



STATEMENT BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON**

AT THE

**39TH PLENARY MEETING ON THE REPORT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
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I thank the President of the International Court of Justice, His Excellency Shi Jiuyong, for his statement. I also want to thank him for his strong words of support and encouragement on my tasks to promote reforms of the Organization and to ensure implementation of the principles agreed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

Before I give the floor to the next speaker I would like to echo and reaffirm the President's view that it has become clear to the international community that the International Court of Justice, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has a crucial and primary role to play in the peaceful settlement of international disputes and in the promotion and application of international law. Furthermore, experience has shown that recourse to the Court is a pacifying measure.

Here I would like to recall paragraph 73 of the Summit Outcome document, which emphasizes the obligation of States to settle their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including, when appropriate, by the use of the International Court of Justice. I also want to recall paragraph 134 (f) of the Outcome document, where our leaders at the summit recognized

“the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, call upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute and consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement

of Disputes through the International Court of Justice on a voluntary basis.”

The statement this morning by the President of the International Court of Justice is an important and timely reminder of the principles laid down and positions taken in the 2005 World Summit document.