

**Five cases pending before the International Court of Justice raise issues
relating to the law of the sea: summary**

1. *Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (Bolivia v. Chile)*: proceedings instituted by Bolivia on 24 April 2013 with regard to a dispute “relating to Chile’s obligation to negotiate in good faith and effectively with Bolivia in order to reach an agreement granting Bolivia a fully sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean”. By an Order of 18 June 2013, the Court fixed 17 April 2014 and 18 February 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Bolivia and a Counter-Memorial by Chile. The Memorial of Bolivia was filed within the time-limit thus prescribed. Following the filing by Chile, on 15 July 2014, of a preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court, the proceedings on the merits were suspended, and the President of the Court, by an Order of the same day, fixed 14 November 2014 as the time-limit for the filing by Bolivia of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objection raised by Chile. Bolivia’s written statement was filed within the time-limit thus fixed. Having held public hearings from 4 to 8 May 2015, the Court began its deliberation on the said objection.

2. *Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 nautical miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*: proceedings instituted on 16 September 2013 by Nicaragua against Colombia in relation to a “dispute concern[ing] the delimitation of the boundaries between, on the one hand, the continental shelf of Nicaragua beyond the 200-nautical-mile limit from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Nicaragua is measured, and on the other hand, the continental shelf of Colombia”. By an Order of 9 December 2013, the Court fixed 9 December 2014 and 9 December 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Nicaragua and a Counter-Memorial by Colombia. On 14 August 2014, Colombia raised certain preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of the Application; the proceedings on the merits were thus suspended, and the Court fixed 19 January 2015 as the time-limit for the filing by Nicaragua of a written statement of its observations and submissions on those objections. Nicaragua having filed its written statement within the time-limit thus prescribed, the case is now ready for hearing on the preliminary objections; the Court will hold hearings on those objections in due course.

3. *Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*: proceedings instituted on 26 November 2013 by Nicaragua against Colombia in relation to a “dispute concern[ing] the violations of Nicaragua’s sovereign rights and maritime zones declared by the Court’s Judgment of 19 November 2012 [in the case concerning the *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*] and the threat of the use of force by Colombia in order to implement these violations”. By an Order of 3 February 2014, the Court fixed 3 October 2014 and 3 June 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Nicaragua and a Counter-Memorial by Colombia. The Memorial of Nicaragua was filed within the time-limit thus prescribed. On 19 December 2014, Colombia raised certain preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court; the proceedings on the merits were thus suspended, and the President of the Court, by an Order of the same day, fixed 20 April 2015 as the time-limit for the filing by Nicaragua of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by Colombia. Nicaragua having filed its written statement within the time-limit thus prescribed, the case is now ready for hearing on the preliminary objections; the Court will hold hearings on those objections in due course.

4. *Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)*: proceedings instituted on 25 February 2014 by Costa Rica against Nicaragua with regard to a “[d]ispute concerning maritime delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean”. By an Order dated 1 April 2014, the Court fixed 3 February 2015 and 8 December 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Costa Rica and a Counter-Memorial by Nicaragua. The Memorial of Costa Rica was filed within the time-limit thus prescribed.

5. *Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)*: proceedings instituted on 28 August 2014 by Somalia against Kenya with regard to “a dispute concerning maritime delimitation in the Indian Ocean”. By an Order of 16 October 2014, the President of the Court fixed 13 July 2015 and 27 May 2016 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Somalia and a Counter-Memorial by Kenya.
