Honourable Advocates and Judges of the International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations. It was founded in 1945 with the signing of the UN Charter and started operations in 1946. This court succeeded the Permanent Court of International Justice. This international tribunal is situated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. The ICJ comprises 15 judges appointed by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

The ICJ is an institution established to settle legal disputes between states using peaceful means. This is done through hearing contentious cases that pertain to matters such as territorial disputes, breaches of international treaties, state immunity, diplomatic issues, and use of force, among others. The court can also provide advisory opinions at the request of certain bodies and specialized agencies within the UN. Unlike the ICC, the ICJ does not prosecute individuals.

The ICJ plays an important role in maintaining international peace and strengthening the application of international law. The rulings made by the court interpret and apply various treaties and legal principles. Although the court may have to be asked by states to exercise its jurisdiction in a particular matter, it carries weight legally and diplomatically.

During the AMMUN XXV conference, delegates will act as either the advocates or judges in the ICJ. Advocates represent the states and make their legal arguments, while judges ask questions to both sides, evaluate their arguments objectively, and deliver a ruling.

This year's theme, 'Moderating Morality ', refers to the difficulty of reconciling the two concepts in international law since oftentimes international disputes involve issues of different justices, but the court is obligated to decide using facts and international law. As such, delegates need to take into consideration the moral aspects of the cases while being objective.

Jana Abdo
President of the International Court of Justice