STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

BY

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AGENDA ITEM 70
REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, 31 OCTOBER 2014

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DÉCLARATION AU NOM DU CANADA, DE L'AUTRALIE ET DE LA NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
PRONONCÉE PAR

GILES NORMAN
CONSEILLER D'AFFAIRES JURIDIQUES
MISSION PERMANENTE DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

POINT 70 DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR
RAPPORT DE LA COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE

NEW YORK, LE 31 OCTOBRE 2014
Mr. President,

On behalf of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, I would like to thank the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Tomka, for his report on the work of the Court over the past year. As countries that firmly believe in the rule of law, CANZ have always been strong supporters of the International Court of Justice. We have tremendous respect for the work of the Court and for the quality and dedication of its judges.

Once again, the Court has seen a sustained case load demonstrating its vital position in the peaceful resolution of disputes. The 13 cases currently before the Court come from around the world and represent a diversity of subject matter. CANZ welcomes this willingness of States to turn to the Court for the peaceful settlement of their disputes.

Our confidence in the Court is reflected in our acceptance of the Court’s compulsory jurisdiction. CANZ believes that wider acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction would enable the Court to fulfil its role more effectively, by reducing jurisdictional issues and thus allowing the Court to focus more of its attention on the substance of disputes. In line with General Assembly Resolution 68/116, we encourage Member States that have not yet done so to accept the Court’s compulsory jurisdiction.

Mr. President,

On 6 November, the Members of the General Assembly and Security Council will vote to fill five judicial vacancies within the International Court of Justice. The CANZ group unreservedly endorses the candidature of Professor James Crawford for one of the two vacancies in the Western European and Others Group. Professor Crawford is a distinguished international lawyer who would be a valuable addition to the Court. He received an impressive 27 nominations from National Groups of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, a
telling indication of the esteem in which he is held by the international legal fraternity. We encourage all Members of the United Nations to support Professor Crawford.

Mr. President,

We expect that the work programme of the Court in the year ahead will remain full as States continue to affirm their confidence in the Court. CANZ looks forward to the International Court of Justice continuing to play its important role in the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Thank You