



AO Let's Go: Youth Demand Climate Justice Now in the World's Highest Courts

Additional Information

- **What is an advisory opinion?**
 - Advisory opinions are court analyses that interpret questions of law. While often non-binding, it can be influential to help governments know their legal obligations.
 - Right now, there is a global movement (led by young people!) of advancing AOs to strengthen climate law by spotlighting questions on climate justice and human rights in several international and regional human rights courts.
- **What is the International Court of Justice?**
 - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the United Nation (UN)'s highest legal organ who has the role of, firstly, settling disputes between nations or international organizations, and secondly, providing advisory opinions at the request of the UNGA and other UN bodies that are permitted to do so.
 - Following the passing of the [Resolution 77/276](#), seeking clarity from the ICJ on state obligations regarding climate change, in March 2023, the ICJ invited all UN member states and recognised international organizations to make submissions before the Court and provide their interpretation of the legal question as well as legal arguments that reflect the interests of their respective states.
 - That is why young people, in whatever capacity, influence, or position, are encouraged to stand alongside your governments. Work through them and demand to have your interests represented in the state submissions. The ICJ is the people's court. It is your court, and you are entitled to have your voices heard and considered.
- **What is the Inter-American Court of Human Rights?**
 - The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is a regional human rights court that interprets and applies the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights.
 - The Inter-American Court has broad jurisdiction over parties to the American Convention and member states of the Organization of American States, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and the U.S. Further, the Inter-American Court has binding jurisdiction over several countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.
 - In March 2023, the Inter-American Court accepted the request for an advisory opinion from the Presidents of Chile and Colombia. Written comments for the advisory opinion are due 18 October 2023. The Court will hold hearing(s) in 2024, and a decision could come as soon as late 2024. *See* the questions presented [here](#).
- **What is the Escazú Agreement?**
 - The Escazú Agreement, or the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean,

is the first environmental treaty in the region that protects the right of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.

- Escazú protects the rights of access to information about the environment, public participation in environmental decision-making, environmental justice, and a healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations.
- For more information, see [here](#).

