



ICC Case Law Database

User Guide

Version 4.0 May 2025

This document explains how to access the ICC Case Law Database (CLD), how to run searches through it, how to have access to the decisions and its assessments, and how to create, share and download reading lists.

What is the Case Law Database (CLD)?

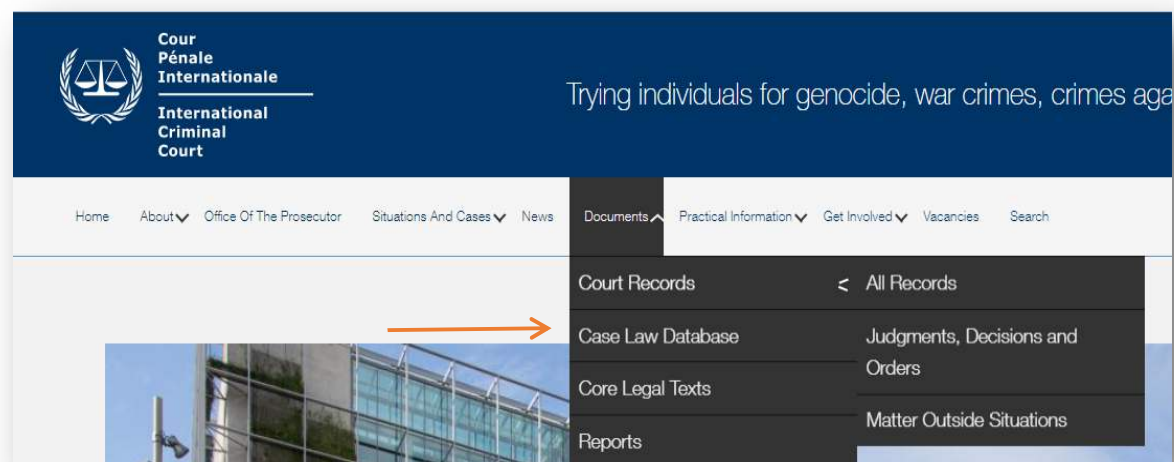
The CLD is a research tool developed for the benefit of the public, aimed at providing free and easy access to the entire jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court (ICC), in an easily searchable format. The CLD includes all judgments, decisions, orders, and other similar documents issued by the judicial bodies of the ICC, in their original language as well as available translations in English, French, and Spanish.

What is the content of the ICC Case Law Database?

- **Decisions:** Full text of any judgment, decision, order, warrant, summons, or any other similar document issued by a judicial body of the Court, including any of the Chambers, the Presidency, or the Presidents of Divisions.
- **Legal Findings:** Extracts from decisions with jurisprudential value, containing only verbatim quotes of the legal reasoning and conclusions.
 - Legal Findings are the sections of a decision where the judicial body either (i) interprets a notion or legal provision, or (ii) explicitly rejects, endorses, or applies an interpretation previously made by a judicial body of the ICC, or other Court or Tribunal.
 - Legal Findings may contain novel jurisprudence, as well as reiterations, endorsements, or variations of prior jurisprudence.
- When a decision does not contain sections with jurisprudential value, it will be classified in the CLD as containing “No Legal Findings”.

Where can I find the CLD?

- You can access the CLD through the [ICC Official Website](#) menu:
Documents - Case Law Database
- You can also access the CLD via this link:
<http://legal-tools.org/cld>



LEGAL FINDING ICC-02/04-01/15-181_1(ENG) High importance Confirms impugned decision

- Regulation 37 (1) of the Regulations of the Court provides as follows:

A document filed with the Registry shall not exceed 20 pages, unless otherwise provided in the Statute, the Rules, these Regulations or ordered by the Chamber. (para. 20).

- No other page limit was applicable in the instant case. In the "Appeals Chamber's Decision on the 'Prosecutor's Request for an Extension of the Page Limit'" the Appeals Chamber decided that the page limit of 100 pages laid down in regulation 38 (1) (c) of the Regulations of the Court for a challenge to the admissibility or jurisdiction of the Court under article 19 (2) of the Statute is applicable to the document in support of an appeal arising therefrom. The present appeal, however, arose from a proprio motu decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber on admissibility under article 19 (1) of the Statute, and not from a challenge to admissibility. In such circumstances, regulation 38 (1) (c) of the Regulations of the Court has no application. The document in support of the appeal originally submitted by Counsel for the Defence therefore did not comply with regulation 37 (1) of the Regulations of the Court. (para. 21).

KEYWORDS

art. 19 RS : proceedings on jurisdiction or admissibility ; challenge to jurisdiction of the Court or admissibility of a case - ID000762

reg. 38.1.c RoC : page limits ; page limit for documents ; specific page limits ; closing brief -ID008679

reg. 37.1 RoC : page limits ; page limit for documents ; page limit set by the Chamber -ID008669

RESULTS OF APPEALS

APPEAL TYPE	DECISION	PARAGRAPH(S)	PAGE(S)
Confirms	ICC-02/04-01/05-379		

RELATED DECISIONS

RELATION TYPE	DECISION	PARAGRAPH(S)	PAGE(S)
Applies	ICC-01/04-01/06-717-tSPA		
Cites	ICC-01/04-01/06-703-tSPA		

Legal Finding structure

Extract: Verbatim jurisprudential extracts from a decision containing only neutral recitations of the Chamber's legal reasoning and legal conclusions.

Level of importance: Legal Findings are assigned a level of importance based on their relative jurisprudential value in relation to the Court's case law as a whole. The possible classifications are: **a) High**, for Legal Findings that make a significant contribution to the development, clarification, or modification of the Court's case law; **b) Medium**, for Legal Findings that go beyond merely applying existing case law; **c) Low**, for Legal Findings that simply apply a provision or the Court's existing case law, or those that belong to a separate or dissenting opinion.

Keywords: Thesaurus terms or concepts of legal significance, paired to a corresponding legal provision. Each Legal Finding (not the decision as a whole) will be tagged with as many relevant keywords as applicable to the content of the specific section of jurisprudence to which the Legal Finding relates. This includes relationships with legal provisions that are expressly or implicitly referenced or addressed in the Legal Finding.

Results of Appeals: Indicates the relationship between Legal Findings and the outcome of an appeal judgment, specifying whether the decision is Amended, Confirmed, Remanded, or Reversed.

Related decisions: Indicates the relationship between the Legal Findings and other jurisprudence of the Court, specifying whether it applies, cites, or rejects previous jurisprudence.

OTHER LEGAL FINDINGS IN THIS DECISION



Legal finding ICC-02/04-01/15-181_2(ENG)

Finalised

- Determination by the Appeals Chamber (p. 17).

- [...].

- [...], [A]rticle 82 (1) (a) of the Statute does not, as does article 81 (1), spell out the grounds on which appeals under the provision may be based. Nevertheless, absence of statutory grounds does not preclude a party from raising any grounds, either substantive or procedural, that may be germane to the legal correctness...

Finding: 2

Keyword1: art. 81.1 RS : appeal ; gr

Keyword2: art. 81.1 RS : appeal ; gr

Keyword3: art. 81.1 RS : appeal ; gr

Keyword4: art. 81.1 RS : appeal ; gr

Permanent URL: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/020401151812>

High importance

[COPY URL](#)

[SEE F](#)

- Open link in new tab
- Open link in new window
- Open link in InPrivate window
- Open link in split screen window
- Save link as
- Copy link
- Add to Collections
- Share
- Inspect

+5 keywords

Below each Legal Finding, you will find a list of all other Legal Findings from that same decision (if any). Each Legal Finding can be opened in a different tab by right-clicking the corresponding option.

How to run term (full text) searches in the CLD?

The screenshot shows the search interface of the ICC Case Law Database. On the left, there are two search tabs: 'TEXT SEARCH' and 'KEYWORD SEARCH'. Below them is an 'ADVANCED SEARCH' section with several filters: 'complementarity' (highlighted with callout 1), 'Document number', 'Type of decision', 'Legal finding ID', and date filters ('Date from' and 'Date to'). At the bottom of the left panel are two buttons: 'SEARCH FOR LEGAL FINDINGS' (highlighted with callout 3) and 'SEARCH FOR DECISIONS' (highlighted with callout 3).

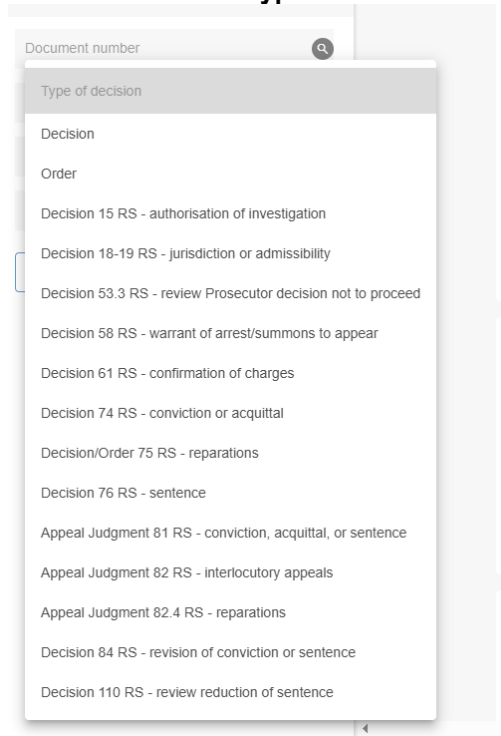
The main search results area shows a list of legal findings. The top result is 'Legal finding ICC-01/11-01/11-344-Red_1(ENG)' (highlighted with callout 4). The text of this finding is displayed, with the word 'complementarity' highlighted in yellow. Below the text are details: 'Public redacted-Decision on the admissibility of the case against Saif AH-Islam Gaddafi', 'Pre-Trial Chamber I | 31 May 2013 | ICC-01/11-01/11-344-Red | Prosecutor v. Gaddafi', and 'Medium importance'. Action buttons include 'COPY URL', 'SEE FULL', 'METADATA DOWNLOAD', and 'ADD TO READING LIST'. A red arrow (callout 5) points to the search filters area.

The second result is 'Legal finding ICC-01/11-01/11-547-Anx1_1(ENG)' (highlighted with callout 4). Its text is also displayed, with 'complementarity' highlighted in yellow. Details include: 'Separate Opinion of Judge Sang-Hyun Song', 'Appeals Chamber | 29 August 2014 | ICC-01/11-01/11-547-Anx1 | Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi', and 'Low importance'. Action buttons are similar to the first result.

At the top right, there are search controls: 'LEGAL FINDINGS: 8', 'Results per page: 20', 'Sorted by: Legal Finding', and a 'Filter' button (highlighted with callout 6). There are also buttons for 'complementarity' and 'English' with 'CLEAR ALL' next to them.

1. Type the term or phrase you are looking for in the field SEARCH, for example, “**complementarity**”.
2. To narrow your results and focus only on the Court’s key decisions, you can immediately click on the ‘**Type of Decision**’ filter, available directly in the search interface (see screenshot below).
3. If you click on “**Search for legal findings**”, the term will be searched only within the Legal Findings (extracts of jurisprudence). However, if you click on “**Search for decisions**”, the use of the term will be searched within the entire text of decisions, including reference to the parties’ submissions, footnotes, and analysis of facts.
4. The results will be displayed for reading, with the searched text highlighted. At the top of the screen, you will see the total number of results, and you can sort them by: **Relevance** (number of hits of the word within the text of the Legal Finding or Decision), **Recently modified** (by the CLD team), **Recently added** (by the CLD team), **Newest** (based on the date of the Decision), **Oldest** (based on the date of the Decision), **Title**, **Legal Finding** (sorted by number), and **Level of Importance** (High, Medium, or Low).
5. You can also filter the results of your search by **Source**, **Case**, **Level of importance**, **Language**, **Presiding Judge**, **Type of Decision**, and **Phase of Case**.
6. Use the “**Share**” icon in the top-right corner to generate a link that can be shared with others. This link will take them directly to the same search results.

Possible Results for the “Type of Decision” Filter



How to run Advanced Searches in the CLD?

You can access the **Advanced Search** by clicking on the “**Advanced Search**” option located just above the main search bar. This tool allows you to refine your search using specific fields such as:

- Full text
- Title
- Situation name
- Case name
- Document number

By filling in this fields, you can quickly find documents that match the details you already know.

The image displays two screenshots of the ICC Case Law Database search interface. The left screenshot shows the main search page with two tabs: 'TEXT SEARCH' and 'KEYWORD SEARCH'. Below the tabs, there is a search bar and a button labeled 'ADVANCED SEARCH' which is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below the search bar, there are several input fields: 'Document number', 'Type of decision', 'Legal finding ID', and 'Date from'/'Date to' with calendar icons. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'SEARCH FOR LEGAL FINDINGS' and 'SEARCH FOR DECISIONS'. The right screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' modal window. It has a title bar with 'Advanced Search' and a close button 'X'. Below the title bar, there is a search query builder with the text 'Full text' followed by a dropdown arrow, 'Query', followed by 'and' and another dropdown arrow, and 'Proximity of words'. Below this, there is a plus sign icon in a circle, which is pointed to by a red arrow. At the bottom of the modal, there are two buttons: 'SEARCH FOR LEGAL FINDINGS' and 'SEARCH FOR DECISIONS'.

How to run Keyword searches in the CLD

The screenshot displays the 'KEYWORD SEARCH' interface. At the top, the search term 'complementarity' is entered in the search field, with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the search bar, the 'Rome Statute' keyword tree is visible, listing various provisions with their respective counts. The main results area shows two legal findings related to 'complementarity', each with a text excerpt and metadata such as 'Legal finding ICC-01/15-12_6(ENG)' and 'Legal finding ICC-02/04-01/05-377_5(ENG)'. The interface includes options for 'SELECT ALL', 'COLLAPSE KEYWORD TREE', and 'CLEAR ALL'.

1. Click on “**Keyword Search**”, and type the keyword you are looking for in the field marked as “Find keyword”.
2. If you know the provision you are looking for, you can also search directly for the terms related to the provision navigating directly within the Keyword tree.
3. Select the desired keyword(s) and click on “Submit”.
4. Like with the text search, you can share, sort, and filter the obtained results.
5. The number to the right of each keyword indicates how many legal findings (in all languages) are tagged with that keyword.

TEXT SEARCH **KEYWORD SEARCH**

Find keyword

SELECT ALL COLLAPSE KEYWORD TREE

Rules of Procedure and Evidence

[+] Chapter 1. General Provisions - Rules 1 to 3

[+] Chapter 2. Composition and administration of the Court - Rules 4 to 43 **487**

[+] Chapter 3. Jurisdiction and admissibility - Rules 44 to 62 **186**

[x] Chapter 4. Provisions relating to various stages of the proceedings - Rules 63 to 103

rule 63 RoPE : evidence **5**

[x] rule 63.1 RoPE : evidence

rule 63.1 RoPE : applicable rules on evidence **39**

[+] rule 63.2 RoPE : evidence **138**

[+] rule 63.3 RoPE : evidence **37**

[+] rule 63.4 RoPE : evidence **37**

[+] rule 63.5 RoPE : evidence **19**

[+] rule 64 RoPE : evidence **46**

[+] rule 64.1 RoPE : evidence **79**

[+] rule 64.2 RoPE : evidence **25**

TEXT SEARCH **KEYWORD SEARCH**

Find keyword

SELECT ALL COLLAPSE KEYWORD TREE

Rome Statute

[+] Preamble **132**

[+] Part 1. Establishment of the Court - Articles 1 to 4 **145**

[+] Part 2. Jurisdiction, Admissibility and Applicable Law - Articles 5 to 21 **3443**

[x] Part 3. General Principles of Criminal Law - Articles 22 to 33

[x] art. 22 RS : general principles of criminal law **3**

art. 22 RS : nullum crimen sine lege **24**

[+] art. 22.1 RS : general principles of criminal law **11**

[+] art. 22.2 RS : general principles of criminal law **51**

[+] art. 22.3 RS : general principles of criminal law

[+] art. 23 RS : general principles of criminal law **14**

[+] art. 24 RS : general principles of criminal law **1**

[+] art. 24.1 RS : general principles of criminal law **2**

6. You can also browse through the Keyword tree by pressing the [+] symbols contained therein.

The Keyword tree is a related chain of one or more concepts of legal significance, linked, where applicable, to a specific legal provision or sub-provision. These keyword trees range in specificity from general to specific in relation to both, legal concepts and legal provisions.

After browsing, you can collapse the tree using the “Collapse keyword tree” button.

The tree is structured according to the legal texts of the Court and sections thereof, including the:

- Rome Statute;
- Rules of Procedure and Evidence;
- Regulations of the Court;
- Regulations of the Registry;
- Code of Professional Conduct for counsel;

The CLD Keywords tree also includes a section of legal terms not related to specific legal texts. By entering a legal concept into the ‘Find keyword’ bar, you can locate general terms -such as ‘locus standi’-, that may not be linked to a specific law or provision, but are still useful for identifying Legal Findings across different decisions.

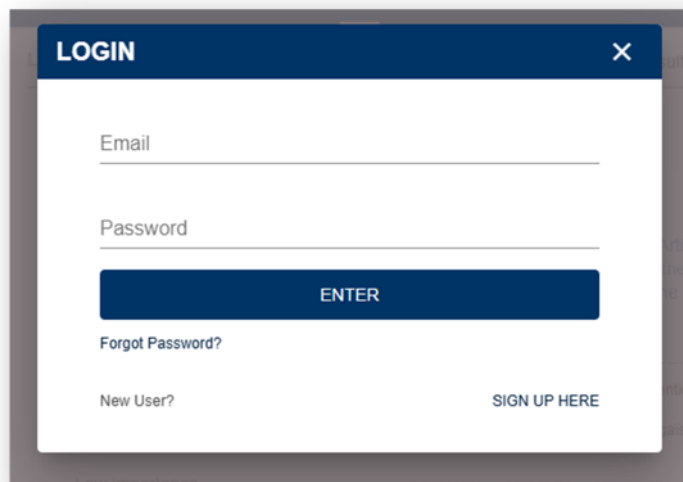
How to make Decisions searches in the CLD?

The screenshot displays the 'TEXT SEARCH' interface. On the left, the 'ADVANCED SEARCH' sidebar includes a search input field containing 'ICC-01/04-01/07-3436-tENG', a 'Type of decision' dropdown, a 'Legal finding ID' field, and date selection fields. A red arrow points to the search input field, and another red arrow points to the 'SEARCH FOR DECISIONS' button. The main search results area shows 'DECISIONS: 1' with filters for 'English' and 'Decision'. A red arrow points to the 'Decision' filter. The search results list a document with the number 'ICC-01/04-01/07-3436-tENG' and the title 'Judgment pursuant to article 74 of the Statute'. Below the title, it indicates '660 pages' and provides links for 'COPY URL', 'SEE FULL', 'METADATA', 'DOWNLOAD', and 'ADD TO READING LIST'. A red arrow points to the 'Document number' field. On the right, the 'Filter' panel shows the 'Decision Assessment' filter with options for 'With Legal Findings' (1) and 'Without Legal Findings'. A red arrow points to the 'With Legal Findings' option. Below the filter panel are buttons for 'APPLY' and 'RESET'. The bottom of the interface shows a pagination bar with '1' selected.

1. Write or paste the document **number of the decision**.
2. Click on “**Search for decisions**”.
3. The ‘**Decision Assessment**’ filter will show whether the decision contains Legal Findings, has No Legal Findings, or has not yet been analysed for CLD purposes.

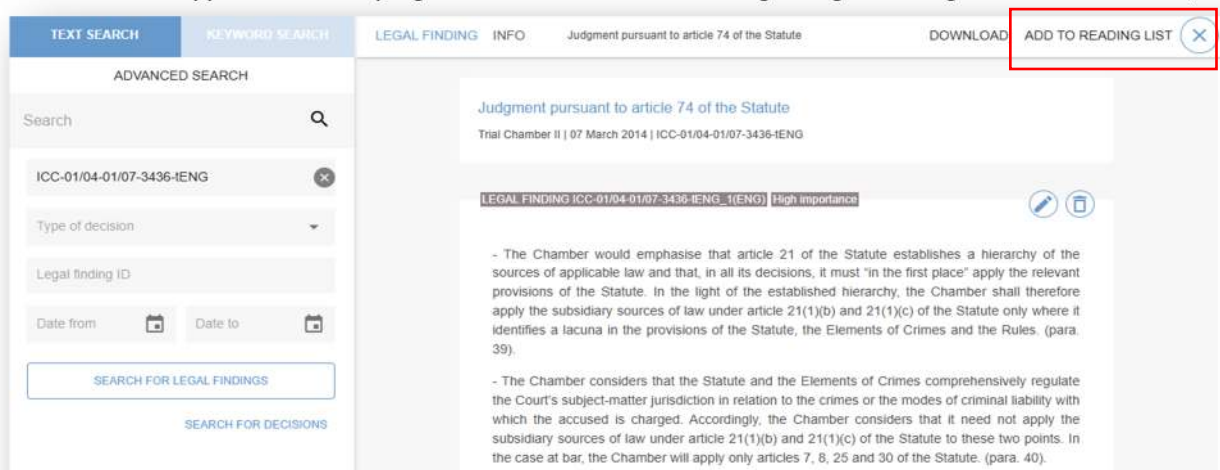
How to create a reading list?

1. To create or save a reading list, you must first log in to your CLD account.



The screenshot shows a login window titled "LOGIN" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains two input fields: "Email" and "Password". Below the password field is a dark blue button labeled "ENTER". Underneath the button are two links: "Forgot Password?" and "New User?". At the bottom right, there is a link labeled "SIGN UP HERE".

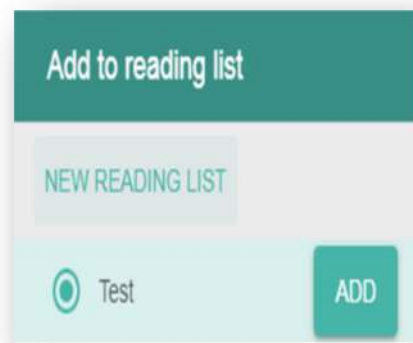
2. Once logged in, you can create a reading list to store documents you want to read later. To add items, look for the “Add to Reading List” button. This button appears at the top right of the screen when viewing a Legal Finding or decision in detail, or at the bottom of each entry in the list.



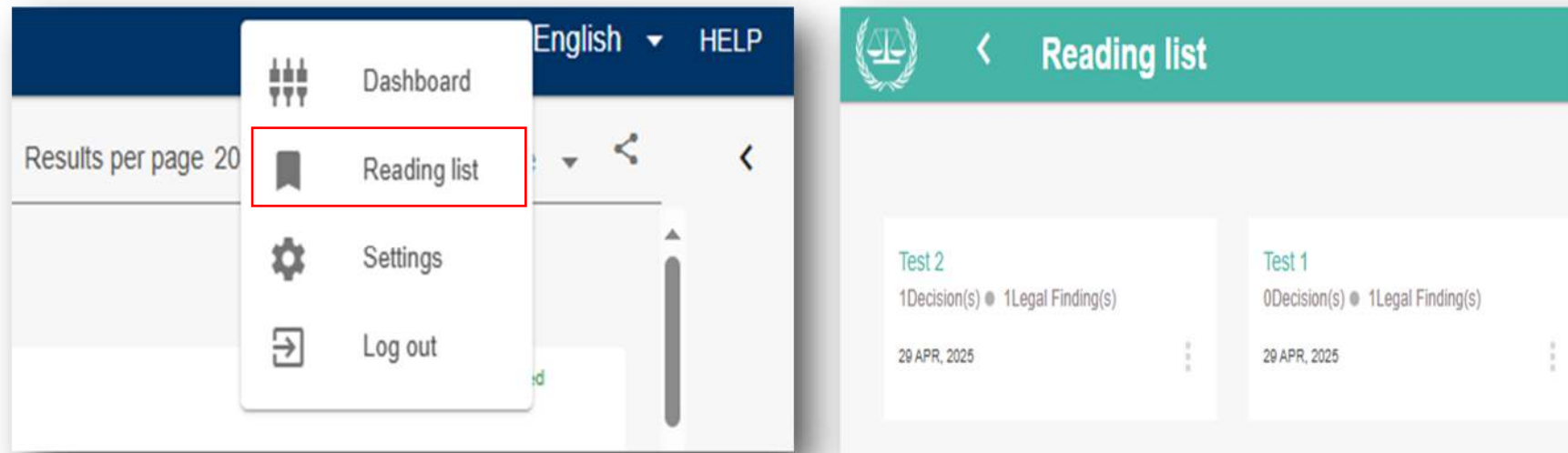
The screenshot displays a web interface for a legal finding. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "TEXT SEARCH", "KEYWORD SEARCH", "LEGAL FINDING", and "INFO". The main content area shows the title "Judgment pursuant to article 74 of the Statute" and the trial chamber information "Trial Chamber II | 07 March 2014 | ICC-01/04-01/07-3436-ENG". Below this, there is a section for "LEGAL FINDING ICC-01/04-01/07-3436-ENG_1(ENG) High importance" with edit and copy icons. The text of the finding is visible, starting with "The Chamber would emphasise that article 21 of the Statute establishes a hierarchy of the sources of applicable law...". At the top right of the page, there is a "DOWNLOAD" button and a red-bordered "ADD TO READING LIST" button with a close icon (X).



3. When you click 'Add to Reading List', you will be given the option to either select an existing list or create a new one. To create a new list, enter a name and choose where to store the selected content. If you prefer to use an existing one, simply select it and click "Add".



4. Click on your user name (at the top right) and select **“Reading list”**. There, you will be able to see all your saved reading lists.



5. Click on a reading list, and you will find all the documents you previously added. At the bottom right, you will see options to share the list (via URL) or to print/download it in PDF format. This will include the selected Legal Findings and/or decisions, along with the corresponding keywords and related decisions.

