

**CASE CONCERNING LAND AND MARITIME BOUNDARY
(Republic of Cameroon v Federal Republic of Nigeria)
(Republic of Equatorial Guinea intervening)**

This case¹ is still pending and the Parties are engaged in the written stage of the proceedings.

THE PROCEEDINGS

On 29 March 1994, Cameroon instituted proceedings in Nigeria pursuant to Articles 48 and 62 of the Court's Statute and Articles 81, 83, 84 and 85 of the Rules of Court. In its Application, Cameroon referred to a dispute between the two Parties on the question of sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula. Cameroon also requested the Court "to determine the course of the maritime boundary between the two States beyond the line fixed in 1975".

By an Order on 21 October 1999, the Court had permitted Equatorial Guinea to intervene in the proceedings in the terms of its Application and the decision was unanimous (per Schwebel P; Weeramantry V-P; Oda, Bedjaoui, Guillaume, Ranjeva, Herczegh, Shi, Fleischhauer, Koroma, Vereshchetin, Higgins, Parra-Aranguren, Kooijmans, Rezek JJ; Mbaye, Ajibola JJ *ad hoc*).

Equatorial Guinea had argued that if the Court were to determine a Cameroon-Nigeria maritime boundary that extended into Equatorial Guinea waters as defined by the median line, Equatorial Guinea's rights and interests would be prejudiced. Equatorial Guinea therefore required the opportunity to present and demonstrate its legal rights and interests to the Court and, as appropriate, to state its views as to how the maritime boundary claims of Cameroon or Nigeria would or would not affect the legal rights and interests of Equatorial Guinea.

Thus, the Court fixed time-limits for the filing of the written statement and the written observations referred to in Article 85(1) of the Rules of Court. 4 April 2001 is the time-limit for Equatorial Guinea's written statement, and 4 July 2001 for the written observations of Cameroon

¹ For background information on this case, refer [1999] *Australian International Law Journal* 314-324.

and Nigeria. The Court had also decided *inter alia* that Cameroon should submit a Reply and Nigeria should submit a Rejoinder, and fixed 4 April 2000 and 4 January 2001 respectively as the time-limits for the filing of those pleadings.