



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY – AGENDA ITEM 73, REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

The International Court of Justice is the primary judicial body of the United Nations – the World’s Court. We applaud the ICJ’s significant contribution to the progressive development of international law and to the strengthening of the rule of law at the international level.

Mr. President,

The ICJ can only fully engage in the peaceful resolution of disputes when Member States are willing to accept its jurisdiction. Regrettably, only 73 UN Member States, have accepted the Court’s compulsory jurisdiction, which means nearly 2/3 of the UN membership have yet to do so. We therefore renew our call on all States to make declarations under Article 36 of the Statute of the ICJ in order to strengthen its reach and impact in line with the Declaration on promoting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice led by Romania. We also believe that, given the ICJ’s important relationship with the Security Council, all States aspiring to serve on the Council as Permanent Members as well as those with permanent seats, should set a positive example by accepting the Court’s compulsory jurisdiction.

Mr. President,

The importance of the International Court of Justice is also mirrored in the relevance of its pending cases and decisions. And, in this respect, it is important that third States also engage with the Court to provide their views and interpretations of relevant international law. This is why Liechtenstein has engaged, in particular, in the ICJ's pending advisory opinion over the legal consequences of the occupation of Palestine by Israel, and in the case of Ukraine v. Russian Federation on the Allegation of Genocide under the UN Genocide Convention. Liechtenstein submitted written pleadings in both cases. In the latter case, we also co-presented our position during the oral proceedings together with Austria, Czechia, and Slovakia.

And with respect to the ICJ's Myanmar v. Gambia case, we recall UNGA resolution 396 should guide all credentials decisions in the UN system, including before the International Court of Justice.

Mr. President,

The International Court of Justice, in its advisory capacity, plays an important role in providing clarity on complex questions of international law. This tool offers States authoritative guidance regarding the application of international law. Liechtenstein is encouraged by the growing trend of States seeking advisory opinions from the Court. This strengthens the role of this Assembly as a primary driver for resolving international legal uncertainties. In this context, we took an active part in Vanuatu's core group in seeking an advisory opinion from the ICJ on climate change. The Core Group is, in many ways, a testament to effective multilateralism. And, led by Vanuatu, it highlighted the ability of smaller nations to bring crucially important proposals before this Assembly.

Climate change is indeed a complex issue that affects us all in various ways and that raises many difficult questions. From weather extremes to sea level rise, the relentless impacts of climate change know no boundaries, affecting every corner of our world. In light of its status as the

paramount existential issue of our time, we need clear and well-reasoned legal answers to be able to address the challenge appropriately. We trust that the International Court of Justice will provide the clarity needed to navigate the complexities of international law concerning climate change, especially at the intersection with human rights. In this context, we affirm our commitment to making a submission to the ICJ in pursuit of these crucial answers, and look forward to its opinion and guidance on this vital global issue.

I thank you.