



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### **United Nations General Assembly and Security Council elect Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson as a Member of the Court**

THE HAGUE, 18 November 2014. The General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations yesterday elected Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson (Jamaica) as a Member of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a nine-year term of office, beginning on 6 February 2015.

The biography of Mr. Robinson is annexed to this press release.

It is recalled that on Thursday 6 November 2014, Judges Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco) and Joan E. Donoghue (United States of America) were re-elected as Members of the Court, and that Mr. James Richard Crawford (Australia) and Mr. Kirill Gevorgian (Russian Federation) were elected as new Members of the Court.

The election of a fifth Member could not be concluded on 6 and 7 November, since neither of the two remaining candidates — Ms Ruiz Cerutti (Argentina) and Mr. Robinson — obtained an absolute majority in both the General Assembly and the Security Council. The election was postponed until 17 November.

Following the withdrawal of Ms Cerutti's candidacy a few days ago, only Mr. Robinson remained in contention. In the first round of voting on 17 November, he obtained an absolute majority in the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In February 2015, the Court as newly constituted will proceed to elect from among its Members a President and a Vice-President, who will hold office for three years.

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For more information on the composition of the Court, the way in which candidacies are submitted and the election procedure, please refer to Press Release 2014/32, which can be found on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) under the heading "Press Room".

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Photographs of the election taken at the General Assembly and in the Security Council are available on the United Nations website at the following address: [www.unmultimedia.org/photo](http://www.unmultimedia.org/photo).

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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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