

Advocates' Legion, Moot Court Committee,
Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies

Presents

9th INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2023

BROCHURE

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



MESSAGES FROM OUR PATRONS



“We here at the Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies – Technical Campus (VIPS - TC), Delhi, strive to create such pioneers of the legal profession who understand these developments as well as answer the various legal dilemmas arising out of such developments, thereby meeting the demands of our great nation. I take this opportunity to invite your esteemed University/Institute/College to be part of our 9th VIPS International Law Court Competition, 2023, and take away the same values and skills that transform lawyers into agents of social change.”

Dr. S.C. Vats

Chairman, VIPS – TC, Delhi



“At VIPS–TC, we believe that participating in international law moot court competitions can enhance students' analytical, research, writing, and oral advocacy skills, as well as their confidence and teamwork abilities. It is a great pleasure for me to invite participants to the 9th VIPS International Law Moot Court Competition, 2023. We hope the competition will be highly beneficial and a great learning experience and welcome you wholeheartedly.”

Shri Suneet Vats

Vice Chairman, VIPS - TC



“Mooting is an exercise that is unique and intrinsic to law schools. The Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies has always strived to be a pioneer in the field. The VIPS International Moot Court Competition is our way of giving it back to the legal profession. I know that all participants will benefit from this flagship event of our institution. We welcome you all!”

Prof. (Dr.) T.V. Subba Rao

Chairperson, VSLLS, VIPS - TC



“International law serves as a vital tool for promoting cooperation, maintaining peace, protecting human rights, addressing global challenges, and creating a more just and stable world in the contemporary era. Following the principles of Swami Vivekananda, the Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies (VSLLS), VIPS-TC, is committed to "Man making, Character building, and Nation building."

Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi Salpekar

Dean, VSLLS, VIPS - TC

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dear Participants,

We are thrilled to welcome each one of you to this year's Moot Court Competition! As the organizers of this prestigious event, we want to extend our warmest greetings and appreciation for your enthusiasm to participate.

The moot court competition is not just a mere simulation; it is a platform where you will have the opportunity to showcase your legal acumen, research skills, and advocacy prowess. It is a chance to embrace the challenges of the legal world and hone your abilities to navigate complex legal issues.

Throughout this competition, we encourage you to embrace the spirit of professionalism, respect for your fellow competitors, and sportsmanship. Remember, the real victory lies not just in winning but in the knowledge and experience gained throughout the journey.

Our esteemed panel of judges, faculty members, and committee members have made tremendous efforts to create a fair and challenging competition. Seize this moment to learn from their feedback and use it to grow and evolve as aspiring legal professionals.

In the pursuit of excellence, let us also remember the importance of camaraderie and cooperation. Forge new friendships and cherish the memories you create during this event.

Lastly, we want to emphasize that this competition is a stepping stone towards a brighter future in the legal arena. Embrace every opportunity to learn and grow, and let the experience of this moot court competition stay with you throughout your legal career.

Wishing you all the best of luck and success. May you find inspiration and empowerment through this competition. Let the arguments begin!

Advocate's Legion, Moot Court Society

VSLLS, VIPS - TC

— ADVOCATES LEGION —

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Faculty Members

Dr Gunjan Malhotra Ahuja, Convenor,
Advocates' Legion

Mr. Aaditya Vikram Sharma, Event
Convenor, VIPS IMC 2023 and Co-
Convenor, Advocates' Legion

Dr. Sonali Sharma, Co-Convenor,
Advocates' Legion

Dr Avinash Kumar, Member

Ms. Ayesha Gupta, Member

Ms. Samriti, Member

Ms. Soumya Khanna, Member

Students

Ms. Arshia Jain, Student Co-
Convenor

Mr. Hardik Giri, Student Co-
Convenor

Ms. Kashish Gulati, Student Co-
Convenor

— ADVOCATES LEGION —

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

<u>DATES</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
17 August, 2023	Release of Moot Problem and Commencement of Online Registration
20 August, 2023	Release of Moot Problem
10 September, 2023	Last date of Registration of Teams and Team Details (Soft copy submission of Registration Form along with Demand Draft/Cheque, if any)
12 September, 2023	Last Date for seeking Clarifications
14 September, 2023	Release of Clarifications
15 September, 2023	Last date for Allotment of codes for participating teams
25 September, 2023	Last date of Submission of Soft Copy of Written Submissions
27 th September, 2023	Inaugural, Draw of Lots and Exchange of Written Submissions [HYBRID]
29 th -30 th , September	Preliminary Rounds and Announcement of Results [ONLINE]
20 th October, 2023	Last Date for Mailing Travel Forms and Printed copies of Memorials
3 rd November, 2023	Draw of Lots and Exchange of Written Submissions [ONLINE]
4 th November, 2023	Quarter Final Rounds
5 th November, 2023	Semi-Finals and Final Round, Valedictory and Prize Distribution [ON SITE]

VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

INVITATION LETTER

To,

The Vice-Chancellor/ Dean/Registrar/ Head of the Department

Subject- Invitation for the VIPS 9th International Moot Court Competition, 2023

The Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies – Technical Campus, Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies (VSLLS), proudly announces its paramount annual event, the 9th VIPS International Law Moot Court Competition (hereinafter referred to as 9th VIPS IMC 2023), will take place in a hybrid manner in September and October 2023. The preliminary rounds shall be held online on 29th-30th September 2023, whereas the Quarters, Semi-finals, and Finals shall be held in our campus in New Delhi on 4th-5th November 2023. The moot court problem is based on contemporary issues touching Public International Law and its various branches.

Advocates' Legion, the Moot Court Society of Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies, has been organizing various events of national and international significance to provide a platform for the students to imbibe the pragmatic aspects of law, and this moot court is one such attempt to create a simulated atmosphere for the law students to familiarize them with the intricacies and expedencies of law.

The previous editions of the VIPS IMC were a great success and experienced massive participation from many national and international teams. The competitions were sanctified by the presence of distinguished personalities from the bench, bar, and academics.

Following the same league, for the 9th VIPS IMC 2023, we take pride in inviting your esteemed University/Institute/College to participate in the competition. We would be glad to receive a positive response about your participation through [Google form link](#) so that together we can give our students a platform to hone their moot skills. A copy of detailed rules and regulations is attached herewith. **The last date of registration is 10th September 2023.**

Please find enclosed a copy of the rules and official schedule. We look forward to your participation.

Thanking You

With Warm regards,

Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi Salpekar,

Dean, VSLLS,

Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

VIPS 9th INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2023
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 “Administrators” means the Advocates’ Legion or any other person(s) appointed to administer the competition by the Advocates’ Legion.
- 1.2 “*Advocates’ Legion*” means Moot Court Committee, Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies, of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS, Delhi).
- 1.3 “Competition Rules” means all the rules contained herein and any other supplementary rules officially notified by the administrators.
- 1.4 “Competition” means the “**VIPS’9th International Moot Court Competition, 2023**”.
- 1.5 “Judge” means any person appointed to evaluate a participant’s oral pleadings.
- 1.6 “Moot Proposition of the Competition” means the official proposition of the competition which includes all clarifications or corrections notified by Advocates’ Legion.
- 1.7 “Organizers” or “Organizing Team” means any personnel (singularly or as a group) of Advocates’ Legion who is involved with the event in any capacity.
- 1.8 “Participants” means student representatives from eligible colleges recognized by the Administrators who compete in the competition.
- 1.9 “Problem Clarifications” means clarifications of the Moot Proposition of the Competition as published by the Administrators on the official website.
- 1.10 “Written submission” means the written pleadings of each participating team, written and submitted in accordance with the rules of **VIPS 9th International Moot Court Competition, 2023**.

— ADVOCATES LEGION —

11. INTERPRETATION

The decision of the Administrators regarding the application and interpretation of Competition rules shall be conclusive and final for the purposes of solving any discrepancies or disputes before, during, or after the Competition.

12. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

12.1 The Competition is open to all bona fide regular students enrolled in any Law Course (LL.B/LL.M) or its (equivalent international) program in any University or Institute within or outside India recognized by the Bar Council or State Government or Central Government as the case may be. Each team shall comprise a minimum of two members i.e., two speakers, and a maximum of three members i.e., two speakers and one researcher. Thus, each team shall be composed of two speakers (Compulsory) and a researcher (if any). **A maximum of one team is allowed to participate in the competition from one institute.**

12.2 The team's composition shall not be changed once registered under any circumstances whatsoever.

12.3 Changes in the aforementioned designations shall not be made without a request by the responsible Faculty-in-Charge or Head of the Institution or Department of the Team seeking such change, as the case may be.

12.4 The discretion to allow or disallow such change shall solely rest with the Administrators depending upon the reasonability of the cause shown, the stage of the Competition, and compliance with the aforementioned rules.

13. REGISTRATION

13.1 Interested teams are required to register by filling out the registration form through this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfH1NUwjUdIb9c5iJKXhCij4t7aplrKIoIvhsOhxliZP3lrw/viewform?usp=sf_link latest by **10 September 2023 by 11:59 p.m.**

(IST)

13.2 The participation fees shall be **Rs. 4500/-** per team.

13.3 The payment shall be through the event portal of VIPS – TC at <https://forms.eduqfix.com/eventfee/add>.

13.4 **In the payment link, the following instructions shall be used-**

13.4.1 In ‘Batch’, type full name of your institute/university.

13.4.2 In ‘Course Name’, type “VIPS IMC 2023”

13.4.3 In ‘Activity’, type “Team Registration.”

13.5 The registered teams are required to attach the screenshot of the online transaction in the Google form itself. **The fee, once paid, is non-refundable.**

13.6 **The receipt of Screenshot of the payment to the aforementioned bank details shall only confirm the participation of a team in the competition.**

13.7 No Objection Certificate from the college/institution/university is a mandatory requirement for all teams to be fulfilled to complete the registration. It has to be submitted by the last date of registration.

13.8 Communication with any one of the Team Members shall be deemed to be communication to the entire team for the purposes of this Competition.

14. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE MOOT PROBLEM

Teams may request clarifications (if any) in the Moot Proposition of the Competition via email with the subject “**Clarifications- VIPS 9th International Moot Court Competition, 2023**” to vipsimc2023@gmail.com by **12 September, 2023, 11:59 p.m. (IST)**. After this, no more clarifications shall be entertained and the clarifications shall be published on the official website soon thereafter.

15. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Each team is required to prepare a Written Submission for both the Petitioner/Appellant (as the

case may be) and Respondent. The Written submission shall consist of the following mandatory contents:

1. Cover Page (**Blue** for Petitioner/Appellant, **Red** for Respondent)
 - i. Name of the Court
 - ii. Petition/Appeal Number (if any)
 - iii. Name of both the Parties
 - iv. Cause Title
 - v. Written Submission for Petitioner/Appellant or Respondent
 - vi. Team Code in **bold** on **top right corner**
2. Table of Contents
3. Index of Authorities
4. Statement of Jurisdiction
5. Statement of Facts
6. Statement of Issues
7. Legal Pleadings
8. Prayer

The Written Submission should not exceed the maximum limit of **25 Pages** (excluding the CoverPage and Table of Contents) and should conform to the following specifications-

- Font type: Times New Roman Font size:12
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Body of text: Justified
- Margin: at least 1 inch from all sides

Teams shall follow a uniform style of citation (preferably the Bluebook Method of Citation- 20th/ 21stedition) throughout their Written Submissions. Footnotes must conform to the following specifications-

- Font type: Times New Roman
- Font size: 10
- Line spacing: 1

- Body of text: Justified

Submission Guidelines:

- All teams shall send the soft copy of the Written Submission for each side in PDF format via electronic mail with the file name “TC No. Petitioner/Respondent” **on or before 25th September 2023 by 11:59 p.m. (IST)** to vipsimc2023@gmail.com. Any submission after the said date shall be treated as a late submission.
- In case of a late submission, the erring team shall pay a penalty of Rs. 500/-.
- Acceptance of any late submission shall be at the sole discretion of *Advocates’ Legion* and in furtherance of the penalty
- In any case, no submission shall be accepted after 27th September 2023.

Evaluation Criteria:

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Marks Allotted (50)</u>
1.	Legal Reasoning and Argumentation	10
2.	Articulation of Facts	10
3.	Use of Authorities and Compliance with Rules and Specifications	15
4.	Presentation	15



16. ORAL ROUNDS

17.1 The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:

- I. The Preliminary Rounds;

- II. The Quarter Finals;
- III. The Semi Finals; and
- IV. The Final

*Please Note: Each team shall argue once from each side in the Preliminary Round.

17.2 General:

17.2.1 Before the beginning of the oral rounds of any team, the Speakers of the team shall inform the moderator regarding the allocation of time between themselves and the time reserved for rebuttal. Once informed, the timings shall not be changed.

17.2.2 If any speaker speaks for more than the time reserved for him/her, the extra time used by such speaker shall be deducted from the time allotted to the second speaker of that team.

17.2.3 In case any team fails to appear in an oral round, the round shall be conducted *ex parte*.

17.3 Preliminary Rounds (Online):

17.3.1 The preliminary round shall be conducted through video-conferencing, via the platform Zoom as the case may be. The meeting Id and password will be informed and shared with the teams through email.

17.3.2 Each team shall argue once from each side on the same day according to the Draw of Lots which shall be notified to the teams shortly after the Opening Ceremony along with Exchange of Memorials.

17.3.3 There shall be two slots for the Preliminary Rounds. Each team shall argue once in each slot from different sides as per the draw of lots.

17.3.4 Each team shall strictly get a total time of **30 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 10 minutes for each speaker and maximum 3 minutes for the Rebuttals and 1 minute of sur-rebuttal is permitted.

17.3.5 At the beginning of the preliminary rounds, the teams shall specify the time distribution for their rebuttals of each speaker to the moderator. The rebuttal round proceeding shall be initiated once the moderator informs the team about the commencement of the time limit.

17.3.6 The commencement of the sur-rebuttal round shall be informed to the teams by the moderator and the procedure will be the same as that of the rebuttal round.

17.3.7 Only after being allowed by the moderator a speaker shall unmute his/her mic.

17.4 Quarter Finals (On Site):

17.4.1 The Quarterfinal round shall be conducted in physical mode (offline) in college premises itself. The details of the same will be shared after the preliminary rounds the teams through email.

17.4.1 Eight teams with two wins shall proceed to the Quarter-Finals.

17.4.2 In case less than 8 teams qualify by way of two wins, the remaining teams shall be chosen on the basis of their cumulative scores in both slots of the Preliminary Round combined.

17.4.3 In case of a tie in scores calculated as per Rules, the team with the higher score in the Written Submission (Memorials) shall proceed to this round.

17.4.4 Each team shall strictly get a total time of **30 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 10 minutes per speaker and 3 minutes for the Rebuttals and 1 minute of sur-rebuttal is permitted.

17.4.5 A time extension for a maximum of 2 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge which shall include sur-rebuttal in the case of Respondent if sought for.

17.4.6 At the beginning of the quarter-final round the teams shall specify the time distribution for each speaker and for rebuttal to the moderator. The rebuttal round proceeding shall be initiated once the moderator informs the team about the commencement of the time limit.

17.4.7 The commencement of the sur-rebuttal round shall be informed to the teams by the moderator and the procedure will be the same as that of the rebuttal round.

17.4.8 Only after being allowed by the moderator a speaker shall unmute his/her mic.

17.5 Semi-Finals (On Site)-:

17.5.1 The Semi-Finals shall be conducted in physical mode (offline) in college premises itself. The details of the same will be shared after the quarter-final

rounds the teams through email.

17.5.2 The winning team of each round shall proceed to the Semi-Finals. In case of a tie, the team with a higher score in Written Submission shall qualify.

17.5.3 Each team shall get a total time of **40 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 15 minutes per speaker including a maximum of 5 minutes for the Rebuttals, if permitted.

17.5.4 Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Rebuttal.

17.5.5 A time extension for a maximum of 2 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge which shall include sur-rebuttal in the case of Respondent if sought for.

17.6 Finals (On site):

17.6.1 The Final round shall be conducted in physical mode (offline) in college premises itself. The details of the same will be shared after the quarter final rounds the teams through email.

17.6.2 The winning team of each round shall proceed to the Finals. In case of a tie, the team with a higher score in Written Submission shall qualify.

17.6.3 Each team shall get a total time of **50 minutes** to argue subject to a minimum of 20 minutes per speaker including maximum of 5 minutes for the Rebuttals, if permitted.

17.6.4 Rebuttals shall only be permitted to the Petitioner/Appellant and in no circumstance whatsoever, shall the Respondent be allowed to spare any separate time for Rebuttal.

17.6.5 A time extension for a maximum of 5 minutes may be granted to each team at the discretion of the Judge which shall include sur-rebuttal in the case of Respondent if sought for.

18 GENERAL RULES

18.1 The dress code for the competition as well as during other related ceremonies shall be professional business attire and strictly black and white.

- 18.2 Any compiled Research Material (Compendium) or other supplementary documents may be sent by mail in one pdf. Along with the memorial submission which will be submitted to the judges at their discretion.
- 18.3 Teams must not reveal their university or country of origin or names of the Participants anywhere in the Written Submission or in the course of the Oral arguments. Each team must be identified only by the unique Team Code once it has been allotted and all communications with the administrators or Judges thereafter shall be done through the Team Code only. Violation of anonymity or scouting at any point shall lead to immediate disqualification.
- 18.4 The Administrators reserve the right to amend, modify, change or repeal any of the Competition Rules at any point of time. The Administrators reserve all rights to audio and videotaping, or any other form of audio or visual reproduction, of any oral round or part thereof. The Administrators shall communicate any changes made in the Competition Rules to the teams.
- 18.5 The Administrator(s) reserve the right to take decisions on any matter not mentioned in the Competition Rules. Any such decision taken by the Administrators shall be final and binding.
- 18.6 No audio or videotaping of oral pleadings is permitted without the permission of the Administrators.
- 18.7 The Administration shall not be responsible for any loss due to slow or non-functional Internet Connection during the Competition. We request all the participants to arrange a sound Internet Connection.
- 18.8 No additional documentation or screen-sharing will be allowed and any information that must be provided to the court should be submitted beforehand along with the Compendium and the Memorial.
- 18.9 If a team believes that a violation of any of the Competition Rules has taken place at any stage of the competition, the teams, within half an hour after the completion of the round wherein a violation has allegedly occurred, shall register a complaint with the Faculty/Student Convener of the *Advocates' Legion* and under no circumstances the teams are allowed to approach the Judges for any complaints.
- 18.10 The host institution shall provide no accommodation for participants.

18.11 Teams shall be responsible for all damages (if any) caused by the team during their stay.



—ADVOCATES LEGION—

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Sr. No	Criteria	Marks Allotted (50)
1.	Legal Reasoning and Argumentation	10
2.	Advocacy Skills and Responsiveness	10
3.	Interpretation and Articulation of Facts	20
4.	Use of Authorities	5
5.	Time Management and Demeanour	5

20 PRIZES

Best Team – Rs. 25,000 award money and Winner’s Trophy

Runners up- Rs. 15,000 award money and Runner’s up Trophy

Best Memorial- Rs. 7,500 award money and Trophy.

Best Speaker- Rs. 7,500 award money and Trophy.

21 MISCELLANEOUS

The teams may contact the following regarding any query related to the event-

Mr. Aaditya Vikram Sharma

Faculty Event Convenor and Co-Convenor, Advocates’ Legion

Contact: aaditya.sharma@vips.edu

Ms. Arshia Jain

Student Co-Convenor

Contact: +91-7042208339

arru01jain@gmail.com

Mr. Hardik Giri

Student Co-Convenor

Contact: +91-9599422383

hardikgiri@gmail.com

Ms. Kashish Gulati

Student Co-Convenor

Contact: +91-9643512190

Kashishgulati.03@gmail.com

For updates, please visit:

[vslls.vips.edu/advocates-legion/https://advocateslegion.wordpress.com](https://advocateslegion.wordpress.com)

— ADVOCATES LEGION —

Advocates' Legion, Moot Court Committee,
Vivekananda School of Law and Legal Studies

Presents

**9th INTERNATIONAL MOOT
COURT COMPETITION
2023**

**MOOT
PROPOSITION**



Case concerning the Dispute at Winterpoint

[United States of Scots (USS) v. Republic of Scrankon (ROS)]

The International Court of Justice,

Having regard to Article 48 of the Statute of the Court and to Articles 31, 44, 45(1), 48, 49, and 80 of the Rules of the Court,

Having regard to the Application filed in the Registry of the Court on 13 October 2023, whereby the Republic of Scrankon (ROS) instituted proceedings against the United States of Scots (USS) with regard to a dispute concerning alleged violations in furtherance of the Ceasefire Agreement between ROS and USS dated September, 2023.

Whereas the Application was communicated to USS on the day it was filed;

Whereas ROS and USS have appointed their respective Agents;

Whereas, on 18 October 2023, USS informed the Registrar and the Agent of ROS of its intention to file counterclaims under Article 80 of the Rules of the Court;

Whereas, on 23 October 2023, the Court entered an Order recommending that ROS and USS draft a Statement of Agreed Facts and that all claims and counterclaims be heard together in a single set of proceedings;

Whereas, during the drafting process, the parties agreed that USS would appear as Applicant and ROS as Respondent, without prejudice to any question of the burden of proof;

Whereas, after negotiations, the Agents of the Parties jointly communicated the attached Statement of Agreed Facts to the Court on 30 October 2023;

Whereas the Agents have agreed that they shall each submit one written Memorial and make oral pleadings solely on the claims and counterclaims presented in this Statement of Agreed Facts;

Whereas the Agents of the Parties have agreed that a “dispute” between the Parties exists with respect to each of the aforementioned claims and counterclaims within the meaning of Article 41 of the Treaty, and that all of the counterclaims are directly connected with the subject matter of at least one of the claims within the meaning of Article 80 of the Rules of the Court;

Taking into account the agreements of the Parties;

Fixes the dates for the filing of the written Memorials and for the oral pleadings as the dates set forth in the Official Schedule of the 9th VIPS International Moot Court Competition 2023;

Determines that during the oral pleadings, USS (as Applicant) will present its oral arguments first, and ROS (as Respondent) will present its oral arguments second; and

Adopts the Official Rules of the 9th VIPS International Moot Court Competition 2023 in as governing the proceedings in this matter.

Done in English, and the English text being authoritative, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the Archives of the Court and the others transmitted to the Governments of USS and ROS.

Signed

President

Signed

Registrar

STATEMENT OF AGREED FACTS

1. The continent of Winterpoint is one of the seven continents on the planet Terra. It is an island continent located in the Northern Hemisphere.
2. People first arrived on Winterpoint's mainland by sea between 50,000 and 65,000 years ago, and penetrated all parts of the continent, from the sub-antarctic mountains in the north, the central desert region, and the forest areas in the east, west and south. The artistic, musical, and spiritual traditions they established are among the longest-surviving such traditions in human history.
3. In 1770, Lieutenant James Cook charted the east coast of Winterpoint and claimed it for Great Britain, a country located in Europe. The First Fleet of British ships arrived in January 1788 to establish a penal colony, the first colony on Winterpoint's mainland. In the century that followed, the British established other colonies on the continent, and European explorers ventured into its interior. The aboriginal people were greatly weakened and their numbers diminished by introduced diseases and conflict with the colonists during this period.
4. Over time, the Aboriginal population ended up in the deserts at the center of the continent, whereas the British colonizers settled in different colonies around them. The aboriginal population established their own 'nation' called Scranconia. The colonies respected the boundary, but Scranconia was never formally recognized.
5. Transportation of British convicts to Winterpoint was phased out from 1840 to 1868. Semi-autonomous parliamentary democracies began to be established throughout the three British colonies from the mid-19th century. They had autonomy on certain internal subjects, but the British still held sovereignty over them. A freedom movement for complete autonomy and sovereignty continued throughout the years; however, the British did not relent.
6. In 1939, a Great War broke out on Terra. As Great Britain's situation was dire, they promised complete independence to the three colonies on Winterfell if they assisted them in the war. The colonies accepted this

offer and partook in the war on the side of the Critish. The war ended in 1945 in Critain's favor, with heavy casualties.

7. The Critish kept their word and gave full independence to the three colonies in 1946. The three colonies became new countries, namely, the Union of Deight (UOD) in the north, the Kingdom of Jimb (KOJ) in the east, and the United States of Scorts (USS) in the south and west. All were democracies with a Westminster system of government. However, the USS also occupied a significant part of the aboriginal region known as "Oldalia" where they had been living for centuries. This region was believed to be rich in mineral resources. Oldalia was renamed the "Northern Territory"
8. In 1951, the KOJ successfully tested atomic weapons and became a nuclear weapons state. Owing to the friendly relations between the three countries, KOJ's nuclear policy is to "Protect our continent from all external and internal threats, in perpetuity."
9. In 1956, the three states decided to create the Icy Union (IU). Its cornerstone was the Customs Union which paved the way to establishing an internal single market based on a standardized legal framework and legislation that applies in all member states in those matters. IU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital within the internal market; enact legislation in justice and home affairs; and maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries, and regional development. It also established multiple courts, including the Icy Court of Human Rights (ICHR).
10. During this time, Scranconia remained largely unperturbed by the events happening outside its geographical borders. However, there was always animosity with the 'outsiders' for the occupation and annexation of Oldalia.
11. By 1979, the economy of Scranconia had largely stagnated while its people had learned of vast developments outside the country. In 1980, Kee Luan Wey, a reformer, became their leader.
12. By 1983, Mr. Wey fulfilled his promises and initiated major reforms for Scranconia. The reforms were of a wide-ranging nature. A constituent assembly started working on a new constitution while think tanks

discussed future economic reforms. By 1985, a new constitution had been drafted and adopted on 1 January 1986. Pertinently, the constitution recognized Oldalia as an integral part of Scranconia.

13. Further, Scranconia became a republic and was renamed the Republic of Scrancon (ROS). In a set of major economic reforms, private actors were given a huge impetus to run their businesses in ROS with the least amount of checks. The taxation rate was very low, and over the years, ROS became a major tax haven.
14. However, corruption also increased in ROS, due to the nexus between politics and commerce, due to which the development faced hindrances. However, most economists agree that ROS will become a developed country by 2040.
15. In the meantime, all IU countries had become developed and connected with the global economy. Due to their remoteness with other continents and lack of conflicts, IU nations focused on human resource development and development. Their militaries remained small and nimble. Still, the Union has consistently supported major global initiatives such as anti-terrorist activities and curbing their finance.
16. On 5 September 2021, a major blast took place on the Earl Harbour Port of USS. Many civilians were injured, and the main terminal of the port was damaged. An organization named “Cobra” took responsibility for the attacks. They demanded the removal of foreign occupiers from the Northern Territory and other places.
17. The Cobra fighters spread quickly and occupied the Northern Territory and adjacent areas. As the USS Army was not large, it requested the IU to assist in the conflict.
18. However, even the combined armed forces of the USS and IU were unable to quell the uprising, which focused on guerilla warfare. Sensing an opportunity, Mr. Oppoli Goppoli, the leader of the opposition in ROS, started his own private military company called the “Hagner Group” in December 2021. By August 2022, after recruitment and training, the private “soldiers” were ready to provide their services to potential clients. Most of its recruits came from the Northern Territory of USS as economic opportunities for them have been very limited in the country.

19. During this time, the conflict spread from USS to other IU countries, where sporadic terrorist attacks garnered normalcy. After exhausting all their options, the IU hired the Hagner Group to quell the uprising.
20. On 2 November 2022, the Hagner Group began its operations. It turned out to be a highly effective force from the beginning. Immediately, the Cobra forces were in retreat against the massive fire and highly trained personnel of Hagner. However, it was noted that there was not much progress in the Northern Territories.
21. As the conflict dragged on, Hagner operatives were accused of war crimes, including murder, torture, rape, and robbery of civilians, as well as torturing and killing accused deserters.
22. The Icy Court of Human Rights (ICHR) took suo moto cognizance of the human rights violations. As the news of their activities spread, public opinion started turning against Hagner. As Cobra had been weakened in IU, the Union deemed it feasible to sever their contract.
23. On 6 May 2023, the IU terminated the contract. At an urgent hearing at the ICHR, the petitioners requested that the severance fees shall be withheld from Hagner, pending the disposal of the case. They argued that if the same were not done, there would be no reason for Hagner to participate in the proceedings. Subsequently, the ICHR froze the payment of severance fees to Hagner, along with any other pending payments.
24. Hagner forces went back to ROS, but a significant portion was reported to be near the Oldalia/Northern Territory border between ROS and USS.
25. On 7 May 2023, Hagner's founder, Mr. Goppoli released an official statement wherein he stated the following-

“As has been reported, the Icy Union has deemed it unnecessary to pay their dues to us. This has happened due to fake reports of the constrained USS and IU media. Our contractors have always followed the necessary rules of engagement in war. I hereby urge the Government to pay its dues to us or face the consequences. Our Government should also assist in this.”

26. On 9 May 2023, Hagner filed a suit in the Commercial Court of ROS, requesting a decree of immediate payment from the Government of USS. Such suits are allowed under the pro-business ROS Constitution.
27. The freezing of accounts, combined with the legal fees and unpaid salaries, caused immense hardship to Hagner. The company had to take huge loans to keep itself afloat. However, by 1 August 2023, the Hagner Group was on the verge of bankruptcy.
28. On 16 August 2023, the Commercial Court of ROS passed an interim decree that “50% of the fees due to the Hagner Group should be paid immediately by the Government of USS.” Subsequently, Mr. Goppoli requested the government of ROS to demand payment from the USS.
29. On 17 August 2023, in a press release, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROS stated that “The matter between Hagner and USS does not concern us. We remain neutral. However, we believe that under the basic rules of Contract, Competition Law, and the principle of Comity of Courts, there shall be no reason to uphold any legitimate payment due to a company. Further, the territory of Oldalia belongs to the Scrancon people, as it belonged to their forefathers.”
30. On 17 August 2023, the President of USS, Mr. Phunsukh Wangdu, stated that “USS’s courts function independently and that he cannot make any statement or do anything to jeopardize their functioning. I also categorically state that the Northern Territory is an indispensable region of our country and shall always remain so.”
31. On 19 August 2023, a prominent USS newspaper, the Times of Scot reported that there was “trouble brewing in ROS and Hagner.” It cited unnamed sources to say that “there has been a spate of unrest by grizzled veterans who are suffering due to non-payment of dues. Things have recovered a bit as a new client has kept the company afloat by injecting huge sums of money..” However, these reports could not be substantiated through independent sources.
32. On 22 August 2023, Mr. Goppoli released a statement that “USS is accusing us wrongly even though we fought and won their battles for them. My fighters are dying due to hunger. All wrongdoers will face consequences.”

33. At 0000 hrs, 23 August 2023, a blast blew up the check post at the border crossing between ROS and USS. Immediately, unmarked forces and armor moved into the territory. By 5 am, they had captured various towns and villages in southern USS. At 7 am, the regional military headquarters of the USS Southern Command had been captured. Military casualties were completely lopsided as the USS army had been taken completely by surprise.
34. At 10 am, Mr. Goppoli demanded that “the state pay the dues, and extra ‘damages’, otherwise it would appear that there would be a new leader in USS soon.”
35. At 1 pm, the IU released a statement-
“The brazen attack of Mr. Goppoli, the leader of Opposition of the ROS and leader of Hagner has jeopardized the stability of the entire continent. If he does not withdraw his forces immediately, we shall be constrained to take military action against him and his mercenaries. ROS is complicit in this.”
36. Responding to the statement, Mr. Goppoli said that “they think Hagner is attacking them. No, we are not, and I am just a CEO. In reality, freedom fighters who are fighting against tyranny are involved. I have nothing to do with it. I have a court order, I will enforce it legitimately.”
37. The Prime Minister of ROS released a statement that “Our Government has nothing to do with the freedom fighters. They are not our regular soldiers, and it does not concern us. When foreign occupation happens, such events can happen sooner or later. We believe in their just cause to free Oldalia once again. ”
38. By dusk, the “freedom fighters” had occupied the entire area of the Northern Territory and the regions surrounding it. However, some were captured, and there were verified eyewitness accounts that these fighters had been tortured in USS internment camps.
39. On 26 August 2023, the IU started amassing its combined armies in USS. The KOJ also released a statement that if the battles went haywire, they would be constrained to use nuclear weapons against the enemies, as per their nuclear policy.

40. On 28 August 2023, a referendum took place in the Northern Territory where 98% of the people voted to join the Republic of Scrancon and rename the province as “Oldalia”. Most independent observers called the referendums as having no legitimate basis. However, ROS accepted the result, and its parliament began the process of adding Oldalia to the Union.
41. On 30 August 2023, the IU placed nuclear weapons in the range of the ROS capital. In response, the ROS forces amassed on the borders of other countries.
42. As the matter escalated, the world powers decided to intervene and resolve the conflict. Both parties were asked to refrain from escalating the situation and to refer the matter to international adjudication. Under immense pressure, the countries have resolved to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice.
43. In addition to the treaties and other international agreements referenced elsewhere in this Statement, USS and ROS have at all relevant times been Member States of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization and parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977. Neither USS nor ROS is a party to any other treaty of relevance to this case.
44. USS, as Applicant, respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:
 - a. That occupation and subsequent annexation of the Oldalia region is wrong in law and should be reversed;
 - b. That the non-payment of dues to the Hagner Group is not within the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice;
 - c. That the Republic of Scrancon owes damages to the USS as it is solely responsible for the harm occurring in its territory;
 - d. That no violation of human rights has taken place as the captured armed actors were terrorists;

45. ROS, as Respondent, respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- a. That the referendum in Oldalia region is a legitimate exercise of self-determination and should not to be reversed;
- b. That the non-payment of legitimate dues to the Hagner Group is within the jurisdiction of the court, and it should enforce the same;
- c. That the ROS owes no damages to the USS as it has not been involved in any incident occurring in the country;
- d. That brazen human rights violations against citizens of Oldalia have to be compensated by USS.

Drafted by-
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