



PRACTICE DIRECTION ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Adopted at the Sixth Plenary Meeting in New York
pursuant to art. 36.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Dispute Tribunal
and amended at the Plenary Meeting in October 2025.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to assist the parties in understanding the Dispute Tribunal's procedures concerning legal representation. See, in particular, art. 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal.
2. The information contained in this Practice Direction is subject to the Dispute Tribunal's Statute and Rules of Procedure, or any direction given by a Judge in a particular case.

Legal representation of applicant and respondent

3. A party may present his or her case to the Tribunal in person, or may designate counsel as per art. 12 of Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal. All acts and submissions undertaken by designated counsel in the course of the case shall be considered as acts and submissions of the designating party.

Communications with the Tribunal

4. The parties shall inform the Tribunal of the name of their counsel and provide his or her contact details. The Applicant shall provide his or her signed authorization for the legal representative using the counsel authorization form prescribed by the Registry.
5. A party may change counsel at any time during the proceedings. The Tribunal shall be notified immediately and provided with the new counsel's contact details and, as relevant, with the Applicant's signed authorization for the new counsel.
6. When a party chooses to be represented by more than one counsel, a lead counsel shall be designated and that lead counsel shall correspond with the Tribunal through the Registry and shall conduct the case and make all written and oral submissions unless the judge decides otherwise on good cause shown.

**Fundamental principles to be observed by all counsel
appearing before the Tribunal**

7. In 2016, the General Assembly adopted a “Code of Conduct for legal representatives and litigants in person” as an Appendix to A/RES/71/266. Counsel are subject to this Code of Conduct and shall act accordingly.
8. Counsel authorized to practice law in a national jurisdiction are subject to the rules of their national bar associations.
9. Counsel who are staff members of the United Nations are subject to the rules and regulations governing the conduct of staff members in their respective organization.