

STATEMENT BY MRS. RAJANI PATIL, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER  
OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM: 72  
“REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE” AT THE  
68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON OCTOBER 31, 2013

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, I would like to thank Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), for his comprehensive report, covering the judicial activities of the Court over the last year. I also thank him and the Vice-President Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor for guiding the work of the Court.



**Mr. President,**

The Court, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is entrusted with the task of peaceful resolution of disputes between the States, which is fundamental for fulfillment of one of the purposes of the United Nations, namely the maintenance of international peace and security.

We acknowledge the fact that the Court has fulfilled that task admirably since its establishment, and has acquired a well deserved reputation as an impartial institution maintaining the highest legal standards in accordance with its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, of which the Statute of the Court is an integral part.

**Mr. President,**

One of the primary goals of the United Nations, as stated in the Preamble to the UN Charter, is to establish conditions under which justice and respect for international

obligations can be maintained. The ICJ, as the only Court with general international law jurisdiction, is uniquely placed to fulfill that role.

**Mr. President,**

The report of the Court, contained in document A/68/4, illustrates the importance that States attach and the confidence that the States repose in the Court, as is clearly evidenced through the number, nature and the variety of cases the Court deals with, and through the ability of the Court in so dealing with the complex aspects of public international law.

**Mr. President,**

The judgments delivered by the ICJ have played an important role in the interpretation and clarification of the rules of international law, as well as, in the progressive development and codification of international law. In the performance of its judicial functions, the Court has remained highly sensitive to political realities and sentiments of States, while acting in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, its own Statute and other applicable rules of international law.

During the 2012/2013 judicial year, the Court delivered two judgments; held public hearings in four cases; and also handed down six orders. The number of contentious cases presently on the Court's docket stands at 10. Among the cases before the Court, five are from Latin American States, two from Europe, one each from the African and Asian States, while one is of inter-continental character, which shows the universality of the Court.

**Mr. President,**

The cases before the Court involve a wide variety of subject matters, such as territorial and maritime disputes, environmental damage and conservation of living resources, violation of territorial integrity, violation of international humanitarian law and human rights, genocide, interpretation and application of international conventions and treaties, and interpretation of the Court's judgments.

**Mr. President,**

The Court's second function, of providing advisory opinion on legal questions referred to it by organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, further adds to its important role of clarifying key international legal issues. The report of the Court rightly points out that "everything the Court does is aimed at promoting the rule of law", in particular through its judgments and the advisory opinions.

**Mr. President,**

It is worth mentioning that the Court ensures the greatest possible global awareness of its decisions through its publications, multimedia offerings and the website, which now features the Court's entire jurisprudence, as well as, that of its predecessor - the Permanent Court of International Justice. These sources provide useful information for States wishing to submit a potential dispute to the Court.

**Mr. President,**

We are glad to note that the three posts sought by the Court in different service categories, have been filled pursuant to the approval of the General Assembly, which would help strengthen the Court's security related aspects and will expedite the publication of Court's work. It is also a matter of satisfaction that the Great Hall of Justice has been refurbished with modern equipments, in which the public hearings are held.

Finally, Mr. President, India wishes to reaffirm its strong support to the Court and acknowledges the importance that the international community attaches to the work of the Court.

**Thank you.**

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