



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 November 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my recent meeting with the President of the International Court of Justice, H.E. Judge Ronny Abraham.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Thomson

To all Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

PGA Office Memo: Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), on 26 October 2016

The President of the General Assembly met on 26 October 2016 with the President of the International Court of Justice, H.E. Ronny Abraham. The President of the ICJ informed the President of the high level of judicial activity that the Court experienced during this year.

The President of the General Assembly noted that this anniversary year for the Court was an occasion for Member States to reflect on the importance of the work of the main judicial organ of the United Nations and to continue the close collaboration between the General Assembly and the Court in the promotion of the ideals and aspirations of the United Nations. President Thomson noted that Member States from all regions of the world have repeatedly shown their confidence in the Court during these seven decades, and that the General Assembly has called for States that had not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute.

President Abraham pointed out that the cases submitted to the Court are of increasing factual and legal complexity and that the workload has grown considerably. He noted that the Court has enhanced its efficiency to be able to respond to those new challenges.

The President of the General Assembly noted that the Court has a key role in maintaining and promoting the rule of law and the peaceful settlements of disputes, and referred to the various initiatives related to Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The President of the Court highlighted that in early 2016 the ICJ learned that the General Assembly had reduced its budget by some 10 per cent compared with the previous biennium, at a time when the Court's activity is more intensive and without the traditional exchange of views between the two principal organs, which are fundamental to gain a better understanding of the specific needs of the Court. The President of the General Assembly informed the President of the ICJ that he would bring this issue to the attention of the Chair of the Fifth Committee and recalled the importance of the Court having the necessary resources to fulfil its role.

The President of the General Assembly thanked Judge Abraham for his visit and offered to continue close contact in the future.