69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Statement by the Algerian Delegation

Before the General Assembly

On agenda item 70

« Report of the International Court of Justice »

New York – October 30, 2014

Please check against delivery
Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to express our appreciation to the President of the International Court of Justice, the Honorable Judge Peter Tomka for the exhaustive report he presented on the activities of the Court during the period from August 1st 2013 to July 31st 2014.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to highlight the undeniable role of the International Court of Justice in promoting international peace and security, particularly through the fulfillment of its mandate relating to the peaceful settlement of dispute in conformity with the rules of international law and the principles of justice.

Indeed, despite the establishment of many specialized jurisdictions at the international and regional levels to address many emerging issues, the International Court of Justice remains the only jurisdiction that enjoys universality. The Court has a unique position within the international legal framework given the fact that it is embodied in the UN Charter as the principal judicial organ of the Organization. We may recall that its statute forms an integral part of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. President,

The Court’s work had grown significantly throughout the years, in terms of factual and legal complexity. The Court has been entrusted to resolve many contentious cases from all over the world, involving a wide range of subjects, such as territorial and maritime disputes, environmental damage, violation of territorial integrity, violation of international humanitarian law and human rights, and many other matters.

In this regard, my delegation reiterates its full support for the Court’s key role in ensuring the implementation of the provisions of international law, adjudicating disputes between States and providing advisory opinions to them and to international organizations on how best to assume their roles and functions.
In this context, we would like to emphasize on the importance for all States, without exceptions, to abide by their legal obligations and comply with the decisions of the International Court of Justice in cases to which they are parties.

It is also important for the United Nations, particularly the Security Council and the specialized agencies to request advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice when needed on legal questions. The high moral and legal value of the Court’s advisory opinions would, certainly, promote both the international peace and security and the rule of law.

Mr. President,

The positive contribution of the International Court of Justice in promoting and advancing the rule of law at the international level was strongly highlighted and valued by the Heads of State and Government during the High Level Meeting on the rule of law held in New York on September 24, 2012.

By fulfilling its two main functions, as mandated by the United Nations Charter, the International Court of Justice contributed, over the last six decades, in the development and codification of the rules of the international law and consolidated the principles of justice and equality on the international level.

Mr. President,

Finally, as outlined in the report, “the sustained level of activity on the part of the Court has been made possible thanks to a significant number of steps it has taken over recent years to enhance its efficiency and thereby enable it to cope with the steady increase in its workload”.

In this regard, my delegation commends all the efforts made, so far, in this perspective, and reaffirms its confidence in the ability of the Court to carry out its mission following the same meticulous and impartial methods with a high level of effectiveness.

I thank you.