



Security Council

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Date of an election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By a letter dated 13 January 2025, the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Nawaf Salam (Lebanon), informed the Vice-President of the Court, pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 4, of the Statute of the Court, of his resignation as a member of the Court, effective 14 January 2025. A copy of the letter from Judge Salam was forwarded to the Secretary-General by the Vice-President of the Court under a cover letter dated 14 January 2025. Therefore, a vacancy in the Court occurred on 14 January 2025, to be filled by election in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court.

2. Judge Salam was a member of the Court from 6 February 2018 and was appointed President of the Court on 6 February 2024. His term as a member of the Court would have expired on 5 February 2027.

3. Article 14 of the Statute of the Court provides that:

Vacancies shall be filled by the same method as that laid down for the first election, subject to the following provision: the Secretary-General shall, within one month of the occurrence of the vacancy, proceed to issue the invitations provided for in Article 5, and the date of the election shall be fixed by the Security Council.

4. Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court provides that:

At least three months before the date of the election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a written request to the members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration belonging to the States which are parties to the present Statute, and to the members of the national groups appointed under Article 4, paragraph 2, inviting them to undertake, within a given time, by national groups, the nomination of persons in a position to accept the duties of a member of the Court.

5. In view of the fact that the date of the election is to be fixed by the Security Council, the Council may wish to consider this question at an early meeting, taking into consideration that the request from the Secretary-General for nominations must be dispatched within one month of the occurrence of the vacancy and at least three months before the date of the election. The Secretary-General expects to issue the request for nominations as soon as possible.



6. The Security Council and the General Assembly will hold elections concurrently on the date fixed by the Council. The term of the newly elected judge will commence on the date that the successful candidate is elected by both bodies. In accordance with Article 15 of the Statute of the Court, the newly elected member of the Court will hold the office for the remainder of the predecessor's term, expiring on 5 February 2027.
