



Bangladesh

Statement under Agenda Item 70: Report of the International Court of Justice on Thursday, 27 October 2016 at the 71st Session of the General Assembly

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh thanks the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for his comprehensive report detailing the pending and increased workload before the Court and the measures taken to make the Court function with enhanced efficiency and visibility. We wish to take this opportunity to once again felicitate ICJ on the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of its formal seating in April this year. The solemn occasion was a reminder of the crucial role played by the Court in promoting pacific settlement of international disputes, as stipulated by the UN Charter. The photographic display inaugurated at the UN Headquarters last week provides a vivid account of the Court's contributions over the years as the principal judicial organ of the UN in upholding the rule of law at the international level and in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Bangladesh believes that the sustained confidence of the international community in ICJ's work is manifested through broad range of subjects and cases being invoked under its general jurisdiction. It is further reinforced by the Court's jurisdiction *raitone materiae* in the resolution of disputes among parties to more than 300 bilateral and multilateral treaties or conventions. The 121 judgments and 27 advisory opinions the Court has delivered till date constitute a seminal contribution to the development of international law.

As a nation with unequivocal commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes, including through recourse to international law, Bangladesh duly acknowledges ICJ's judgments, advisory opinions and ongoing work concerning territorial integrity and sovereignty, unlawful use of force, and interference in domestic affairs of State, among other issues.

With our precedent in resolving outstanding maritime and land boundary delimitation issues with our neighbouring countries through legal and peaceful means, we continue to follow with interest the Court's work on territorial and maritime disputes as well as conservation of natural and living resources.

As part of our unremitting advocacy for a peaceful, just and viable solution to the political and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Bangladesh attaches great importance to ICJ's advisory opinion concerning the illegality of Israeli settlements that continue to pose a formidable obstacle to meaningful resumption of the Peace Process.

Bangladesh co-sponsors every year the General Assembly Resolution titled "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons" as we underscore the importance commencing negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a comprehensive convention addressing all aspects of nuclear weapons prohibition and elimination.

We expect that in course of its judicial and advisory work on environmental issues, ICJ would given due consideration to the issues of 'climate justice' and 'loss and damage' as recognized by the Paris Agreement. ICJ's opinions on these issues could be useful for climate vulnerable countries as they continue to seek appropriate responses to climate change threats and impacts through effective adaptation and mitigation measures.

Bangladesh recognizes the need for adequate resources for ensuring the proper functioning of ICJ, and urges all Member States to give due consideration to the Court's submission in this regard. We take note with appreciation the efforts being made to further upgrade the Court's visibility online, including through its website, and to enhance the use of ICT in tandem with the growing complexity of its work.

Bangladesh remains mindful of the General Assembly's call upon States to accept the Court's jurisdiction in accordance with its Statute. We thank those Member States that have made voluntary contributions this year to the Secretary General's Trust Fund to assist States in bearing expenses incurred during settlement of disputes through ICJ.

I thank you.