**SECURITY COUNCIL**

Private Meeting on the International Court of Justice

4 November 2015

**Statement**

Mr. President,

We start by thanking the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Ronny Abraham for presenting the Court's annual report and for his very insightful remarks

Of particular interest in Judge Abraham's *exposé* was the issue of the existing balance of powers between the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Court competence to interpret the Charter of the United Nations and its various pronouncements related to the particular functions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and the existing balance between their powers.

Mr. President,

We acknowledge and praise the invaluable contribution of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and recognize the key role played by the Court as a main organ of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, and for maintaining and promoting the rule of law in the international system.

As the report states, over the past 20 years the Court has been able to respond to new challenges resulting from the substantial increase in the number of cases brought before it, the associated incidental proceedings and the growing complexity of the cases under the Court's consideration.

We value the fact that the Court has to decide upon disputes voluntarily submitted by States, under their sovereign right. We further acknowledge that cases submitted to the Court have been growing, in factual and legal complexity.

As such, during the period under review the Court displayed a high amount of activity, being seized, among others, with contentious issues related to maritime and border delimitations, to the interpretation of treaties and by handing down orders in a number of cases and holding public hearings.

In this regard, the rulings and advisory opinions issued by the Court, have given a meaningful contribution to strengthening and clarifying the rules of international law.

Likewise, we welcome the Court endeavors to ensure that its decisions are publicized as widely as possible, both through its publications, the development of multimedia platforms, the use of social media networks and its own internet website containing its entire jurisprudence which contributes to a better knowledge and to raise awareness concerning its activities.

The contentious cases introduced in the Courts' list, involve States from all continents. The diverse geographical origin of cases under its global purview attests the universal character of the Court, while the variety of international relations issues submitted to the Court illustrates the universality of its nature, competences, but unfortunately not of its jurisdiction since most UN members didn't declare their acceptance.

Finally, Mr. President, it is our hope and expectation that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will continue its fundamental work in accordance with the stipulations of the UN Charter and its Statute, and giving a tangible contribution to the rule of law in the world and to international peace and security.

Thank you Mr. President.