

**Statement by Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaiei as
President of Security Council at the
80th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice**

17 April 2026

Your Majesty, King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands,

Your Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency, Judge Yuji Iwasawa, President of the International Court of Justice,

Your Excellency, Mr. Tom Berendsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Your Excellency, Ms. Annalena Baerbock, President of the General Assembly,

It is a privilege to address this distinguished gathering on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, to commemorate this important milestone in my role as President of the United Nations Security Council.

This anniversary offers an important opportunity not only to reflect on the Court's distinguished history, but also to reaffirm the enduring role of international law in advancing one of the central purposes of the United Nations, namely the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, and in upholding the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The establishment of the International Court of Justice in 1945 marked a defining moment in the development of international legal institutions. It represented the culmination of decades of efforts by the international community to institutionalize a standing forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. In this regard, the Court succeeded the Permanent Court of International Justice, established by the League of Nations in 1920.

With the creation of the United Nations at the end of the Second World War, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the rule of law by establishing a judicial organ within the United Nations. Under Article 92 of the Charter, the International Court of Justice was designated as the principal judicial organ of the Organization.

Since it began its work in 1946, the Court, seated here at the Peace Palace in The Hague, has served as the principal judicial forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States.

From the perspective of the Council, it is important to note that over the past eight decades, the Court's jurisprudence has contributed significantly to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. By providing a forum grounded in law where States can bring cases under the principle of State consent, the Court has helped resolve disagreements that might otherwise have escalated.

The election of the Court's judges by both the General Assembly and the Security Council, acting independently but concurrently, reflects the collective responsibility of Member States to ensure that the Court is composed of jurists of the highest standing, representing the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.

While the Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Court may contribute to this objective by promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes through judicial means, as reflected in Article 33 of the Charter. This important adjudicative role of the Court is reaffirmed in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2788 unanimously adopted by the Council in July 2025.

As we commemorate this milestone, we also recognize the continued confidence of States in the Court, reflected in its growing docket and the increasing reliance on judicial settlement as a means of resolving disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law.

Finally, we also note the positive contribution of the Judicial Fellowship Programme established by the Court in 1999, in empowering generations of talented lawyers in the area of public international law.

On behalf of the Security Council, I wish to commend the Court, its judges, and its Registry for their dedication and service to the international community.

Thank you.