

Delegates of the International Court of Justice,

As the principle judicial organ of the United Nations (UN), the International Court of Justice serves as the guardian of international law. Situated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, the ICJ was established in 1945 as a way of settling disputes between countries. Its significance lies in its authority to influence diplomacy, negotiations, and the rapid developments of international law, embodying the UN's commitment to peacefully addressing conflict within the global legal framework. Through dealing with contentious cases, the ICJ is responsible for a vast advancement in the realm of humanitarian law, advocating for justice, and shaping global standards on human rights.

The ICJ exercises its authority primarily through two types of cases: contentious cases and advisory opinions. These cover topics such as maritime and territorial disputes, use of force and self-defense, international treaty violations, diplomatic and consular protection. At AMMUN, the ICJ is represented in a way that reflects the proceedings of the real Court. Delegates are split into advocates and judges: advocates will present their case, each aiming to sway the verdict in their favor by proving or disproving a country's guilt, while judges will listen carefully, scrutinize every argument, engage in insightful deliberations, and ensure that justice is served through a fair verdict.

This year's AMMUN theme 'Deliberate to Liberate' is proficiently aligned with the framework of the ICJ. By carefully examining arguments, evidence, and legal principles before making a decision, the Court displays deliberative reasoning. In doing so, it seeks to liberate countries from injustice, conflict, and instability. Advocates and judges must keep the theme in mind during all stages of the court ensuring they do not lose sight of diplomacy and the importance of making informed decisions in the pursuit of justice.

Considering the fact that AMMUN is a THIMUN-affiliated conference, delegates of the ICJ, whether advocates or judges, are expected to arrive fully prepared, having researched the case prior to the conference. Advocates, in particular, should ensure their written and presented material is complete in advance. Through this, all delegates will be able to engage coherently in heated debate and deliberation while respecting court procedure. The chairing panel is ready to facilitate the advocates through navigating their pre-conference tasks, as well as guide all delegates throughout the conference, contributing to a more meaningful and productive Court experience.

Raya Alami,

President of the International Court of Justice