



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 April 2025

Original: English

Eightieth session

Item 137 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2026

Proposed programme budget for 2026

Part III

International justice and law

Section 7

International Court of Justice

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
A. Proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024**	2
Overall orientation	2
Programme of work	3
B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2026***	8
Overview	8
Members of the Court	12
Registry	13
Programme support	15
Annexes	
I. Organizational structure and post distribution for 2026	16
II. Summary of proposed post changes, by component	17

* [A/80/50](#).

** The part consisting of the proposed programme plan for 2026 is submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly in accordance with the established budgetary procedures and practices reaffirmed in paragraph 7 of resolution [77/267](#).

*** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly.



A. Proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

- 7.1 The International Court of Justice is responsible for settling, in accordance with international law, legal disputes that are submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by bodies authorized to do so under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations. It is composed of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council and is one of six principal organs of the United Nations and the principal judicial organ of the Organization. It functions in accordance with the Statute of the Court, which is an integral part of the Charter. All 193 States Members of the United Nations are Parties to the Statute, and 74 of them have recognized the Court's jurisdiction as compulsory, in line with Article 36, paragraph 2, of its Statute. In addition, more than 300 bilateral and multilateral treaties grant the Court compulsory jurisdiction in the resolution of various types of disputes. States that are not members of the United Nations may become Parties to the Statute on conditions to be determined in each case by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The Court may also be open to States not Parties to its Statute, subject to the conditions laid down by the Security Council and set out in its resolution [9 \(1946\)](#), adopted on 15 October 1946. The Court submits annual reports to the Assembly, the most recent of which is contained in document [A/79/4](#). Under the terms of regulation 2.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the programme budget proposals of the Court are prepared by the Court, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and are submitted to the Assembly by the Secretary-General, together with such observations as the latter may deem desirable.
- 7.2 Although the Court cannot forecast its main workload indicators (e.g. the number of cases that will be pending before the Court in 2026 and the number of new proceedings that will be instituted, as well as the number of incidental proceedings in pending cases), it has made every effort to assess its requirements for 2026 against the background of its workload for the current and previous budgetary periods.
- 7.3 While the Court has no control over the volume of its activities, it must at all times be able to exercise the functions entrusted to it under the Charter. New cases are brought before the Court by States, and advisory opinions are requested of the Court by authorized organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, all of whom may seize the Court at any time. When a case is pending before the Court, it is not possible to anticipate whether and when recourse will be made to incidental proceedings (e.g. requests for provisional measures or interventions). Historically, there have been significant variations in the number of new proceedings commenced in a given year, although in recent times there has been an upward trend in the Court's caseload. In order to meet the demands of its workload, the Court now routinely considers three cases simultaneously. In 2024, the Court was seized of four new cases, including one request for an advisory opinion, the fourth such request since 2023. In 2024, the Court also delivered four judgments, one advisory opinion and five orders on requests for the indication or modification of provisional measures. During the same period, the Court held nine sets of hearings, including two in advisory proceedings, one of which involved the participation of 96 States and 11 international organizations. With 26 cases pending on its General List as at 30 April 2025 – which involve, inter alia, 133 States Members of the United Nations – the Court will no doubt maintain its increased judicial workload in the years to come.
- 7.4 The workload represented by each case filed with the Court is high. In principle, the parties to cases brought before the Court each submit one set of written pleadings to the Court: a memorial and a counter-memorial. The Court may authorize them to submit a further set of pleadings, namely, a reply and a rejoinder. In practice, these additional pleadings are almost always submitted. The pleadings are tending to become increasingly voluminous, notwithstanding the Court's appeals to the parties not to repeat arguments already exposed. Hearings can also be long and complex, depending on the nature of the case. In cases involving difficult factual issues (e.g. of a highly technical character), parties may call witnesses and experts to testify. In addition, in recent years, a number of States have intervened in contentious proceedings, including at hearings. Once it has heard the submissions of the

parties, the Court delivers a decision within as short a time as possible, allowing for the complexity of the case. The entire proceedings must be conducted simultaneously in both of the Court's official languages, English and French, both at the written and oral stages and during deliberations.

- 7.5 In deciding the cases submitted to it, the Court renders decisions that form a coherent body of jurisprudence and which may assist in preventing disputes that could arise between other States. In addition, in giving advisory opinions in response to the requests of duly authorized organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Court facilitates the proper functioning of the United Nations system and contributes to preventive diplomacy and the development of international law.
- 7.6 Given that the Court is both a judicial body and an international institution that is administratively independent from the Secretariat, its Registry must provide assistance to the Court in the exercise of its judicial functions as well as managing the administrative and budgetary matters of an international secretariat. The Registry is headed by the Registrar, assisted by the Deputy-Registrar, who both are elected by the Court for a term of seven years each and may be re-elected. In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 2, of the Statute, the staff of the Registry are appointed by the Court. The Court adopts its own staff regulations.

Programme of work

Registry

Objective

- 7.7 The objective, to which the Registry contributes, is to ensure that the needs of the Court are met in an efficient and effective manner for the sound administration of international justice and the fulfilment by the Court of its mandate under the Charter.

Strategy and external factors for 2026

- 7.8 To contribute to the objective, the Registry will:
- (a) Respond to the needs of the Court in carrying out its judicial activities;
 - (b) Ensure the timely provision of substantive, conference, secretariat and documentation services and legal, diplomatic, linguistic and technical support in cases pending before the Court.
- 7.9 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in the needs of the Court being met in an effective and efficient manner in 2026.
- 7.10 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2026 is based on the planning assumption that the Court's judicial activities in 2026 will involve as high a level of work as in 2024 and 2025.
- 7.11 With regard to cooperation with other entities, the Registry of the Court will continue to cooperate closely with United Nations offices and institutions in 2026.

Programme performance in 2024

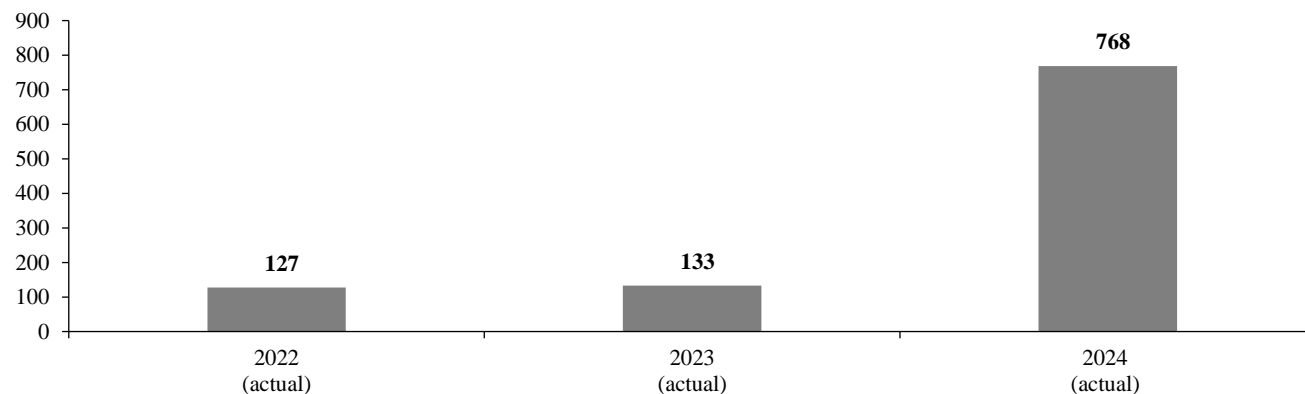
Increased visibility and understanding of the Court's activities among the general public

- 7.12 The work of the Registry contributed to making the public sittings of the Court (oral proceedings and delivery of the Court's decisions) more broadly accessible to representatives of the international media community and documentary film-makers. The Court adapted to the increase in its caseload and associated interest from journalists and film-makers by providing additional on-site facilities to allow all interested media representatives to attend sittings. The Registry further enhanced the dissemination of case-related background materials and increased support for individual film projects. These efforts contributed to increased visibility and understanding of the Court's activities among the general public.

7.13 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 7.I).

Figure 7.I

Performance measure: number of international media representatives and documentary film-makers accredited to attend public sittings of the Court (annual)



Planned results for 2026

Result 1: increased dissemination of the Court's publications

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

7.14 The Registry's work contributed to the availability in the United Nations iLibrary of six *Bibliographies* listing works and documents relating to the Court, eight volumes of *Acts and Documents concerning the Organization of the Court*, five editions of the *C.I.J. Annuaire-I.C.J. Yearbook*, 35 volumes in the series of *Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents* and the commemorative book published to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Court, and to improved accessibility of the Court's publications on the redesigned "Publications" page on the Court's website, which met the planned target.

7.15 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 7.1).

Table 7.1

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Access by the general public to the anniversary book and the new catalogue of the Court's publications since 1946	Persons with print disabilities, including persons with a visual impairment, have access to the anniversary book; access by the general public to a catalogue of new publications and the entire set of the reprinted decisions of the Permanent Court of International Justice	Access by the general public to an increased digital collection of International Court of Justice publications in the United Nations iLibrary and on the redesigned "Publications" page on the Court's website	Access by the general public to an updated version of the Court's <i>Handbook</i> , a booklet of official case citations of the Permanent Court of International Justice and the International Court of Justice, and an interactive catalogue of new titles	Access by the general public to a commemorative publication, in English and French, to mark the eightieth anniversary of the Court

Result 2: enhanced process of transmission and receipt of documents relating to judicial proceedings

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

- 7.16 The Registry's work contributed to the United Nations Secretariat receiving documents and notifications through electronic means, where appropriate, following the conclusion of a protocol establishing modalities for the electronic transfer of documents between the Registry of the Court and the United Nations Secretariat, which met the planned target.
- 7.17 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 7.2).

Table 7.2
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
–	Member States and States entitled to appear before the Court receive case-related letters through electronic means, where appropriate	United Nations Secretariat receives documents and notifications through electronic means, where appropriate	Additional categories of case-related documents (written pleadings, hearing programmes and judges' folders for hearings) are distributed through electronic means, where appropriate	Enhanced use of electronic means for case-related documents and decrease in the number of hard copies filed by parties and participants in the Court's proceedings

Result 3: increased availability of information about the Court on social media platforms

Proposed programme plan for 2026

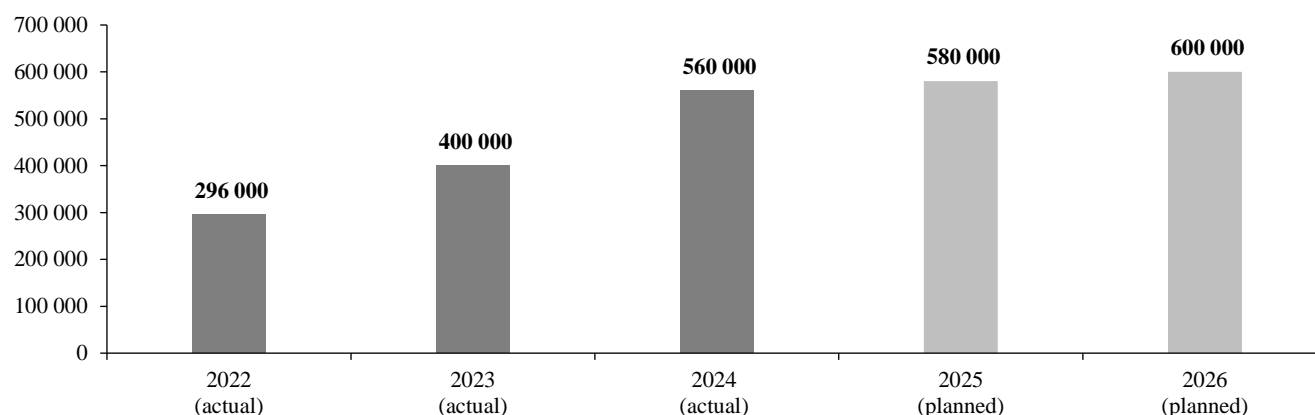
- 7.18 The work of the Court generates broad interest from a variety of stakeholders. The Registry uses social media platforms, among other tools, to cater to the information needs of different target audiences. Since 2015, the Registry has launched accounts on social media platforms to disseminate news, press releases, announcements and live streams of hearings, publications, vacancies, informational documents and videos, and quotes from Court officials. Since their launch, the Court's social media accounts have garnered an increasing number of followers.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 7.19 The lesson for the Registry was that information on the Court's role as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and its activities could be made more broadly available to different target audiences by further diversifying the Court's online presence on social media platforms and increasing its activity thereon. In applying the lesson, the Registry will consider expanding its online presence on such platforms and making better use of the specific features that each individual platform offers, thus allowing more stakeholders to access information in a timely manner and contributing to strengthening the global reach and visibility of the Court.
- 7.20 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 7.II).

Figure 7.II

Performance measure: number of followers on the Court's social media platforms



Legislative mandates

- 7.21 The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its activities are governed by the Charter of the United Nations and by its Statute, which forms an integral part of the Charter. Pursuant to its Statute, the Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

Deliverables

- 7.22 Table 7.3 lists all deliverables of the Registry.

Table 7.3

Registry: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Annual report of the Court to the General Assembly	1	1	1	1
Judicial documentation (number of judgments, advisory opinions and orders)	Unforeseeable^a	28	Unforeseeable^a	Unforeseeable^a
2. Judgments, advisory opinions and orders	Unforeseeable ^a	28	Unforeseeable ^a	Unforeseeable ^a
Substantive services for judicial proceedings (number of documents)	1 585	2 973	2 300	2 700
3. Preparation of documents (minutes of private meetings of the Court, case-related letters and distributions prepared, memorandums, speeches, etc.)	1 585	2 973	2 300	2 700
Conference and secretariat services for judicial proceedings (number of three-hour sittings)	165	194	164	175
4. Interpretation at private meetings and public hearings of the Court	165	194	164	175
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	2	2	2	2
5. Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
6. Meetings of the Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
Documentation services for judicial proceedings (thousands of words)	32 800	55 265	41 300	47 600
7. Translation of documents related to the Court's judicial activities	7 800	13 305	9 300	10 600
8. Processing (editing and proofreading) of documents related to the Court's judicial activities	25 000	41 960	32 000	37 000

Section 7 International Court of Justice

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	30	43	35	50
9. Presentations, briefings, workshops and conferences on proceedings of the Court for the diplomatic and legal community	30	43	35	50
Publications of the Court (number of publications)	39	51	90	94
10. Applications/special agreements (including annexes)	Unforeseeable ^a	5	Unforeseeable ^a	Unforeseeable ^a
11. <i>ICJ Reports</i> : bound volumes of judgments, advisory opinions and orders of the Court	2	2	2	2
12. Relevant chapter in the <i>Basic Facts about the United Nations</i> guidebook ^b	1	1	1	1
13. Pleadings series volumes	31 ^c	36 ^c	80 ^c	84 ^c
14. <i>C.I.J. Annuaire/I.C.J. Yearbook</i>	1	1	1	1
15. Other publications of the Court (non-recurrent, reprints, publications for special occasions (illustrated books, handbooks, etc.))	4	6	6	6

^a It is inherently impossible to forecast the number of cases that will be pending before the Court and the number of new proceedings that will be instituted, including incidental proceedings in pending cases.

^b In 2024, the Court's contribution on its work was included in the *Basic Facts about the United Nations* guidebook, instead of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, which was discontinued in 2024.

^c Includes the annexes to the pleadings, which are processed using Quick Response (QR) Codes. These annexes are accounted for at a rate of 1,000 pages per volume.

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2026

Overview

- 7.23 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 7.4 to 7.6.

Table 7.4

Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes					2026 estimate
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Posts	15 751.6	16 999.3	480.7	—	1 051.0	1 531.7	9.0	18 531.0
Other staff costs	2 624.5	3 449.8	(129.0)	—	129.0	—	—	3 449.8
Non-staff compensation	8 530.8	8 783.9	—	—	41.0	41.0	0.5	8 824.9
Hospitality	8.9	10.2	—	—	31.9	31.9	312.7	42.1
Consultants	42.6	48.7	—	—	—	—	—	48.7
Experts	1.4	85.2	—	—	(30.2)	(30.2)	(35.4)	55.0
Travel of staff	72.3	73.1	—	—	19.9	19.9	27.2	93.0
Contractual services	1 935.2	1 899.2	(117.2)	99.8	347.1	329.7	17.4	2 228.9
General operating expenses	2 464.6	2 593.6	(54.3)	—	156.2	101.9	3.9	2 695.5
Supplies and materials	265.4	271.1	(4.2)	—	51.5	47.3	17.4	318.4
Furniture and equipment	228.9	307.3	—	—	118.1	118.1	38.4	425.4
Grants and contributions	105.8	140.2	—	—	(15.9)	(15.9)	(11.3)	124.3
Total	32 032.0	34 661.6	176.0	99.8	1 899.6	2 175.4	6.3	36 837.0

Table 7.5

Overall: proposed posts and post changes for 2026

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2025	125	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 19 P-4, 19 P-3, 22 P-2/1, 6 GS (PL), 52 GS (OL)
Establishment	15	1 Copy Preparer/Proofreader/Production Officer (French) (P-3), 4 Associate Legal Officers (P-2), 1 Associate Data Protection and Privacy Officer (P-2), 1 Language and Desktop Publishing Assistant (GS (OL)), 1 Human Resources Assistant (GS (OL)), 1 Digital Communications Assistant (GS (OL)) and 4 Security Officers (GS (OL)), and two temporary posts (1 Digital Communications Officer (P-3) and 1 Computational Linguist (P-3)), all under the Registry
Reclassification	—	Upward reclassification of 1 Legal Officer from P-3 to P-4 and 1 Associate Administrative Officer from P-2 to P-3 (to be reassigned as a Human Resources Officer), both under the Registry
Proposed for 2026	140	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 20 P-4, 22 P-3, 26 P-2/1, 6 GS (PL), 59 GS (OL)

Note: The following abbreviations are used in the tables and figures: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

Table 7.6

Overall: proposed posts by category and grade

(Number of posts)

Category and grade	2025 approved	Changes			Total	2026 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Professional and higher						
ASG	1	—	—	—	—	1
D-2	1	—	—	—	—	1
D-1	1	—	—	—	—	1
P-5	4	—	—	—	—	4
P-4	19	—	—	1	1	20
P-3	19	—	—	3	3	22
P-2/1	22	—	—	4	4	26
Subtotal	67	—	—	8	8	75
General Service and related						
GS (PL)	6	—	—	—	—	6
GS (OL)	52	—	—	7	7	59
Subtotal	58	—	—	7	7	65
Total	125	—	—	15	15	140

7.24 Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2026 are reflected in tables 7.7 to 7.9 and figure 7.III.

7.25 As shown in tables 7.7 and 7.9, the overall resources proposed for 2026 amount to \$36,837,000, reflecting a net increase of \$2,175,400 (or 6.3 per cent) compared with the approved budget for 2025. Resource changes result from technical adjustments, new and expanded mandates, and other changes. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 7.7

Overall: evolution of financial resources by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

Component	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes			Total	Percentage	2026 estimate
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other			
Members of the Court	8 564.5	8 901.1	—	—	18.2	18.2	0.2	8 919.3
Registry	18 707.5	20 846.5	351.7	—	1 208.5	1 560.2	7.5	22 406.8
Programme support	4 760.0	4 913.9	(175.7)	99.8	672.9	597.0	12.1	5 510.9
Total	32 032.0	34 661.6	176.0	99.8	1 899.6	2 175.4	6.3	36 837.0

Table 7.8
Overall: proposed posts for 2026 by component

(Number of posts)

Component	2025 approved	Changes			Total	2026 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Registry	125	–	–	15	15	140
Total	125	–	–	15	15	140

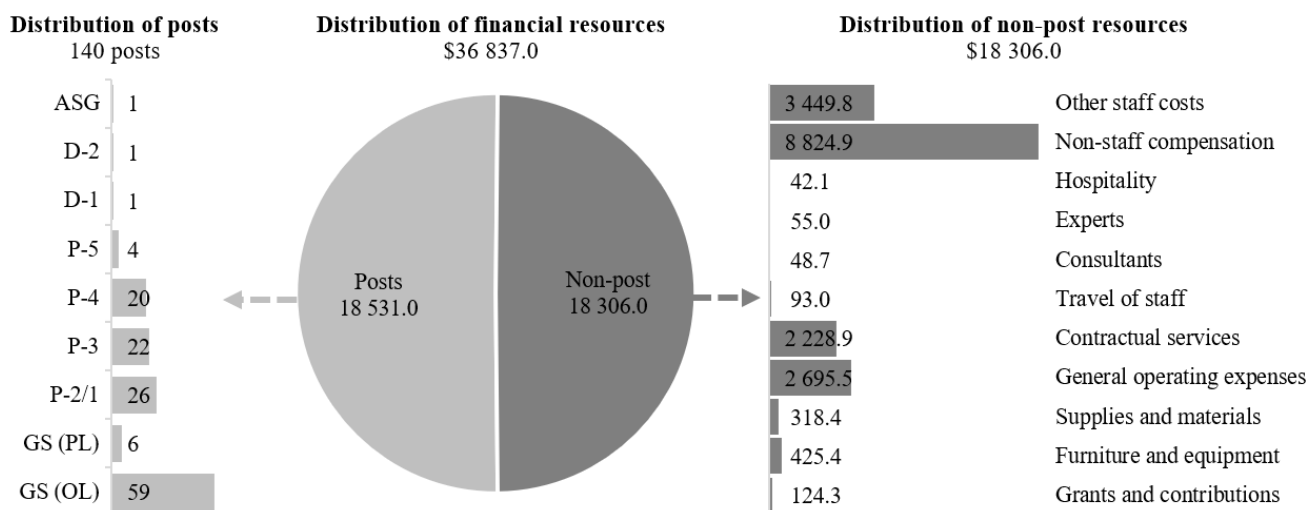
Table 7.9
Overall: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes				2026 estimate	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		Percentage
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Posts	15 751.6	16 999.3	480.7	–	1 051.0	1 531.7	9.0	18 531.0
Non-post	16 280.4	17 662.3	(304.7)	99.8	848.6	643.7	3.6	18 306.0
Total	32 032.0	34 661.6	176.0	99.8	1 899.6	2 175.4	6.3	36 837.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		67	–	–	8	8	11.9	75
General Service and related		58	–	–	7	7	12.1	65
Total		125	–	–	15	15	12.0	140

Figure 7.III
Distribution of proposed resources for 2026

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Explanation of variances by factor and component

Overall resource changes

Technical adjustments

7.26 As shown in table 7.9, resource changes reflect a net increase of \$176,000, as follows:

- (a) **Registry.** The net increase of \$351,700 relates to the higher provision at continuing vacancy rates for seven posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level)) established in 2025 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [79/257](#), which were subject to a 50 per cent vacancy rate in accordance with the established practice for newly established posts (\$480,700). The increase is partially offset by the removal of non-recurrent provisions under other staff costs related to General Assembly resolution [79/232](#) (\$129,000);
- (b) **Programme support.** The decrease of \$175,700 under contractual services (\$117,200), general operating expenses (\$54,300) and supplies and materials (\$4,200) relates to the removal of non-recurrent provisions associated with the advisory proceedings pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [77/247](#), [77/276](#) and [79/232](#).

New and expanded mandates

7.27 As shown in table 7.9, resource changes under programme support reflect an increase of \$99,800 for the printing and publishing of documents in the series *Pleadings, Oral Arguments, Documents* pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/276](#).

Other changes

7.28 As reflected in table 7.9, resource changes reflect a net increase of \$1,899,600, as follows:

- (a) **Members of the Court.** The net increase of \$18,200 relates to:
 - (i) *Non-staff compensation.* The net increase of \$41,000 relates to the increase in the pension entitlements of former judges and widowed spouses (\$80,000), partially offset by a decrease under travel of non-resident judges to Court sessions and of resident judges and their dependants to their home countries (\$39,000);
 - (ii) *Travel of staff.* The increase of \$7,400 reflects the revised travel plans by the President to New York for consultations on subjects of interest to the Court;
 - (iii) *Experts.* The decrease of \$30,200 takes into account prior expenditure experience, and would cover the Court's needs on the basis of its provisional schedule of work;
- (b) **Registry.** The net increase of \$1,208,500 relates to:
 - (i) *Posts.* The increase of \$1,051,000 would cover the proposed establishment of 15 new posts (1 Copy Preparer/Proofreader/Production Officer (French) (P-3), 1 Associate Data Protection and Privacy Officer (P-2), 4 Associate Legal Officers (P-2), 1 Human Resources Assistant (General Service (Other level)), 1 Language and Desktop Publishing Assistant (General Service (Other level)), 1 Digital Communications Assistant (General Service (Other level)), 4 Security Officers (General Service (Other level)), 1 temporary Digital Communications Officer (P-3) and 1 temporary Computational Linguist (P-3)); and the upward reclassification of one Legal Officer from P-3 to P-4 and one Associate Administrative Officer from P-2 to P-3 (to be reassigned as a Human Resources Officer) (see annex II for further details);
 - (ii) *Other staff costs.* The increase of \$129,000 relates to the increase in the number of retirees and the cost of premiums under the Court's after-service health insurance contract with the service provider;
 - (iii) *Hospitality.* The increase of \$31,900 would cover hospitality requirements (non-recurrent) to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the Court;

- (iv) *Travel of staff.* The increase of \$12,500 reflects the revised travel plans by the Registry to attend meetings at United Nations Headquarters (\$6,800); and one trip to each of Geneva and New York by one staff member in 2026 to set up the photographic exhibition on the history of the Court in celebration of its eightieth anniversary (\$5,700);
- (v) *Grants and contributions.* The decrease of \$15,900 takes into account expenditure experience for the Court's contribution to the United Nations internal justice system;
- (c) **Programme support.** The net increase of \$672,900 relates to:
 - (i) *Contractual services.* The net increase of \$347,100 mainly reflects: a. \$301,700 under data processing services to cover the cost of new business initiatives that would reduce security vulnerabilities and increase efficiency, and requirements for information and communications technology services to support new staff; b. a non-recurrent provision of \$51,500 for the printing of three publications to mark the eightieth anniversary of the Court; and c. \$3,800 for laundry services. The increase is partially offset by a decrease of \$9,900 in public information production costs, attributed to the planned reduction in the number of videos to be produced in 2026;
 - (ii) *General operating expenses.* The increase of \$156,200 mainly relates to the Court's contribution for the use of the Peace Palace premises (\$137,700), and non-recurrent provisions of \$18,500 for memorabilia items required for the celebration of the eightieth anniversary of the Court;
 - (iii) *Supplies and materials.* The increase of \$51,500 reflects non-recurrent provisions for the purchase of presentation stands and other supplies for the photographic exhibition on the history of the Court to mark its eightieth anniversary;
 - (iv) *Furniture and equipment.* The net increase of \$118,100 would primarily cover the replacement of equipment in the Great Hall of Justice and the press room, which is crucial to maintaining high audiovisual standards and enhancing acoustics during public hearings (\$152,500); the purchase of a coating and laminating machine to enhance the quality of products printed internally (\$13,500); and the acquisition of information technology licences to reinforce information and communications technology security measures (\$37,300). The increases are partially offset by a decrease of \$85,200 relating to the reduced acquisition of vehicles as a result of the extended use of existing vehicles beyond their useful life.

Members of the Court

- 7.29 The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges ("members of the Court"), who are elected to nine-year terms of office by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Every three years, one third of the Court is elected, the sitting judges being eligible for re-election. The Court, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is a universal body, within which the principal legal systems of the world and the main forms of civilization have to be represented in a balanced way (Article 9 of the Statute). It is as an institution composed in this broad-based way that the Court settles legal disputes submitted to it by States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. All the members of the Court are, in principle, required to participate in every case before it (Article 25 of the Statute). In accordance with Article 31 of the Court's Statute, a State party to a case may choose a judge ad hoc if the Court includes upon the Bench no judge of the nationality of the parties or a judge of the nationality of another party. Judges ad hoc take part in the decisions of the Court on terms of complete equality with the members of the Court.
- 7.30 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026 amount to \$8,919,300 and reflect a net increase of \$18,200 compared with the approved budget for 2025. The proposed change is explained in paragraph 7.28 (a) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2026 are reflected in table 7.10 and figure 7.IV.

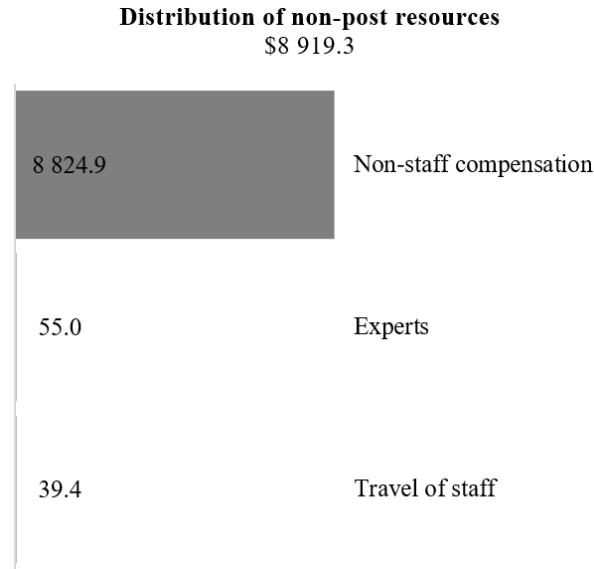
Table 7.10
Members of the Court: evolution of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes				2026 estimate	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		Percentage
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Non-post	8 564.5	8 901.1	—	—	18.2	18.2	0.2	8 919.3
Total	8 564.5	8 901.1	—	—	18.2	18.2	0.2	8 919.3

Figure 7.IV
Members of the Court: distribution of proposed resources for 2026

(Thousands of United States dollars)



Registry

- 7.31 Given that the Court is both a judicial body and an international institution that is administratively independent from the Secretariat, its Registry must take on the dual role of an *auxiliaire de la justice* and an international secretariat. The Registry provides legal, diplomatic, linguistic and technical support to the Court. It is responsible for administrative, conference, archival, distribution and documentary and library services, and acts as the regular channel for communications to and from the Court.
- 7.32 Information on the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 7.11. The Court will continue its efforts to improve its travel compliance rate by reinforcing internal controls and procedures. In 2024, the Court continued to submit all its documents within the prescribed timelines.

Table 7.11
Compliance rate
 (Percentage)

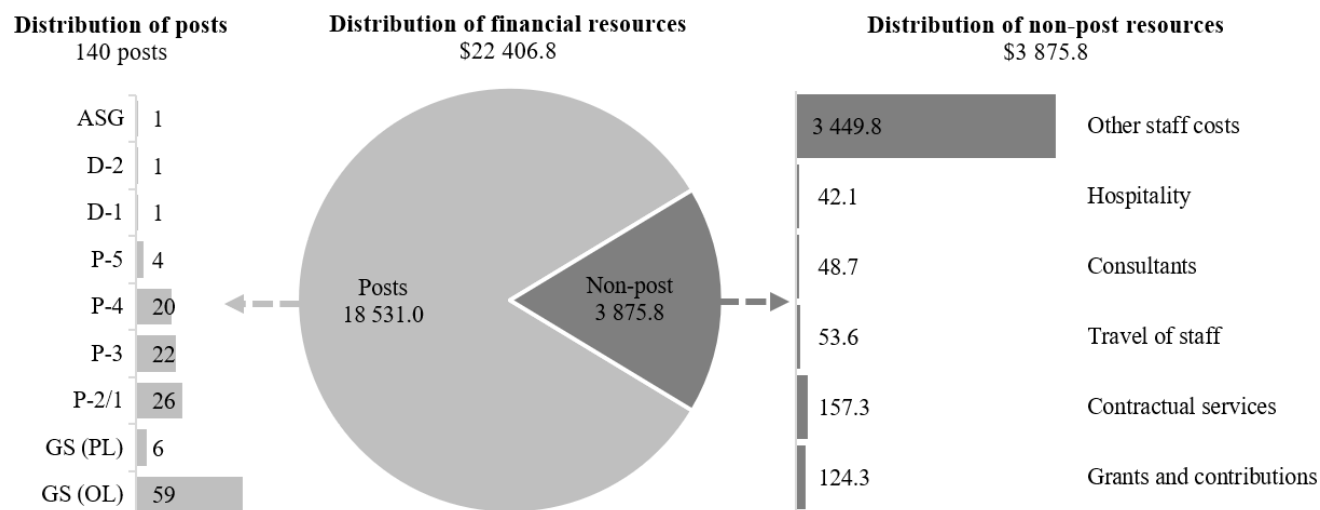
	2022 actual	2023 actual	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
Timely submission of documentation	100	100	100	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least two weeks before the commencement of travel	61	73	64	100	100

7.33 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026 amount to \$22,406,800 and reflect a net increase of \$1,560,200 compared with the approved budget for 2025. The proposed change is explained in paragraphs 7.26 (a) and 7.28 (b) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2026 are reflected in table 7.12 and figure 7.V.

Table 7.12
Registry: evolution of financial and post resources
 (Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes				2026 estimate	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		Percentage
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Posts	15 751.6	16 999.3	480.7	—	1 051.0	1 531.7	9.0	18 531.0
Non-post	2 955.8	3 847.3	(129.0)	—	157.5	28.5	0.7	3 875.8
Total	18 707.4	20 846.6	351.7	—	1 208.5	1 560.2	7.5	22 406.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		67	—	—	8	8	11.9	75
General Service and related		58	—	—	7	7	12.1	65
Total		125	—	—	15	15	12.0	140

Figure 7.V
Registry: distribution of proposed resources for 2026
 (Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Programme support

- 7.34 The provisions under programme support relate to the common service requirements of the Court and its Registry, including the contribution of the United Nations to the Carnegie Foundation for the use of the Peace Palace at The Hague.
- 7.35 The proposed regular budget resources for 2026 amount to \$5,510,900 and reflect a net increase of \$597,000 compared with the approved budget for 2025. The proposed change is explained in paragraphs 7.26 (b), 7.27 and 7.28 (c) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources are reflected in table 7.13 and figure 7.VI.

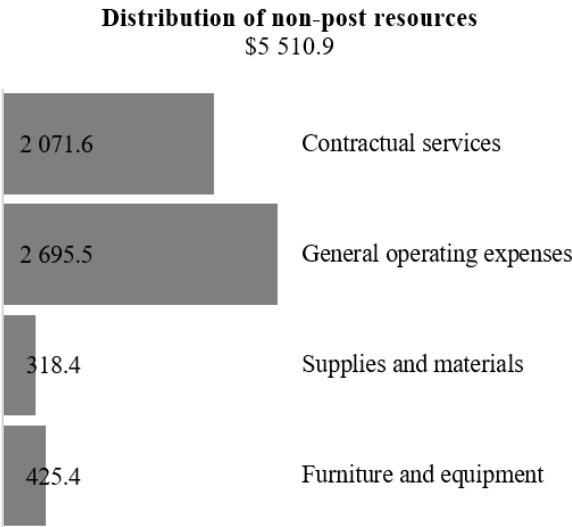
Table 7.13
Programme support: evolution of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2024 expenditure	2025 approved	Changes				Total	Percentage	2026 estimate
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other				
Financial resources by main category of expenditure									
Non-post	4 760.0	4 913.9	(175.7)	99.8	672.9	597.0	12.1	5 510.9	
Total	4 760.0	4 913.9	(175.7)	99.8	672.9	597.0	12.1	5 510.9	

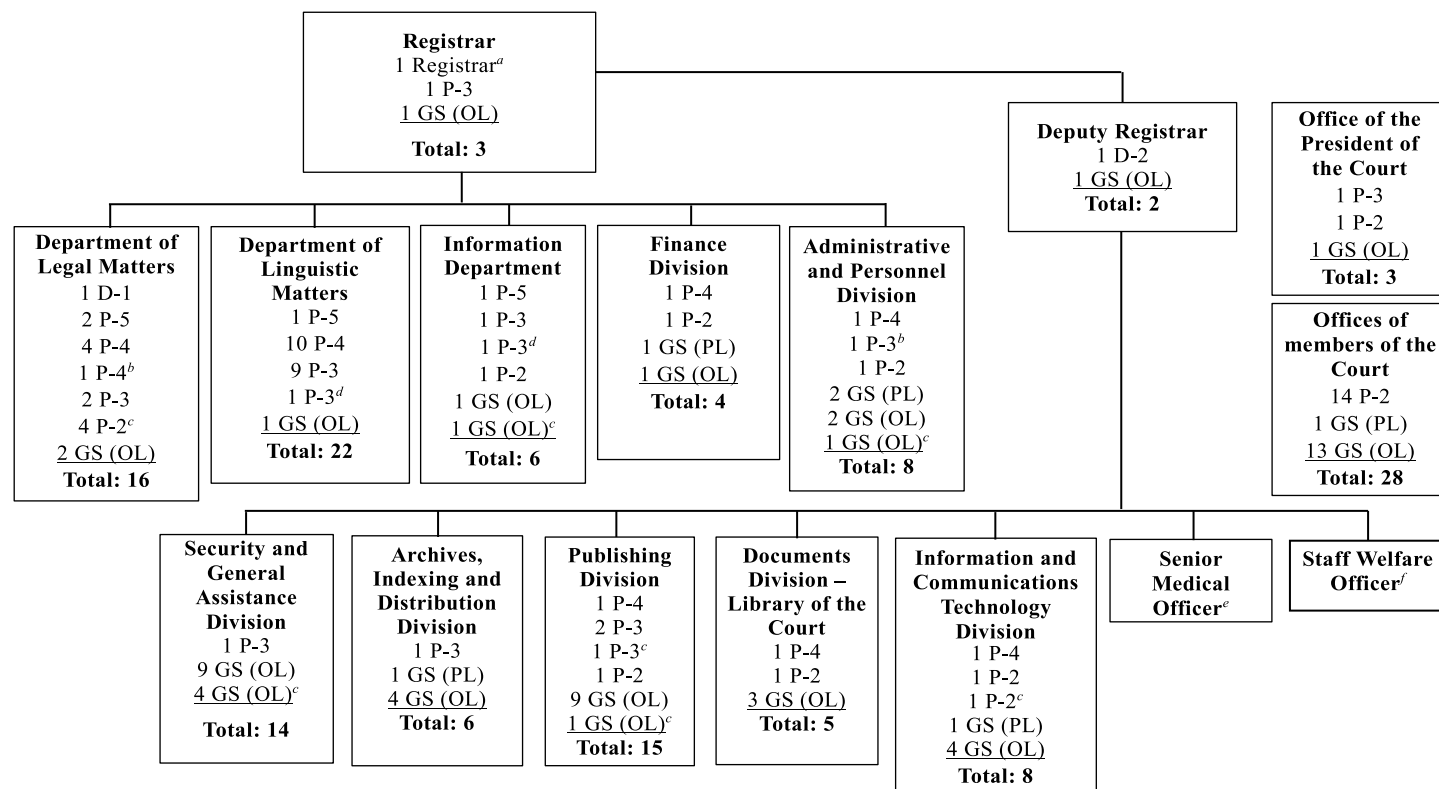
Figure 7.VI
Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2026

(Thousands of United States dollars)



Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2026



Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level).

^a In accordance with Articles 21 and 32 of the Statute of the Court, the Registrar is appointed by the Court, and the salary of the Registrar is fixed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Court. The Registrar is budgeted at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

^b Reclassification.

^c Establishment.

^d Establishment (temporary).

^e One 25 per cent part-time general temporary assistance position (P-5).

^f One 25 per cent part-time general temporary assistance position (P-3).

Annex II

Summary of proposed post changes, by component

<i>Component</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reasons for change</i>
Registry	1	P-3	Establishment of one Copy Preparer/ Proofreader/Production Officer (French)	<p>With the increasing volume of pre-press work (which has grown from 38,650 pages of printed materials processed in 2023 to more than 86,215 pages processed in 2024), there is a need for a full-time in-house Copy Preparer/Proofreader/Production Officer (French) (P-3). Between 2021 and 2024, the number of publications issued by the Court rose from 23 to 51, an increase of more than 120 per cent, and is expected to continue to increase steadily in 2025 and 2026 as a result of the publication of voluminous written pleadings in two recent advisory proceedings. Owing to a lack of internal capacity, the copy preparation and review of proofs of Court materials published in French is currently being outsourced to freelancers, under the supervision of the Head of the Publishing Division. A more permanent solution to enhance the Division's capacity to mitigate delays and backlogs generated by the unprecedented surge in workload and build in-house expertise is required. The work performed by the incumbent would mirror that currently done by the Copy Preparer/ Proofreader (English) and ensure an improved and more balanced internal working structure. Although a reduction in temporary assistance for meetings resources is not expected in 2026 owing to the accumulated workload and current backlog in publications, the requested post is expected to lead to a reduction of resources required under temporary assistance for meetings in 2027.</p>
Registry	1	GS (OL)	Establishment of one Language and Desktop Publishing Assistant	<p>The sustained increase in the Court's workload in recent years has resulted in a sharp rise in the number of pages processed by the Publishing Division, from 32,100 pages in 2016 to 98,100 pages in 2023 and 117,000 pages in 2024, representing an increase of more than 250 per cent between 2016 and 2024. During this nine-year period, one additional General Service (Other level) post funded through general temporary assistance was approved in 2024 to work on document production.</p> <p>The establishment of new posts and temporary positions in the Department of Linguistic Matters in 2024 (one post of Reviser (French) (P-4)) and 2025 (one post of Reviser (French) (P-4) and two temporary positions (one Reviser (French) (P-4) and one Translator (French) P-3)) funded through general temporary assistance to address the increased workload has generated a higher volume of translated documents to be processed by the Publishing Division.</p> <p>The proposed establishment would enable the Publishing Division to process the higher volume of translated documents while maintaining the high standards of quality required for the Court's judicial and administrative documents.</p>
Registry	1	P-2	Establishment of one Associate Data Protection and Privacy Officer	<p>The Court handles a large amount of sensitive judicial and administrative data (databases, records, archives, personal data of staff and judges, and contact information of State representatives) but currently lacks any rules or guidelines regarding storage, processing, use and access, disclosure and retention of the data at its disposal. The Court faces risks of data security breaches and possible loss of trust from both internal and external stakeholders in how it manages confidential information. With its current staffing levels, the work and expertise of the Information and Communications Technology Division is primarily focused on user support, technical operations and information and communications technology security, and the Division does not have the capacity or specialized skills to develop data protection policies, assess and prevent data security risks and handle privacy issues properly.</p> <p>The establishment of this post would permit the design and implementation of a comprehensive data protection and privacy programme for the Court to strengthen compliance with data protection and privacy standards and best practices adopted in the United Nations system, reduce the risk of data breaches and enhance the Court's capacity to safeguard sensitive information.</p>

Part III International justice and law

<i>Component</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reasons for change</i>
Registry	4	P-2	Establishment of four Associate Legal Officers	<p>The Court is composed of 15 judges (members of the Court) elected to nine-year terms of office by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Each member of the Court is assisted by an assigned law clerk, an Associate Legal Officer (P-2).</p> <p>Under the Statute of the Court, a State party to a case before the Court which does not have a judge of its nationality on the bench may choose a person to sit as judge ad hoc in that specific case. Once appointed, judges ad hoc take part in any decision concerning the case in terms of complete equality with members of the Court. In that regard, judges ad hoc, like their elected colleagues, are entitled to support from the Registry, including the legal assistance which is necessary for the exercise of their functions as judge ad hoc in the case(s) in which they have been nominated. The practice of the Court is to request a law clerk assigned to a member of the Court to also assist a judge ad hoc.</p> <p>With the recent increase in the number of cases pending on the Court's docket, the number of judges ad hoc has also increased, from 13 in 2018 to 19 as at 6 March 2025. The Court's sustained judicial activity has also increased the workload of the law clerks assisting members of the Court, who are no longer able to provide the requisite level of assistance to judges ad hoc in addition to the tasks assigned to them by members of the Court.</p> <p>The establishment of four posts of Associate Legal Officer in the Department of Legal Matters is requested to constitute a permanent pool of jurists to provide judges ad hoc with the legal support to which they are entitled to under the Court's Statute. The incumbents would also provide assistance to the Department in fulfilling its legal, administrative and diplomatic tasks.</p>
Registry	1	GS (OL)	Establishment of one Human Resources Assistant	<p>The workload of the Registry's Administrative and Personnel Division, particularly the human resources-related tasks, has expanded significantly due to the Court's growing workload. The Court's sustained judicial activity has led to an increased need to recruit and manage temporary staff, such as translators, interpreters and court reporters, often at short notice. The management of short-term language staff alone now accounts for 25.7 per cent of personnel actions handled by the Division. The volume of personnel actions, a key indicator of human resources activity, increased by 330 per cent between 2011 and 2024.</p> <p>In addition, the Division's responsibilities have expanded to include participating in all selection panels in an ex officio capacity, administering short-term language staff, members of the Court and ad hoc judges.</p> <p>Due to its limited resources, the Division has experienced delays in processing staff requests and the timely completion of recruitment processes, which often exceed the target duration of 120 days. The new post would enable the Division to address the higher workload and ensure the timely processing of staff requests in support of the Court's ongoing operations.</p>
Registry	4	GS (OL)	Establishment of four Security Officers	<p>In addition to the International Court of Justice, the Peace Palace houses the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and The Hague Academy of International Law and its library. The Carnegie Foundation is the owner and general manager of the entire site; it is responsible for the security of the external perimeter of the grounds and hires a private security company tasked with access control and the protection of the perimeter of the Peace Palace compound.</p> <p>The Registry's Security and General Assistance Division is responsible for the internal security of the Court's offices and shared spaces (such as the Great Hall of Justice), and the judges' and staff office spaces in the New Wing. These areas are not patrolled by the private security company contracted by the Carnegie Foundation.</p> <p>In the light of recent security incidents at the Peace Palace and the Court's heightened public profile, the Registry requested the assistance of the Department of Safety and Security of the United Nations Secretariat in conducting an on-site physical security assessment of the Peace Palace.</p>

Section 7 International Court of Justice

Component	Posts	Grade	Description	Reasons for change
Registry	1	GS (OL)	Establishment of one Digital Communications Assistant	<p>In its report, the Department of Safety and Security observed that the Division's current capacity (whose security staff include three General Service (Other level) security officers) was insufficient to cover the necessary operational needs, and recommended the creation of additional General Service (Other level) Security Officer posts to staff the security control room, including monitoring the closed-circuit television system on a continual basis, and to provide patrol and response capability in the New Wing and the Historical Building of the Peace Palace. In this regard, the establishment of four Security Officer posts is requested to provide the level of security required to adequately protect the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.</p> <p>The Court's sustained judicial activity and the number of high-profile cases on the Court's docket have increased the workload of the Information Department with respect to external communications, with the number of press releases issued per year growing from 38 in 2020 to 86 in 2024 and the number of documents uploaded to the Court's website increasing from 1,491 in 2020 to 2,117 in 2024. At the same time, rising interest in the Court's work from the media, the general public and other stakeholders has increased the need for a more targeted and proactive approach towards digital communications, for which the Department currently lacks the necessary staffing resources and expertise.</p> <p>The establishment of this post would enable the Department to handle its increased workload and assist with the implementation of the Department's digital communications efforts, including the management and maintenance of the Court's digital properties, such as the Court's website, social media channels and other online products.</p>
Registry	1	P-3	Establishment of one temporary post of Computational Linguist (P-3)	<p>It is proposed that one temporary post of Computational Linguist (P-3) be established in the Department of Linguistic Matters (for a period of two years, with a possible one-year extension) to oversee the implementation and maintenance of the translation technology tools (the LogiTerm translation memory software in 2023 and neural machine translation software requested for 2026).</p> <p>Acquired in 2023, the LogiTerm translation memory has presented many advantages, but its ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting has placed an additional strain on the resources of both the Department of Linguistic Matters and the Information and Communications Technology Division. While the Department of Linguistic Matters has made good progress in fully implementing the software, it lacks the time and knowledge required to make full use of all its available functions, in particular the terminology database, term extraction engine and term record creation functions.</p> <p>The incumbent would ensure the smooth implementation and maintenance of new neural machine translation software, troubleshoot technical problems in the translation memory and neural machine translation tools, coordinate the alignment tasks and the input of data in all the Department's translation memory and neural machine translation tools, provide technical support to in-house staff and to external and temporary staff, liaise between the in-house and external linguists and the Information and Communications Technology Division and the supplier's technical support team when necessary, keep abreast of the latest developments and ensure that the Department is using its tools to maximum effect.</p>
Registry	1	P-3	Establishment of one temporary post of Digital Communications Officer (P-3)	<p>The Information Department, which is currently composed of four staff members (one Head of Department (P-5), one Information Officer (P-3), one Associate Information Officer (P-2) and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level))), is assigned an array of tasks, including organizing public sittings, coordinating official visits and events, compiling informative publications, such as the Court's annual report to the General Assembly and the <i>C.I.J. Annuaire-I.C.J. Yearbook</i>, addressing protocol matters, giving presentations and briefings, and handling the Court's external communications and outreach efforts in print and online.</p>

Part III International justice and law

Component	Posts	Grade	Description	Reasons for change
				<p>Despite the increased workload (as shown by the number of public sittings organized, which increased from 23 in 2020 to 62 in 2024, and the high level of participation and interest in recent advisory proceedings), the number of staff in the Department has remained the same since 2016. As the Court's level of activity continues to rise, it lacks the internal capacity and specialized skills to develop and implement a digital communications strategy to increase awareness and understanding of the Court's role and functioning for an expanding digital audience and to counter mis- and disinformation campaigns posing a risk to the Court's credibility as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.</p> <p>The temporary post (for a period of two years, with a possible one-year extension) of Digital Communications Officer (P-3) in the Information Department would develop, manage and implement the strategic framework for the Court's digital communications activities across all platforms by drafting digital and social media strategies and campaigns and monitoring and reporting on the implementation and impact of the Court's digital and social media presence to improve the Court's engagement with and visibility among digital audiences.</p>
Registry	1	P-3	Reclassification of one Legal Officer from P-3 to P-4	<p>The upward reclassification would address the increased duties of the post and allow the Department of Legal Matters to continue to meet the greater demands placed upon it owing to the increase in the Court's workload observed in recent years. In the light of the fact that the Court now routinely considers multiple cases in parallel in order to deal with the cases on its docket, the volume of tasks carried out by the staff member has increased considerably, in direct correlation with the number of cases simultaneously under consideration by the Court.</p> <p>The functions associated with the post now include a wider portfolio of tasks, such as providing senior-level assistance to drafting committees for the Court's decisions, taking more direct responsibility for work assignments and reporting directly to the President and members of the Court, the Registrar and the Principal Legal Secretary on a more frequent basis, assuming increased responsibility for liaising with other Registry departments and divisions in the processing of the Court's decisions and reviewing case-related work, all of which require a high degree of decision-making authority that no longer corresponds to the P-3 level.</p>
Registry	1	P-2	Reclassification of one Associate Administrative Officer from P-2 to P-3 and reassignment as Human Resources Officer	<p>The Administrative and Personnel Division has three staff members in the Professional category: the Head of Division (P-4), the Associate Administrative Officer (P-2) and the Associate Procurement Officer (P-2). The Head of Division reports directly to the Registrar and oversees different specialized functions, namely, human resources management, procurement of goods and services, property management, office space management and protocol matters. The Head of Division also advises senior and middle management on all human resources-related matters, both strategic and operational. With the expansion of the Division's role and functions in recent years, broader responsibilities have been given to the Associate Administrative Officer (P-2) to cover human resources functions and a number of duties of greater complexity than those expected at the P-2 level. The job description for this post was revised in 2024 to better capture the duties performed, which include the development, application and interpretation of human resources policies, workforce planning, recruitment and selection, performance management, staff learning and development and the administration of justice. In addition, as the most senior team member, the incumbent acts as deputy to the Head of Division, supervises junior human resources staff in processing human resources transactions for payroll, staff benefits and entitlements, prepares the draft agenda and documents for the monthly meetings of the Court's Budgetary and Administrative Committee and keeps records of the Committee's decisions and recommendations.</p>

Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).