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CITING INTERNATIONAL LAW SOURCES SECTION

Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities

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Faculty of Law,
University of Oxford
PART IV CITING INTERNATIONAL LAW SOURCES

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PART IV CITING INTERNATIONAL LAW SOURCES

A TREATIES ETC

The American Society of International Law provides a useful guide to sources of international law (www.eisil.org), and includes information about how to cite a great variety of sources of international law (under the ‘More information’ links for Primary Documents). The General Principles in Part III B, ‘Other Sources’, provide guidelines for citing sources not dealt with in this section.

1 International treaties

If parties can accede to the treaty (which will be the case for most multilateral treaties), cite the full date upon which the treaty was opened for signature. Otherwise, cite the date that it was signed or adopted. If available, then give the date it entered into force. If there is both a date of adoption and a date on which the treaty opened for signature, cite the dates in that order. It is not necessary to list the parties to a multilateral treaty, but parties to a bilateral treaty should be included in parentheses immediately after the title, with the names of the parties separated by an en-dash.

Where applicable, cite the treaty series in the following order of preference:

- primary international treaty series, eg UNTS (United Nations Treaty Series), CTS (Consolidated Treaty Series) or LNTS (League of Nations Treaty Series);

- official treaty series of one of the States parties, eg UKTS (UK Treaty Series), (ATS) (Australian Treaty Series); and

- other international treaty series (eg British and Foreign State Papers).

If appropriate, an informal/shortened title may be given in parentheses before the pinpoint reference, and used in subsequent references. Include these abbreviations in your list of abbreviations. Standard abbreviations can be found in the Appendix.

Reference to articles of the treaty should give only the article number, not the title of the article (if there is a title). Use either ‘article’ or the abbreviation ‘art’ in the text, and the abbreviation in the footnotes.

Treaties should be cited from the Final Act (if that appears before the text of the treaty itself). An example is the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees: the Final Act appears at 189 UNTS 137, while the text of the treaty itself begins at 189 UNTS 150. The correct citation for the treaty is 189 UNTS 137. (It is not necessary to include the words ‘Final Act’ in the citation of the treaty title.)

For post-1960 treaties not yet published in an official series, the usual source is International Legal Materials (ILM). Prior to January 2000, the ILM volumes were given in roman numerals. However, the ILM itself uses arabic numerals in its own citations of ILM volumes; therefore, always cite in arabic numerals. Cite from the start of the text, not from any introductory commentary or note.
(a) United Nations Treaties Series

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (adopted 16 December 1966, entered into force 23 March 1976) 999 UNTS 171 (ICCPR)

Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (adopted 28 July 1951, entered into force 22 April 1954) 189 UNTS 137 (Refugee Convention) art 33

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted 10 December 1948 UNGA Res 217 A(III) (UDHR) art 5


(b) League of Nations Treaties Series and Consolidated Treaty Series

Note: sometimes the date the treaty entered into force will not be available, so just show the date the treaty was signed or adopted.

Slavery Convention (adopted 25 September 1926, entered into force 9 March 1927) 60 LNTS 253

Provisional Arrangement Concerning the Status of Refugees Coming from Germany (signed 4 July 1936) 3952 LNTS 77

The Consolidated Treaty Series (pre-LNTS treaties) are cited in a similar way. Cite the treaty title as it appears in the CTS, with OSCOLA punctuation:

Convention between Great Britain, Japan, Russia and the United States Requesting Measures for the Preservation and Protection of Fur Seals in the North Pacific Ocean (signed 7 December 1911) (1911) 214 CTS 80

(c) Bilateral treaties

Give the names of parties to a bilateral treaty in parentheses immediately after the title, if required for clarity.


(d) GATT/WTO agreements

The GATT/WTO treaties are called ‘agreements’. They are negotiated and adopted in sessions called ‘rounds’. The decision-making bodies of the WTO also adopt related official documents, such as interpretive notes, decisions, declarations, understandings and amendments. The agreements and related official documents are often referred to collectively as the ‘legal instruments’ or ‘legal texts’. Only documents relating to the period from 1 January 1995 onwards are WTO documents. Documents relating to the period before this date are GATT documents.

Although a number of GATT documents are available on the WTO Online Database, the preferred source is the BISD 68 (Basic Instruments and Selected Documents). You may find the BISD citation in Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The source of official documents since 1995 is the WTO Online Database (http://docsonline.wto.org). For post-1995 documents, cite to the WTO Online Database.

The following example of a GATT declaration gives the date of adoption; 26S to indicate the 26th Supplement; and 205 to indicate the first page.

Declaration on Trade Measures Taken for Balance-of-Payments Purposes
(28 November 1979) BISD 26S/205, 208

The following example of a citation based on the WTO Online Database gives the date of signing. The agreements signed at this time came into force on 1 January 1995.

Agreement on Agriculture (15 April 1994) LT/UR/A-1A/2 art 2
<http://docsonline.wto.org>

2 Regional treaties

(a) European treaties

Include both the formal and informal/shortened names of the treaty (if the latter exist) in the first reference to a treaty. Give the informal/shortened title in parentheses before the pinpoint reference. The abbreviated titles given in the examples below are intended as a guide only. Authors may choose to create their own abbreviated titles for European treaties.

Cite protocols to treaties by their names, preceded by the name of the treaties to which they are appended. Dates are generally not given when citing European treaties, as they may have been amended several times. Include the year if it appears in the standard title of the treaty or if it improves clarity.

EC Treaty (Treaty of Rome, as amended) art 3b
Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) art G5
Act of Accession 1985 (Spain and Portugal) Protocol 34
EC Treaty Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice
Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights, as amended) (ECHR) art 3

(b) Other regional treaties

Follow the same pattern as for United Nations treaties, as far as possible. Some regions or countries may have their own specific treaty series, e.g., the Organization of American States Treaty Series (OAS Treaty Series). However, if cited in the UNTS, LNTS or ILM, use that source.


B INTERNATIONAL CASES AND DECISIONS

1 International Court of Justice publications


The Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) (1922–45) preceded the ICJ. The decisions and opinions of the PCIJ are published in the official reports of the court. Yearbooks, judgments, opinions and related documents (Series A–F) from the PCIJ are available at http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idecisions/icpj.

International Court of Justice decisions are compiled in the series Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders. Contentious cases and advisory opinions are also available on the ICJ website at http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idecisions.htm. Documentation related to cases (such as written pleadings and oral arguments) are published after the decision in the series Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents (in the language of submission—English or French). Basic documents of the court, press releases, recent judgments, documents from cases in progress, and other important documents are available on the ICJ website (http://www.icj-cij.org).

Cite the ICJ Report if available; otherwise cite to the website. Give dates of access for website reports. Cite case names as they appear in the ICJ Reports. In some instances, the
word ‘case’ will appear in the title; in other instances it will not. Examples of ICJ and PCIJ cases and pleadings follow.

Corfu Channel Case (UK v Albania) (Merits) [1949] ICJ Rep 4

Land, Island and Maritime Frontier Case (El Salvador/Honduras, Nicaragua intervening) (Application for Intervention) [1990] ICJ Rep 92


Aerial Incident of July 27 1955 Case (Israel v Bulgaria) ICJ Pleadings 530

Case Concerning the Factory at Chorzów (Germany v Poland) (Merits) PCIJ Rep Series A No 17

Case of the Free Zones of Upper Savoy and the District of Gex (Switzerland v France) PCIJ Rep Series A/B No 46

Case Concerning the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (Germany v USA) (Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures: Order) General List No 104 [1999] ICJ 1


2 Other sources of international decisions

The International Law Reports (ILR) is a source of international court and tribunal, arbitration and municipal decisions. It has been published continually since 1919, but under different titles:

- volumes 1–6 (1919–32) were published as Annual Digest of Public International Law Cases;
- volumes 7–16 (1933–49) were published as the Annual Digest and Reports of Public International Law Cases;
- from volume 17 (1950–) it has been published as the ILR.

Other general sources of reports on international cases include International Legal Materials (ILM, 1962–), International and Comparative Law Quarterly (ICLQ, 1952–), Reports of International Arbitral Awards (RIAA, or Recueil des Sentences Arbitrales) and various other reports and case books. Some examples of citations from these sources follow.

Lawler Incident (1860) 1 McNair Intl L Opinions 78

Tinoco Arbitration (GB v Costa Rica) (1923) 1 RIAA 369
Delimitation of the Continental Shelf (UK v France) (1979) 54 ILR 6

Rainbow Warrior (New Zealand v France) (Arbitration Tribunal) (1990) 82 ILR 499

Steiner and Gross v Polish State (1927–28) 4 Annual Digest Public Intl L 291

Dolan (1955) 4 ICLQ 629

International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes Marvin Feldman v Mexico (2003) 42 ILM 625

Inter-American Court of Human Rights Barrios Altos Case Chumbipuma Aguirre et al v Peru (2002) 41 ILM 91

(a) International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

Decisions of these tribunals are published in several different reports series. The Judicial Reports/Recueils judiciaires of the ICTY and the Reports of Orders, Decisions and Judgments of the ICTR comprise all public indictments, decisions and judgments issued in a given year (in English and French). Cite ICTY and ICTR decisions as follows: Case name (Decision type) ICTY-year#-case# (date). Alternatively, it is acceptable to cite from International Legal Materials or International Human Rights Reports.

Tadic Case (Judgment) ICTY-94-1 (26 January 2000)

Prosecutor v Tadic (Jurisdiction) (1996) 3 Intl Human Rights Rep 578

Prosecutor v Akayesu (Judgment) ICTR-96-4-T, T Ch I (2 September 1998)


(b) Nuremberg Tribunal

Judgments of the Tribunal are published in the American Journal of International Law.

Judgment of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal 1946 (1947) 41 AJIL 172

(c) International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

The Judgments and Orders delivered in cases submitted to the Tribunal are reproduced in the series Reports of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders, and are also available on the ITLOS website (http://www.itlos.org) under Proceedings and Judgments. Other ITLOS sources, such as resolutions or agreements can be found on the same site under Documents/Publications.

/M/V ‘Saiga’ (No 2) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v Guinea) (Provisional Measures, Order of 11 March 1998) ITLOS Reports 1998, 24

(d) World Trade Organization (WTO/GATT) decisions

There are two ways of citing WTO decisions. The first is to the WTO Online Database (http://docsonline.wto.org). Cite the title, date of decision, and WTO catalogue number and pinpoint to paragraphs. Cite the website of the WTO Online Database in the first relevant footnote in each article/chapter.

Alternatively, cite to the Dispute Settlement Reports (DSR). This series comprises panel and appellate body reports published by the WTO in conjunction with Cambridge University Press. The delay in publication of the DSR means that most scholars will cite the online documents. The DSRs are cited in the same manner as law reports. Here pinpoint references are to pages, although many readers without access to the DSRs may find an additional paragraph reference helpful.

For GATT decisions, cite the BISD (Basic Instruments and Selected Documents) where available. In the example given below, 3S means 3rd Supplement and 81 is the page reference. The BISD can be found in Butterworth’s Lexis and Westlaw.

Swedish Anti-Dumping Duties (1955) GATT BISD 3S/81, 82


WTO, Brazil: Export Financing Programme for Aircraft—Recourse to Arbitration by Brazil under Article 22.6 of the DSU and Article 4.11 of the SCM Agreement—Decision by the Arbitrators (28 August 2000) WT/DS46/ARB

United States—Anti-Dumping Duty on Dynamic Random Access Memory Semiconductors (DRAMS) of One Megabit or Above from Korea (WT/DS99) [1999] 2 DSR 519, 521

(e) International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendations

The ILO issues various documents relating to international labour law, including recommendations, conference reports, governing body documents, reports and conclusions of the Committee on Freedom of Association, and comments by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, among others.


Canada (Case No 2145) (3 July 2001) Report of the Committee on Freedom of Association No 327 (Vol LXXXV 2002 Series B No 1)

(f) Permanent Court of Arbitration

The main awards and adjudications of the PCA are published in Scott (ed) *Hague Court Reports* (1916, 1932). Other awards are published in Moore *History and Digest of the International Arbitrations to which the United States has been a Party* (1898) 6 vols. Each has its own method of citation.

*North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Case (GB v USA)* (1910) Scott Hague Court Rep 141

*Alabama Claims Arbitration* (1872) 1 Moore Intl Arbitrations 495

(g) Iran–United States of America Claims Tribunal

*Starrett Housing Corporation v Iran* (1983) 4 Iran-USCTR 122

(h) Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Judicial publications of the IACHR can be found in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Series A–E. Judgments and decisions are in Series C. Documents can be sourced from the IACHR website (http://www.corteidh.or.cr) or the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library website (http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr).


*Blake Case (Interpretation of Reparations Judgment (Article 67 American Convention on Human Rights) Inter-American Court of Human Rights Series C No 57* (1 October 1999)

C NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

1 United Nations documents

When citing documents from the major bodies of the United Nations, include the unique document reference numbers that identify both the body from which the document issues and the nature of the document. It is not necessary to cite the Security Council Official Records (UNSCOR) and General Assembly Official Records (GAOR). After the first mention, abbreviate ‘United Nations’ to ‘UN’; ‘UN Security Council’ to ‘UNSC’; ‘UN General Assembly’ to ‘UNGA’; and ‘Resolution’ to ‘Res’. Cite the full names of lesser known, or more specialized, UN organs or bodies, rather than their abbreviations. Do not cite resolution titles, unless it is particularly useful to do so. Further guidelines for finding and citing UN documents are available in the UN Documents Resource Guide (www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide) and in Stanford University’s Johnsson Library *Guide to Government Publications Series* (www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/jonsson/int/un.html).
Generally speaking, cite UN documents in the following order: author, ‘title’ date document number. Italicize the title of a UN document only if it has been published as a book (ie, it has an ISBN), in which case the UN Doc number is not necessary. Cite full titles in the first citation, and shortened titles thereafter. Examples follow:

UNGA Res 2621 (1970) GAOR 25th Session Supp 16, 10
UNSC Res 770 (1992) SCOR Resolutions and Decisions 24
UNSC Res 1373 (28 September 2001) UN Doc S/RES/1373

(a) UN Security Council (UNSC)

UNSC Res 1373 (28 September 2001) UN Doc S/RES/1373
UNSC Verbatim Record (28 September 2001) UN Doc S/PV/4385
UNSC ‘Security Council, Briefed by Chairman of Counter-Terrorism Committee, Stresses Need for All States to Report on Anti-Terrorism Efforts’ (15 April 2002) Press Release SC/7361

(b) UN General Assembly (UNGA)

UNGA Res 3314 (XXIX) (14 December 1974)
UNGA Res 51/210 (17 December 1996) UN Doc A/RES/51/210
Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UNGA Res 1514 (XV) (14 Dec 1960) (adopted by 89 votes to none; 9 abstentions)

(c) UN Sixth Committee

Guidelines for citing documents from the Sixth Committee can be found in the UN Documents Research Guide (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specil.htm).

(d) UN Secretary-General

Documents of the Secretary-General are usually cited by reference to the UN body or organ to which the Secretary-General's documents are addressed.

UNGA ‘Report of the Secretary-General 65/190’ (2001) UN Doc A/56/190


(e) UN Commission on Human Rights


(f) UN Special Rapporteurs or Representatives


(g) UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies

UNCHR ‘General Comment 18’ in ‘Note by the Secretariat, Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies’ (1994) UN Doc HRI/GEN/1/Rev.1

UNCHR ‘Comment on Egypt’s Second Periodic Report on Implementation of the ICCPR’ (9 December 1993) UN Doc CCPR/C/79/Add.23

UN Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ‘General Recommendation No 19’ in ‘Note by the Secretariat, Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations Adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies’ (29 July 1994) UN Doc HRI/GEN/1/Rev.1
Barbato v Uruguay (1982) 2 Selected Decisions of the Human Rights Committee 112

(h) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR EXCOM Conclusion No 64 (XLI) ‘Refugee Women and International Protection’ (1990)

UNHCR ‘Report of the 45th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme (Geneva 3–7 October 1994)’ (11 October 1994) UN Doc A/AC.96/839

UNHCR ‘Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women’ (Geneva 1991)

UNHCR ‘UNHCR’s Operational Experience with Internally Displaced Persons’ (Division of International Protection Geneva 1994)

(i) Diplomatic Conferences


(j) United Nations Year Book (UNYB)

UNGA ‘Questions Relating to International Terrorism’ (1972) UNYB 649

UNGA ‘Report of the Ad Hoc Committee’ (1979) UNYB 1146

(k) International Law Commission (ILC)

Information about the International Law Commission may be found at <http://www.un.org/law/ile/index.htm>. Online research relating to the work of the Commission may be conducted in UNBISnet. Guidelines for citing documents from the Sixth Committee can be found in the UN Documents Research Guide (http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specil.htm).


(1) League of Nations Official Journal (LNOJ)

Aaland Islands Case (1920) League of Nations Official Journal Spec Supp 3, 3
(m) Other UN agencies

World Food Programme, ‘Report to the Economic and Social Council’ (23 September 1996) WFP/EB.3/96/3

UN Development Programme (Emergency Response Division), ‘Building Bridges between Relief and Development’ (1996)

Executive Board of the UN Development Programme and the UN Population Fund, ‘Report of the Administrator’ (15 March 1996) DF/1996/18/Add.2


2 Regional bodies’ documents


Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) ‘The OSCE in Post-Dayton Bosnia’ (17 January 1994) 17 CSCE Digest 2


3 International Yearbooks

Cite these in the same way as journals/periodicals. If the Yearbook uses roman numerals for volume numbers, use roman numerals in your citation. Where documents are printed in English and French, cite in the language you used, as shown below.

R Jennings, ‘The Role of the International Court of Justice’ (1997) 68 British Ybk Intl L 10

L.C Green, ‘Canada’s Role in the Development of the Law of Armed Conflict’ (1980) XVIII Canadian Ybk Intl L 91

4 Collected Courses of The Hague Academy of International Law

Cite Recueil des Cours de l'Académie de Droit International in full on the first occasion, and abbreviate subsequently to Recueil des Cours. Cite the volume year (which is not necessarily the same as the publication year). Up until 1995, volumes (tomes) were divided into parts, signified by roman numerals. Omit the roman numeral for the part, and cite the year and volume instead. The final reference is the page number where the article starts.

E McWhinney, ‘Judicial Settlement of Disputes: Jurisdiction and Justiciability’ (1990) 221 Recueil des Cours de l'Académie de Droit International 9

5 International Law Association

Cite in a similar manner to an edited book, with the place and year of the conference in parentheses after the title.


6 International Law Digests

Digests edited by Whiteman or Hackman give the author’s name in the title. Indicate the main topic area in quotation marks, followed by the year (if given) or volume number. The § indicates the section referred to, while a pinpoint reference refers to a page number.

Since 1981, the Digest of US Practice in International Law has become a Cumulative Digest of US Practice in International Law. Roman numeral volume numbers must therefore be inserted immediately after the year.

‘Aviation’ 9 Whiteman Digest Inl L §4, 323

‘Subjects of International Law’ (1979) Digest of US Practice Intl L §2, 110