



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2021

Original: English

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

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By a letter dated 31 May 2021, the Registrar of the Court informed the Secretary-General of the death of Judge James Richard Crawford (Australia) on that date and of the resulting occurrence of a vacancy in the Court.
2. Judge Crawford was a member of the Court since 6 February 2015. His term would have expired on 5 February 2024.
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:

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, it is suggested that the Council might wish to consider this question at an early meeting, taking into consideration that the request for nominations by the Secretary-General 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 requests for nominations as soon as possible.
6. The Security Council and the General Assembly will hold elections concurrently on the date fixed by the Security 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 term of the predecessor, which expires on 5 February 2024.

(Signed) António Guterres

