



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Judge Ronny Abraham (France) elected President of the International Court of Justice

Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia) elected Vice-President

THE HAGUE, 6 February 2015. Judge Ronny Abraham (France) was today elected President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by his peers and Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia) was elected Vice-President, each for a term of three years.

Biographies of President Abraham and Vice-President Yusuf, who have been Members of the Court since 15 February 2005 and 6 February 2009, respectively, can be found on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org) under the heading "Members of the Court"/"Current Members".

The International Court of Justice, composed of 15 Members, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It delivers judgments which are final and binding upon disputes between States, and gives advisory opinions to United Nations organs and agencies that are authorized to request them under the Charter of the United Nations (for further details see below). There are currently 13 cases on the Court's General List.

Following the elections held on 6 November 2014 and 17 November 2014 by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council to fill the five seats which were due to fall vacant on 6 February 2015 (see Press Release No. 2014/32 and No. 2014/33), the composition of the Court is now as follows:

President	Ronny Abraham (France)
Vice-President	Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia)
Judges	Hisashi Owada (Japan)
	Peter Tomka (Slovakia)
	Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco)
	Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil)
	Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom)
	Xue Hanqin (China)
	Joan E. Donoghue (United States of America)
	Giorgio Gaja (Italy)
	Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)
	Dalveer Bhandari (India)
	Patrick Lipton Robinson (Jamaica)
	James Richard Crawford (Australia)
	Kirill Gevorgian (Russian Federation)

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 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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