

The logo for GLCMUN, with 'GLC' in red and 'MUN' in dark blue.

GLCMUN

DESCRIPTION & OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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DESCRIPTION

Presidents: In the committee, the chair will act as the presiding judge, thus, granting the floor, sustaining/overruling objections, and ultimately, being completely responsible for the due procedure in the committee.

The Litigants: In the second case, the opposing sides will each be composed by 2 attorneys. Such attorneys will have the mission of representing the interests of either side. For example, there will be 2 attorneys for Canada and 2 attorneys for Iran. For the first case there will only be judges.

Judges: Composed of 14 total members, they will represent members of the International Court of Justice. They will have the task of being prepared with knowledge from the case and the law in general, and during the committee, they will have to listen carefully and impartially to the evidence presented by the attorney, hence being the ones to convince. In the first topic, judges will simply debate with one another. When oral arguments and other relevant statements are finished, they are tasked with determining the final ruling of both cases.

The Commission will work under the International Court of Justice procedure. The participants will have to open/close sessions, but suspending sessions will need to be made as a motion to adjourn the court. After the roll call is done, the session is opened and the agenda is established, no further motion will be required to proceed with the points above, instead, the presidents will be responsible for introducing such points when necessary. Both the lawyers and the judges will have the possibility to ask questions. The lawyers will have a designated time to present each element of the case before the court. After the oral arguments conclude, the lawyers will be asked to leave the room until the deliberation is finished and then will be called back for the next case. For topic 1, given that it is an advisory proceeding and not a Contentious case, it will follow the normal parliamentary procedure described in GLCMUN's protocol manual.

PROCEDURE

The committee's procedure follows what is established in the GLCMUN Protocol Manual, but with some particularities, which are presented below.

- **PERSONAL PRONOUNS**

In this committee, the delegates represent different judges and attorneys related to the case to be discussed, and for this reason, students can use personal pronouns and can express themselves in the first person.

- **DEBATE CONTROL DEPENDS ON TOPIC**

Topic 1: Debate is controlled by motions and votes, as explained in the GLCMUN Protocol Manual.

Topic 2: Debate is completely controlled by the Chair, only motions to start and suspend a session can be passed.

• ORDER OF SESSION IN CONTENDIOUS CASES DIFFERS FROM ADVISORY PROCEEDINGS

For Topic 2, which the Chair controls rather than it being guided by motions and votes, the order of session is the following:

1. Oath
2. Opening Statements
3. Presentation of Evidence
4. Closing Statements
5. Judge Deliberation

After every part of the session concludes, a round of questions will open in which delegates can ask questions to any speaker. This applies to all parts except the Oath and the Judge Deliberation.

• OBJECTIONS

Objections are used to object to evidence or statements. There are 8 main objections used in ICJ.

1. Irrelevant. That the testimony pursuant to a question asked or the particular item of evidence is not relevant to the case.
2. Opinion: When a justice challenges a written opinion for containing legal or factual errors, prompting further deliberation.
3. Violation of the best evidence rule: When evidence is only partially shown rather than fully.
4. Violation of the hearsay rule: There is no evidence to corroborate the statement.
5. Speculative: That the question calls for the witness to speculate about something.
6. Leading: When the question posed by the attorney seeks to lead the witness to make an assertion.
7. Prejudicial: When evidence unfairly turns the judge or jury against the opposing party.
8. Repetitive. (also asked and answered). The question has already been asked and answered.

See more objections in the following website: <https://www.womenslaw.org/laws/preparing-court-yourself/hearing/objecting-evidence/what-are-some-common-objections>

For each objection made the chair can answer with:

Overruled: The objection does not pass

Sustained: The objection passes

DOCUMENTS

- **Research Document (Portfolio)**

For Jurors, the research document has to be written with the normal GLCMUN template for non-special committees.

For attorneys, a new template has to be implemented, which is divided into 6 different parts:

- Case Summary – Overview of the case, including key parties, legal questions, and the attorney's stance.
- Legal Framework – Relevant laws, treaties, and precedents that establish the court's jurisdiction and guide the case.
- Arguments & Counterarguments – Main legal arguments supported by reasoning, with responses to potential opposing claims.
- Evidence Overview – Key documents, witness statements, and expert opinions that substantiate the arguments.
- Opening Statement: A brief introduction that outlines the case, key arguments, and desired outcome to set the stage for the legal proceedings.
- Bibliography & References – List of sources cited, ensuring accuracy and credibility.

For delegates who represent a Juror in the first case and an Attorney in the second, the first topic must be written with the normal template and the second one with the Attorney template. The delegate must turn in both documents.

- **Written Deliberation**

The Written Deliberation is the stage where judges or commissioners analyze the arguments, evidence, and legal principles relevant to the case before rendering a decision. During this phase, they draft and exchange written opinions, clarifying their interpretations of international law and the facts presented. This process allows for thorough reflection and ensures that the final judgment is well-reasoned and legally sound.

Written Deliberation is the document that gets sent to the Security Council or the Supreme Court of Justice which explains the final deliberations and solutions suggested by ICJ.

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