STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

THE REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL,
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2014

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this important debate on the report of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). My delegation is grateful to the President of the Court, Judge Peter Tomka for the report. Nigeria aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the distinguished Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

2. The International Court of Justice is an integral part of the United Nation's mechanisms for the promotion of the rule of law and international peace and security through the administration of international justice with independence and impartiality. Nigeria considers the Court as the pre-eminent mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes among States and it is noteworthy that many States have expressed their confidence in the ability of the Court to resolve their disputes.

3. The dual character of the Court as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and Court of unique and universal jurisdiction enables it to render impartial decisions in the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Court's judgments and advice have had salutary effects on maintenance of peace and security in all regions.

Mr. President,

4. By the provision of Article 36 paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Statute of the Court, States are expected to make declarations recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. Yet, Nigeria notes with concern that out of the 193 UN Member States which are parties to the Statute of the Court, only 70
have so far made declarations (some with reservations) recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory. It is for this reason that my delegation encourages Member States which are yet to subscribe to the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court to endeavour to do so, as this would further strengthen the Court's ability to promote international justice and peaceful settlement of disputes.

5. Nigeria realizes the significance of the Court in the settlement of inter-State disputes on a broad range of complex issues, a role which has in no small measure contributed to world peace and harmony. In view of this important function that the Court renders, Nigeria believes that its budget should be commensurate to its needs and obligations, and should support its independence to render vital services to the international community. We therefore note with appreciation that most of the budgetary requests of the Court were accepted by the UN, thus enabling it to continue to carry out its mission unhindered. This is commendable.

Mr. President,

6. Nigeria continues to abide by her commitment to the promotion of international justice and the peaceful settlement of disputes, as a State Party to the Statute of the Court and having made the declaration recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory. We encourage all Member States to continue to offer their support to the activities of the Court in order to promote international justice and the rule of law.

I thank you