule 8.5, motion for closure of debate on the topic/case. Following the approval of this motion, the president will conduct a roll call vote on the verdict. This vote is procedural and indicates that the court is satisfied with the verdict and the contained opinions, not necessarily that each justice agrees with

the majority opinion. Once approved, the chair will summon reporters from the International Press Delegation, who will be present when the justices present the verdict. Each opinion shall be presented by not more than one justice.

## **Position Papers**

### **A Historical Note**

AZMUN acknowledges that cases brought before the AZMUN ICJ may have already reached verdicts in front of the actual ICJ. The delegates in the AZMUN ICJ are expected to conduct themselves as if a decision has not been reached on the matter, and are in no way bound to the actual votes of justices on the real ICJ.