

**Forum:** SPC 2

**Issue:** Strengthening the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

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## Introduction

As the top adjudicator of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) plays a crucial role in today's geopolitical landscape. Its responsibilities include resolving disputes among nations and interpreting global laws. Land and border disagreements and cross-border wars represent only two of the numerous issues characterising the current scene worldwide, made more complex by a web of political, economic, and ideological tensions. Given this context, strengthening the World Court's authority has become incredibly important and sits at the intersection of worldwide peace, law, and justice. Fundamentally, the matter under consideration relates to the effectiveness and applicability of an international court in settling conflicts and upholding the integrity of international law. The World Court, which was created as a venue for friendly resolution, faces several challenges in carrying out its mission.

Fundamentally, the matter under consideration concerns the effectiveness and applicability of an international court in settling conflicts and maintaining the integrity of international law. The ICJ, which was created as a venue for amicable settlement, has several obstacles in carrying out its mandate. These obstacles prevent it from functioning as a strong adjudicator in the global arena, ranging from restrictions on its jurisdiction and execution of verdicts to problems with accessibility and enforcement.

Supporting the ICJ's work is crucial for more reasons than just institutional fortification; it directly affects the stability and order of the international community. Adherence to established legal frameworks and the peaceful settlement of disputes become crucial factors in averting conflicts and sustaining international harmony, especially in an era marked by a multitude of complex interdependencies and various political landscapes. Through enhancing the International Court of Justice's operational capacity, the global community may utilise a valid and impartial means of resolving conflicts, reducing strains, and advancing a system based on regulations.

Furthermore, advancing justice globally is inextricably linked to fortifying the ICJ. The ICJ can play a significant role in the administration of justice by strengthening its ability to interpret and uphold international law. This will allow the ICJ to provide a neutral and equitable forum for the settlement of disputes, which will promote a feeling of equity and justice among states. In turn, this strengthens the bonds of collaboration and trust required for long-term peace and security in a world that is changing

quickly.

This research report aims to analyse the complex aspects of the ICJ's work and the obstacles it encounters, emphasising the vital importance of a strong and capable ICJ in maintaining international law, protecting the rule of law, and promoting international justice principles. Through the examination of the intricacies of its functioning, a determination of its challenges faced, and the presentation of possible solutions.

## Definition of Key Terms

### International Law

“The body of legal rules, norms, and standards that apply between sovereign states and other entities that are legally recognized as international actors.” (Britannica)

### Jurisdiction

“In law, the authority of a court to hear and determine cases. This authority is constitutionally based. Examples of judicial jurisdiction are: appellate jurisdiction, in which a superior court has power to correct legal errors made in a lower court; concurrent jurisdiction, in which a suit might be brought to any of two or more courts; and federal jurisdiction (as opposed, for example, to state jurisdiction).”

(Britannica)

### Rule of Law

“The rule of law is a political ideal that all citizens and institutions within a country, state, or community are accountable to the same laws, including lawmakers and leaders.” (Wikipedia)

### Sovereignty

The power of a country to control its own government.

### Peace Keeping

“Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates. UN peacekeepers provide security and the political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.” (United Nations)

### Global Governance

“Global governance refers to institutions that coordinate the behaviour of transnational actors, facilitate cooperation, resolve disputes, and alleviate collective action problems. Global governance broadly entails making, monitoring, and enforcing rules. Within global governance, a variety of types of actors – not just states – exercise power. Governance is thus broader than government.” (Britannica)

## Background Information

## Establishment of ICJ

In 1945, a deliberate attempt was made to create a judicial body under the United Nations' authority. The result of this was the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The result of this marked a turning point in the history of International Relations. To begin, the aftermath of World War II brought to light the destruction wrought by international disagreements and the pressing need for a better organised system to avert such in the future. The international community's realisation that using legal means to settle conflicts was essential to averting more disastrous conflicts, was what led to the creation of the ICJ. In order to promote a more peaceful international order, it sought to give governments a venue where they could voice concerns within a legal framework as opposed to taking forceful action. With its roots in the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was a part of the League of Nations, the ICJ was able to provide a model and a testing ground for a more potent international judicial organisation. The PCIJ's shortcomings and accomplishments influenced the ICJ's design, which placed a strong emphasis on the necessity of improved enforcement tools and more member state involvement.

Furthermore, member states delicately negotiated the UN Charter's formulation in order to achieve a balance between national sovereignty. In order to create an independent court while upholding national sovereignty, elements pertaining to the ICJ were included. ICJ was established as a foundation of international law, with the goal of preventing wars and promoting peace via the provision of a legal mechanism for dispute settlement. The ICJ's selection procedure was created to guarantee experience, objectivity, and representation from a variety of geographical areas. By creating a combination between geographical representation and legal skill, the nomination and election of justices sought to uphold the legitimacy and credibility of the court. This procedure attempted to represent the variety of legal traditions and viewpoints from across the world while fostering trust in the ICJ's rulings.

## Mandate

The International Court of Justice's main responsibility is to arbitrate legal disputes between sovereign governments. This function presents the ICJ as a venue where states can look for amicable settlements to disputes without using force. The court's jurisdiction extends to a wide range of controversial topics, such as human rights concerns, state accountability, treaty interpretation, and territorial conflicts. Examining this mission reveals the ICJ's crucial function in offering a legal pathway for conflict resolution, thereby aiding in the preservation of global peace and security. In addition to settling disputes, ICJ resolves conflicts and renders advisory judgements on legal matters brought before it by specialised agencies and authorised UN bodies. With the use of this mandate, the court is able to provide non-binding legal advice on issues pertaining to international law, which helps to establish and make sense of legal principles. Examining the advisory function of the ICJ clarifies the court's status as a reliable speaker of international law, offering advice to states and international organisations on legal

issues with global implications.

The task of interpreting and applying international law has been given to the ICJ. With the use of this mission, the court is able to resolve legal conflicts, examine intricate legal matters, and establish precedents that influence the evolution of international law. Understanding how the ICJ handles legal difficulties, strikes a balance between conflicting interests, and advances the development of international legal standards may be gained by examining the court's role in interpreting and applying international law. Promoting amicable conflict resolution is implicit in the ICJ's mandate. The ICJ promotes nations to resolve disputes via negotiation and legal procedures rather than through confrontation or unilateral action by offering a neutral, legal forum for states to submit their arguments and make binding rulings. Examining this portion of the mandate of the ICJ reveals its contribution to the principles of international peace and security.

The ICJ's mission has inherent enforcement limits, as may be seen from an analysis of it. Although the court has no direct means of enforcement, its rulings are binding. Enforcing its judgements is difficult because their effectiveness mostly rely on governments' voluntary compliance. Knowing these restrictions gives the ICJ insight into the real-world challenges it encounters in enforcing adherence to its rulings.

### Sources of international law

International law derives mostly from treaties and conventions. When resolving disputes or providing advisory opinions, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) interprets and applies treaties as legally binding agreements between nations. The importance of treaties in forming international legal duties and the ICJ's function in interpreting these accords to settle disputes between nations are highlighted by this source analysis. Furthermore, recognised as legally binding, customary international law is derived from the continuous actions of governments. When well-established state practises give rise to legal responsibilities, the ICJ adopts customary international law as the principal source and implements it. By examining customary law, the ICJ can interpret legal principles that have arisen from consistent state behaviour, which aids in the development and application of customary international law.

The ICJ uses generally accepted legal concepts as an additional source of international law, one that is acknowledged by civilised states. These tenets include legal notions shared by many legal systems around the globe, including justice, equity, and fairness. In situations when treaties or customary law may not be adequate, the ICJ can apply widely recognised legal standards and close gaps in international law by analysing these principles. Scholarly publications and court rulings both advance our knowledge of and comprehension of international law. Though not legally obligatory in and of themselves, the ICJ frequently cites convincing authorities such as prior court rulings, distinguished academics' teachings, and works by subject matter specialists in international law. By examining these sources, the court is able to take into account a variety of legal opinions and precedents, which helps to

shape its interpretations and explanations.

### Role of ICJ in peaceful settlement of disputes

Member states can settle legal problems amicably by going to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It encourages the use of legal channels rather than turning to military confrontation or unilateral action by giving governments a forum to submit their positions, have legal arguments, and get binding judgements. Examining the ICJ's role as a vehicle for resolving disputes brings to light its ability to lower tensions and stop conflicts from turning violent. Possible conflicts are discouraged by the ICJ's rulings being legally binding. States embroiled in conflict are aware that disobeying ICJ decisions jeopardises their standing and compels violations of international law. Examining the effects of binding rulings shows how the court may deter violent behaviour and promote adherence to the law, creating an environment conducive to peaceful relations among states.

States are encouraged to communicate and use diplomacy when the ICJ mediates conflicts. In order to reach a mutually agreeable resolution, the court's procedures frequently spark talks and negotiations between the parties. Examining this facet reveals the indirect ways in which the ICJ promotes diplomatic endeavours, collaboration, and chances for peaceful resolutions outside of the legal system. The ICJ helps to uphold international order by resolving disputes in accordance with international law. Its rulings support a norm-based international order by upholding the values of justice and fairness. Examining how the court maintains international order demonstrates how important it is to keeping the world system stable and averting disturbances.

By intervening in conflicts, the ICJ proactively resolves possible points of contention. The court reduces tensions and keeps disagreements from turning into major confrontations by providing a formal channel for resolving concerns. Examining the International Court of Justice's function in averting conflicts brings to light the court's proactive strategy for preserving world peace and security. The rulings rendered by the ICJ help to increase public trust in the effectiveness of international law. The court upholds confidence in the international legal system by rendering decisions that are clear and equitable. Examining this facet exposes the court's function in cultivating respect for international law as a means of peaceful settlement by advancing a sense of fairness and legitimacy in the eyes of the international community.

### Challenges faced by ICJ

Firstly, states' consent limits the ICJ's jurisdiction, which restricts its capacity to resolve conflicts. States must consent to be subject to the court's jurisdiction; otherwise, some conflicts may not fall under the court's jurisdiction. Examining this obstacle calls attention to the court's reliance on state approval, which may make it more difficult for it to resolve some difficult cases. A major obstacle is the absence of an official system for enforcing ICJ decisions. Although the court lacks an enforcement arm and thus rely on governments' voluntary cooperation, its rulings are binding. Examining this problem shows how difficult it is to enforce judgements, which can compromise the legitimacy and efficiency of the court.

States' interactions with the ICJ are frequently influenced by political factors in this highly politicised setting. Because they are worried about their sovereignty or the possible political fallout, certain governments could be reluctant to present disputes. Examining this difficulty highlights the fine line that must be drawn between political concerns and judicial processes in order to maintain the court's impartiality and accessibility. The nature of international issues means that legal processes at the ICJ can be drawn out and complicated. Long processes are frequently the result of cases involving complex legal arguments, copious amounts of documentation, and many legal systems. Examining this problem shows how difficult it is to expedite cases in reality, which might lead to delays and undermine prompt conflict settlement.

Furthermore, Both financial and personnel resources are scarce for the ICJ's operations. The court must effectively manage its caseload while striking a balance between expediency and quality. Examining this problem shows how important it is to have enough resources to handle the growing demand and maintain the efficiency of the court. The International Court of Justice is only accessible to states; non-state entities are not included. Dealing with conflicts involving non-state actors or entities without direct access to the courts becomes difficult as a result. Examining this case demonstrates the court's reach limitations, which affect its capacity to fully resolve some sorts of disputes.

### **Significance of adherence to international law**

Adherence for international law is essential to establishing a global system based on fairness, stability, and collaboration. Its importance is complex, providing a foundation for international interactions. International law offers a framework for international relations by defining precise standards and guidelines. This helps to prevent conflict and encourage amicable settlements through negotiation, arbitration, or adjudication. This commitment is essential for maintaining stability, keeping disagreements from turning into wars, and creating an environment that encourages collaboration.

Furthermore, by establishing guidelines that defend people and advance equality, international law acts as a defence for basic human rights and dignity. It serves as a mechanism for international collaboration, allowing governments to work together under the direction of common legal principles to handle issues like terrorism, climate change, and public health emergencies. But even with its intrinsic value, there are still obstacles to full compliance because of differing interpretations, uneven application, and sporadic transgressions by some governments. However, its ongoing significance stems from its function as a forum for discussion, responsibility, and the quest for a more harmonious and just global system.

### **Impact of ICJ decisions**

The international legal system is greatly influenced by ICJ rulings, which also aid in the development and implementation of international law. The court's decisions establish standards for precedent, providing clarification and interpretation of legal concepts that direct later cases and influence the evolution of international law. These rulings give governments and legal professionals a fundamental

framework by clarifying intricate legal problems and providing reliable interpretations; this promotes the coherence and uniformity of international law.

Furthermore, the International Court of Justice's rulings significantly impact diplomatic ties and international dispute settlement. The court's rulings offer a respectable and legally binding arena for amicably settling conflicts, which may reduce tensions and enhance bilateral or multilateral ties between governments. International Court of Justice rulings support international relations stability and dialogue by providing an unbiased forum for resolving disputed disputes.

These decisions also have a significant impact on state conduct and adherence to international legal duties. In order to preserve their credibility and conform to international norms, states often assess and modify their policies and acts in light of the court's rulings. Respecting ICJ decisions not only demonstrates a state's dedication to the rule of law but also establishes a standard for honouring international legal commitments, fostering a more stable and ordered world community. In general, rulings from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have a significant impact on how laws are interpreted, conflicts are settled, and governments behave in the international community.

## Major Countries and Organisations Involved

### United States of America (USA)

The United States' approach to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has consisted of alternating between selective cooperation, participation in litigation, and sporadic conflicts about jurisdiction. In situations like Nicaragua v. United States in the 1980s, when the ICJ found against the U.S. for interfering in Nicaragua's internal affairs, the U.S. has cooperated with the ICJ. But following the decision, the United States withdrew from the court's mandatory jurisdiction in 1986, raising concerns about the International Court of Justice's authority to hear cases involving the country's national security. Despite sporadic disagreements, the United Nations has also collaborated with the ICJ on a number of topics, respecting the court's role in resolving disputes between nations and contributing voluntarily to its operations. Nonetheless, the United States has frequently taken a cautious stance towards the ICJ, only seldom cooperating with the court due to concerns over jurisdiction and perceived national interests. This circumspect attitude is indicative of the United States' overall position on international institutions, wherein involvement is balanced with preservation of national interests and legal autonomy.

### China

China has shown a somewhat cautious approach when dealing with the court. Even though China signed the ICJ's statute and is a member of the UN, it hasn't participated much in the court's difficult issues. The nation frequently uses regional or bilateral negotiating processes as opposed to ICJ adjudication when handling international problems. China has been wary of situations that could jeopardise its territorial integrity or sovereignty and has favoured diplomatic resolutions over legal action. China has accepted the value of peacefully resolving disputes through the legal system, even with its

very limited interaction with the ICJ. China's position indicates a desire to retain control over delicate diplomatic affairs, favouring regional forums or bilateral talks over international arbitration as the principal means of resolving disputes.

### United Kingdom (UK)

In relation to disagreements and advisory opinions, the United Kingdom (UK) and the International Court of Justice have occasionally interacted. In the past, the UK has litigated issues pertaining to its overseas territories, maritime borders, and territorial disputes before the ICJ. In addition to adhering to ICJ rulings, the UK has used the court's advisory competence to get legal clarification on a number of international law concerns. But like other major powers, the UK only sometimes interacts with the ICJ, frequently weighing its involvement according to legal and perceived national interests. The United Kingdom's involvement indicates a dedication to the tenets of international law and the judiciary's function in settling conflicts. However, the nation emphasises its legal autonomy and national interests in international affairs by maintaining discretion in selecting when and how to intervene in disputed issues before the ICJ.

### World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The World Trade Organisation is an international organisation whose main goals are to settle trade disputes between its member nations and to regulate trade ties globally. Even though the ICJ and the WTO serve different purposes, trade disputes can raise issues of international law that fall under the jurisdiction of both organisations. Parties may request advisory opinions or clarification from the ICJ in commercial disputes involving intricate legal interpretations or concerns pertaining to principles of international law. Because of its proficiency in interpreting international legal standards, the ICJ can give advice or sway judgements in the field of trade law, which may have an effect on WTO dispute settlement rulings by providing clarification on more general legal concepts.

### International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Operating under the auspices of international humanitarian law, the ICRC promotes adherence to the rules of war and protects victims of armed conflict. Despite having distinct functions, the ICJ and ICRC occasionally collaborate on issues pertaining to the implementation or interpretation of international humanitarian law. If the ICJ needs advice or professional insight on matters pertaining to humanitarian law, it may consult the ICRC. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) may adopt a more humanitarian law-focused stance in cases involving the ICRC due to its practical experience with humanitarian emergencies and its knowledge of international humanitarian law.

## Timeline of Events

Date (start - end)	Name	Description
24 October, 1945	United Nations Charter	The Charter of the United Nations (UN) is the



		foundational treaty of the United Nations, an intergovernmental organisation. It establishes the purposes, governing structure, and overall framework of the UN system
26 June, 1945	Statute of International Court of Justice	A part of the United Nations Charter which establishes the ICJ
23 May, 1969	Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties	The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties is an international agreement that regulates treaties among sovereign states; the VCLT is a codification of customary international law and state practice concerning treaties.
June 27, 1980	Nicaragua vs. United States	United States. The Republic of Nicaragua v. The United States of America was a case where the International Court of Justice held that the U.S. had violated international law by supporting the Contras in their rebellion against the Sandinistas and by mining Nicaragua's harbours.

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- United Nations Charter, Chapter XIV, 1945
- Statute of the International Court of Justice, 1945
- Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties, 1969
- Resolution 71/6, 2017
- Resolution 36/92, 1981

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

### Reform discussions within the ICJ

Historically, the goal of reform discussions inside the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has been to improve the court's capacity to operate and adjust to changing international legal environments. The focus was on handling jurisdictional issues, controlling caseloads, and streamlining procedures. In order to facilitate faster proceedings, member states and legal experts held discussions about how to improve case management and dispute resolution procedures. Despite these initiatives, the multilateral structure

of the court made it difficult to accomplish significant reforms. The implementation of significant changes was frequently impacted by the problems of striking a balance between the various interests and legal systems of member states. However, these talks represented a proactive strategy to overcome practical obstacles and guarantee the International Court of Justice's continuous significance in resolving international conflicts amid the intricate dynamics of world affairs.

### Amendments of the ICJ Statute

Past efforts to modify the founding charter of the International Court of Justice aimed to address specific procedural gaps, jurisdictional boundaries or operational issues requiring attention. Dialogue around potential adjustments sought to customise the court's framework for modern legal complexities and strengthen its problem-solving abilities. Proposals for change often originated from member nations and legal experts, targeting areas like jurisdictional clarity, the advisory role of the court, or the selection and tenure of judges. However, achieving full agreement on significant alterations to the charter proved intricate, necessitating unanimity among member states while frequently encountering differing interpretations of international law principles. This challenge in reaching unanimous consensus limited implementing comprehensive adjustments. Regardless, discussions surrounding amendments to the ICJ charter illustrated a proactive strategy to adapt the court's functions, confirming its relevance and effectiveness as the global landscape of law and conflict resolution continues evolving.

## Possible Solutions

### Enhancing Jurisdiction and Accessibility:

#### 1. Expanding Compulsory Jurisdiction -

Encouraging additional governments to accept the International Court of Justice's obligatory jurisdiction under Article 36(2) of the ICJ Statute is a step towards expanding the court's jurisdiction. By encouraging governments to choose judicial settlement rather than other means of conflict resolution, this expansion seeks to increase the court's jurisdiction to decide cases. In order to do this, lobbying campaigns, multilateral discussions, and diplomatic initiatives might emphasise the advantages of recognising the ICJ's mandatory jurisdiction. This extension strengthens the court's position as the go-to venue for settling conflicts, advancing legal stability, and encouraging a unified interpretation of international law.

There are, however, restrictions on the growth of mandatory jurisdiction. Concerns about national sovereignty, possible restrictions on their ability to make decisions, or mistrust of the ICJ's objectivity may cause certain governments to refuse to accede to compulsory jurisdiction. Furthermore, not all issues may be covered by compulsory jurisdiction; for example, disputes arising out of treaties or agreements could need the assent of both parties in order to be decided. Expanding obligatory jurisdiction can only be successful if governments are persuaded of the advantages of using the ICJ as a trustworthy and unbiased venue for resolving disputes.

## **2. Promoting Legal Assistance and Capacity Building**

The goal of fostering legal aid and capacity building is to help states in comprehending and efficiently interacting with the procedures of the ICJ. States can improve their ability to successfully present arguments and evidence in court by navigating the processes through capacity-building programmes, workshops, and technical assistance efforts. This strategy aims to encourage fair engagement in the court's operations, particularly for states with little access to or experience with the judicial system. This initiative aims to improve state comprehension of the ICJ's processes and methods, which will promote more involvement and adherence to the court's rulings.

However, there are obstacles to putting such programmes into practice everywhere. Challenges include limited resources, disparate legal systems, and variable degrees of legal knowledge among the states. Furthermore, even while capacity building improves communication, differences in resources and legal counsel between states may still exist, which might have an impact on the equality of parties in court. Initiatives to create capacity and provide legal aid must have consistent backing, be specifically designed, and have the cooperation of the states in order to be effective. Ultimately, even if the goals of these solutions are to improve accessibility and jurisdiction, their success depends on removing obstacles, guaranteeing equitable access, and gaining broad governmental support.

### **Enforcing ICJ Rulings:**

#### **1. Developing mechanisms for monitoring and reporting**

Creating organisations to supervise and document adherence to ICJ orders is a necessary step in the establishment of monitoring systems. This may mean that states engaged in litigation provide reports on a regular basis outlining the steps they have taken to abide by court rulings. Furthermore, it could be the responsibility of the ICJ or another pertinent international organisation to keep an eye on compliance and provide regular updates on the state of implementation. By improving accountability, openness, and visibility of compliance efforts, these methods seek to highlight how crucial it is to abide by ICJ rulings.

Several constraints may make it difficult for monitoring methods to effectively oversee adherence to ICJ judgements. Some jurisdictions may be reluctant to publicly disclose their compliance efforts due to worries about sovereignty, since they may view external monitoring as an infringement on their personal freedom. Furthermore, limited resources may make it difficult to establish reliable monitoring systems, particularly in smaller or less developed countries. Moreover, depending solely on self-reporting and voluntary compliance may result in biased or inadequate reporting, which might compromise the legitimacy and openness of monitoring initiatives.

#### **2. Encouraging multilateral sanctions or consequences**

Gathering support from many nations or international organisations to impose collective repercussions on non-compliant parties is necessary to encourage multilateral sanctions or penalties for

non-compliance. These repercussions could take the form of diplomatic actions, financial penalties, or privilege limits applied until compliance is attained. The goal is to demonstrate the world community's commitment to preserving the rule of law and honouring its legal commitments by using collective pressure to encourage adherence to ICJ verdicts.

Several obstacles may prevent the application of multilateral sanctions or repercussions to enforce ICJ verdicts. Divergent geopolitical priorities among the involved countries may give rise to disputes on the extent or application of sanctions, impeding the attainment of a consensus. Reaching consensus among heterogeneous governments to apply penalties may be difficult since some may be reluctant or unwilling to back punitive actions. Furthermore, there's a chance that penalties may exacerbate conflicts or retaliatory acts rather than encourage compliance, raising tensions between governments.

### **3. Facilitating mediation and arbitration**

An other method of resolving conflicts resulting from disregard for ICJ rulings is to facilitate mediation or arbitration. Offering mediation and arbitration services can provide noncompliant parties with a channel for negotiation and the discovery of win-win solutions. This strategy seeks to reduce disputes that result from disregard for court orders by promoting a collaborative atmosphere where disputes may be settled without the need for additional legal action or confrontation.

Limitations may hinder the efficacy of mediation and arbitration as tools for resolving conflicts resulting from disregard for ICJ judgements. The mediation process may be hampered by noncompliant parties' resistance to participating in additional discussions. Any resistance or reluctance to take part might make it more difficult for arbitration to produce mutually beneficial agreements. Furthermore, in difficult international conflicts, it may not always be possible for all parties to negotiate in good faith, which is a prerequisite for the success of mediation and arbitration.

## **Increasing transparency and Public Awareness:**

### **1. Publishing annual reports**

The International Court of Justice and member governments collaborate in publishing yearly reports on adherence to its judgements. States would be invited to provide detailed information about how they have complied with ICJ rulings, maybe using uniform reporting formats. These reports aim to increase openness because they are publicly available through official channels such as the ICJ website or UN platforms. They would provide a thorough picture of governments' compliance efforts, encouraging more responsibility and comprehension of the degree to which ICJ decisions are adhered to.

There may be certain restrictions on the proposal to publish yearly reports in an effort to increase openness. It is possible that some states will not voluntarily supply complete data for these reports, which might result in data gaps or inaccurate depictions of compliance efforts. Furthermore, there may be different interpretations or biases in reporting conformity with ICJ orders, which raises questions about

the authenticity and dependability of the material in these reports. Furthermore, it may be difficult to maintain the timeliness and consistency of these reports' publication, which may limit their value and efficacy in promoting openness.

## **2. Hosting public events and webinars**

Together with academic institutions, civil society organisations, and international organisations, the ICJ might provide webinars, public events, and instructional sessions. The goal of these events is to engage a variety of audiences, including the general public, legal professionals, and students. They will be promoted through a variety of channels. The subject matter would include the importance of international law in world events, examinations of historic cases, and explanations of ICJ procedures. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) aims to raise public knowledge and comprehension of its procedures and importance by holding public events and webinars. These interactions are intended to promote active involvement, demystify legal procedures, and ignite a conversation about international law.

There are restrictions on the influence of public events and webinars, despite the fact that their goal is to raise public knowledge. Due to logistical or technological limitations, some communities or areas may not have equal access to these activities, which might be a problem for accessibility. Furthermore, depending on the participation and interest of the audience, the efficacy of these public education programmes may differ. It could be difficult to elicit broad interest in and participation in these activities, which could restrict their impact and reach in terms of raising public knowledge of ICJ proceedings.

## **3. Establishing public information portals**

The ICJ could develop publically available, user-friendly web portals that offer extensive data on cases, rulings, and court procedures. These websites might provide multilingual content, judgement summaries, instructional materials, and definitions of legal terminology. They would also be updated on a regular basis. To guarantee widespread access and utilisation, social media promotion, alliances with foreign organisations, and cooperation with national governments would be essential. Establishing public information portals is to give accessible and useful materials to the general public, fostering openness and understanding of the ICJ's activities. By bridging the knowledge gap between the general public and legal language, these websites want to encourage people to participate more actively in international law.

Ensuring widespread access and usefulness of public information portals may present challenges. Certain populations may not have access to these portals due to differences in the technical infrastructure of different governments or areas. Furthermore, it may require a lot of resources to maintain and update these portals often in order to offer up-to-date and pertinent information, which might make it difficult to maintain their efficacy. The inclusion and thoroughness of these information portals may be impacted by the difficulty of ensuring multilingual material and culturally sensitive information.

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