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Report of the International Court of Justice

Swiss Statement

presented by
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Directorate of Public International Law

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like first of all to thank the president of the International Law Commission for the presentation of the report of the International Court of Justice. I would also like to thank the president of the court.

Switzerland firmly advocates a stable and just international order, to which international jurisdictions and the International Court of Justice in particular, make a major contribution. Switzerland believes that the International Court of Justice plays an irreplaceable role. From the outset it has recognized the competence of the court, and it invites all other states to do so. All states should bring their differences before the court so that they can be settled peacefully. The increasing number of legal matters and issues being brought before the court underlines the trust placed in it by the international community.

My delegation also salutes the measures taken by the court to improve its effectiveness and to cope with the increasing number of cases brought before it. It supports the court in its undertakings to ensure its efficiency.

Mr. Chairman,

The International Court of Justice devoted some paragraphs in its report to the case of *Belgium v. Switzerland*. My delegation is pleased with the rapid settlement of this case but would like to make the following clarification: in its report, the court quotes word for word the letter in which Belgium announced its withdrawal. In the letter, Belgium refers to and paraphrases paragraph 85 of Switzerland's preliminary exceptions. However it goes without saying that only the original text of paragraph 85 of the preliminary exceptions expresses Switzerland's unwavering position.

Mr. Chairman, I am convinced that in its activities the International Court of Justice will continue its specific efforts to bring about a more peaceful world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.