



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Judge Hisashi Owada will resign as a Member of the International Court of Justice with effect from 7 June 2018

THE HAGUE, 2 March 2018. Judge Hisashi Owada will resign as a Member of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with effect from 7 June 2018. His term would have expired on 5 February 2021.

In accordance with Article 14 of the Statute of the Court, the United Nations Security Council has fixed 22 June 2018 as the date for the election of his successor by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Member of the Court then elected will complete Judge Owada's term.

Judge Owada has been a Member of the Court since 6 February 2003 and was President of the Court from 6 February 2009 to 5 February 2012. After the end of his first term, he was re-elected as from 6 February 2012.

Before being sworn in as a Member of the Court, Judge Owada held various high-level positions in Japan and internationally. He was, among other things, the Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in 1970, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development from 1988 to 1989, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan from 1989 to 1991, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan from 1991 to 1993, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations from 1994 to 1998, Representative of Japan to the United Nations Security Council and its President from 1997 to 1998, Head of the Japanese Delegation to the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court in 1998, and Senior Adviser to the President of the World Bank from 1999 to 2003.

The holder of numerous honours and distinctions, Judge Owada is a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, an Honorary Member of the American Society of International Law, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Asian Society of International Law and a Member emeritus of the Japanese Society of International Law. He is also membre titulaire of the Institut de droit international, having served as President emeritus from 2007 to 2009.

Judge Owada authored numerous publications on international law and international organizations throughout his long-standing career.

Note: The Court's press releases 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 seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. 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. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the "World Court", it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other – mostly criminal – judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC, the only permanent international criminal court, which was established by treaty and does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an international judicial body with an independent legal personality, established by the United Nations Security Council upon the request of the Lebanese Government and composed of Lebanese and international judges), the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT, mandated to take over residual functions from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda), the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office (an ad hoc judicial institution which has its seat in The Hague), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

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