



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

[Website](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2025/50

30 October 2025

The President of the International Court of Justice addresses the General Assembly of the United Nations

THE HAGUE, 30 October 2025. HE Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the International Court of Justice, today addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations to present the Court's Annual Report for the 2024-2025 judicial year.

After congratulating Ms Annalena Baerbock on her election as President of the eightieth session of the General Assembly, President Iwasawa observed that the number of cases on the Court's docket had remained at a record high. Twenty-four cases, including 23 contentious proceedings and one advisory proceeding, were currently pending before the Court, covering a wide range of legal issues. Five new contentious cases had been brought before the Court during the period under review, two of which had subsequently been removed from the General List.

The President informed the Assembly that since 1 August 2024, the start date of the period covered by the Annual Report, the Court had held hearings in six cases and had rendered one judgment on the merits, two judgments on preliminary objections and two advisory opinions, the second of which had been delivered a week ago. In addition, the Court had issued three orders on requests for the indication or modification of provisional measures, one on the suspension of proceedings and one on the admissibility of declarations of intervention, as well as a number of orders on time-limits in a range of cases. President Iwasawa explained that the Court was currently deliberating on the Request for an advisory opinion submitted by the International Labour Organization. He then provided an overview of the two advisory opinions, the judgments and the substantive orders rendered by the Court during the period under review.

The President next turned to the Trust Fund for the Court's Judicial Fellowship Programme, established in 2021 by the Secretary-General at the request of the General Assembly. He informed the Assembly that four of the 15 judicial fellows of the 2024-2025 cohort had been the recipients of a stipend through the fund and that a further four judicial fellows in the most recent cohort, which had joined the Court last month for the 2025-2026 period, were also benefitting from such financial support. President Iwasawa noted that "[t]o date, nationals of Brazil, the Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guatemala, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Tunisia and Türkiye have been awarded grants through the Fund" and that the "ongoing success of the Trust Fund initiative relies entirely on the continued generosity of donors".

The President then proceeded to update the General Assembly on the asbestos situation at the Court's seat at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Before closing his address, President Iwasawa touched on the budgetary situation of the Court. He expressed “the Court’s deep appreciation for the favourable response given by the General Assembly to the Court’s 2025 budget request” — which had enabled the ICJ to reinforce its modest staffing levels — and informed delegates that, with its budget request for 2026, the Court was seeking to build on the progress made by asking for a small increase in resources to enable it to continue to meet the expectations of the international community. The President emphasized that “the Court is well aware of the challenges that its growing workload poses for the timely delivery of judgments and opinions”. He informed the Assembly that in parallel with the requested budgetary increase, the Court was undertaking an internal review of its working methods with a view to maintaining quality while enhancing efficiency, particularly through the incorporation of new technologies.

President Iwasawa ended his speech by observing that the last time he had addressed the Assembly was on 26 June 2025, on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations Charter, and that next year, the Court would celebrate its own eightieth anniversary. The President remarked that “[t]hese milestones should not give rise to self-congratulation or complacency. Rather, they should inspire self-reflection and renewed commitment to progress.” He concluded by stating that “[t]he International Court of Justice stands ready to serve and guide the international community through its decisions and opinions”.

The full [text](#) of the address by the President of the Court to the United Nations General Assembly and the [Annual Report](#) for the 2024-2025 judicial year are available on the Court’s website.

Note: The Court’s press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

Information Department:

Ms Monique Legerman, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department: +31 (0)70 302 2336

Ms Joanne Moore, Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2337

Mr Avo Sevag Garabet, Associate Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2481

Email: media@icj-cij.org