

## 10 Introduction

---

Part III of the Manual deals with the international dispute settlement bodies handling the types of dispute discussed in Part II, namely territorial disputes, maritime delimitation disputes and investor-State disputes.

The inter-State courts and tribunals dealing with these areas of dispute differ in two major ways from the international commercial dispute resolution bodies that will be considered in Part IV. First, they tend to have been created by international conventions or agreements; and second, they are likely to apply international law, rather than national law, in dealing with these types of dispute.

The international dispute settlement organisations considered in this part of the Manual are:

- 1 the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
- 2 the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA);
- 3 the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS);
- 4 the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

The ICJ is described in Article 92 of the United Nations Charter as the “*principal judicial organ*” of the United Nations. It was created after the Second World War and superseded the Permanent Court of International Justice, created in 1920 under the Covenant of the League of Nations. The ICJ sits at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

The PCA was established as a consequence of the Hague Peace Conventions of 1899 and 1907. Like the ICJ, the PCA is located in the Peace Palace in The Hague.

ITLOS was created by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III). It is based in Hamburg.

The International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) created the ICSID Centre, located in Washington, DC.

All four supranational courts and tribunals are of major importance in the area of international disputes, where one or more of the parties is likely to be a State.