

All cases are decided by a majority of the judges present at the hearing, but dissenting judges are entitled to deliver a separate opinion. The decision of the Court is only binding between the parties and in the particular case, and is final and without appeal. In case of dispute the Court will interpret its own judgment. Provision is made for rehearing only upon discovery of some fact of a nature to be a decisive factor and unknown to the party at the time judgment was delivered, the rehearing to be granted only if made within six months of discovery of the new fact and within ten years from the date of decision. Any State which considers it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision in any case before the Court may apply for permission to intervene, and the Court may grant such permission. If other States are interested in the construction of a Convention, they are to be notified so they may be represented in the hearing. Unless otherwise decided each party is to bear its own costs.

I have endeavoured to state in the most simple and direct form the provisions of the Statute constituting the Court. Time will not permit of either an explanation or exposition of these provisions.

May I say in conclusion that the constitution of this Court is the realization of one of the great hopes of our humanity, but its real utility and power for good will depend upon the intelligent and wholehearted co-operation of the Governments and peoples of the nations, members of the League.

To no constituency will it make a stronger appeal than to the members of the Bar in every land, and this appeal should be particularly strong to members of the Bar in all portions of the British Empire, for there is no feature of our political institutions which has contributed more to the preservation of our liberties and to the strength and stability of these institutions than the "supremacy of law." To this "rule of law" our people yield ready obedience because they recognize that it is only thereby that liberty is guaranteed that the weak are protected as well as the strong, and because they are convinced that through our Courts the law is honestly and impartially administered.

The establishment of a Permanent Court of International