



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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The Court elects a new Deputy-Registrar

THE HAGUE, 12 February 2013. At a private meeting held on 11 February 2013, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) elected Mr. Jean-Pelé Fomété, of Cameroonian nationality, to the post of Deputy-Registrar. He will succeed Ms Thérèse de Saint Phalle, of American and French nationality, who will resign on 15 March 2013.

Mr. Jean-Pelé Fomété is currently Registrar of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in Nairobi, a post which he has held since 2009. Prior to that, he was for seven years Programmes Director in the Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), having spent five years there as Legal Adviser and Special Assistant to the Registrar. Before joining the ICTR, he served *inter alia* as a Law Clerk at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and as Chief of the United Nations Political and Legal Affairs Service at the Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon.

In accordance with Article 23 of the Rules of Court, Mr. Jean-Pelé Fomété has been elected for a term of seven years as from 16 March 2013.

The role of the Deputy-Registrar is to assist the Registrar and to act as Registrar in the latter's absence.

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 Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial body composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), 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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