

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda Item 76

The Report of International Court of Justice

INDIA STATEMENT

By

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Mr. President,

Our delegation would like to express its appreciation to Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), for presenting report on the judicial activities of the Court for the period between 01 August 2018 and 31 July 2019. We thank him and the Vice-President, Judge Xue Hanqin for guiding the work of the Court during this period.

Mr. President,

2. The first and foremost purpose of the United Nations is to maintain the international peace and security. The International Court of Justice, in its role as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, owes greater responsibility in achieving this objective of the United Nations, by performing the task of resolving disputes between the States.

3. The United Nations Charter and the Statute of the Court have entrusted the Court with dual jurisdiction: (i) contentious jurisdiction to decide disputes of legal nature that are submitted to it by States; and (ii) advisory jurisdiction to give its advisory opinion on legal questions at the request of organs of the United Nations or specialized agencies authorized to make such a request. Taking stock of the work performed, since its first sitting in April 1946 and the submission of first case in May 1947, the Court has seized of 177 cases till July 2019. It has delivered more than 120 judgments and rendered 27 advisory opinions.

4. We note that during the judicial year 2018-2019, the Court has delivered judgments in 3 cases; handed down 16 Orders at different stages of proceedings of cases; and held public hearings in 6 cases. The Report of the ICJ (A/74/4) reveals that the Court has, as of 31 July 2019, sixteen contentious cases with no advisory case pending on its docket reflecting the efficient management of the Court's work.

Mr. President,

5. The subject-matter and issues brought before the Court involve complex factual and legal issues relating to variety of fields including territorial and maritime delimitation; consular rights; human rights; environmental damage and conservation of living resources; international responsibility; the immunity of States, their representatives and assets; and interpretation and application of international treaties. The Court has crucial role in the interpretation and clarification of the rules and principles of international law, as well as, in the progressive development and codification of the international law. Its activities are directly aimed at promoting and reinforcing the rule of law through its judgments and advisory opinions.

6. The Report of the Court reflects on the importance that the States attach to and the confidence that they repose in the Court. This is evident from the number, nature and variety of cases that the Court deals with and its ability in so dealing with the complex aspects of public International Law. The same is evidently substantiated from the fact that the pending contentious cases have been submitted by States from four continents, which speaks of the universal character of the Court. It is significant to note that the court has not lost sight to adapt itself to the working methods including handling of emergent situations in responding to the increased

work load and in dealing with the complexity involved in the cases submitted to it.

7. In the performance of its judicial functions, the Court has remained sensitive to political realities and sentiments of States, while acting in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, its own Statute and other rules of International Law.

Mr. President,

8. We appreciate the Court's efforts towards ensuring 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 reference material for States wishing to invoke the jurisdiction of the Court.

9. Finally, Mr. President, India wishes to reaffirm its strong support to the Court's work and acknowledges the importance that the international community attaches to its guiding role.

10. We thank you.
