

RCIL

International Law News Coverage



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In Focus

Secretary-General
Outlines the Priorities of
the United Nations for
2025

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The International Court of Justice

Judge Nawaf Salam, President of the Court,
resigns as Member of the Court with effect
from 14 January 2025.

Declaration of Intervention filed by

Cuba on 13 January 2025

Ireland on 6 January 2025

Invoking **Article 63** of the Statute of the Court, Cuba and Ireland have filed a declaration of intervention in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*.

Pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute, whenever the construction of a Convention to which States other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, each of these States has the right to intervene in the proceedings. In this case, the construction given by the judgement of the Court will be equally binding upon them.

The United Nations and International Law

Security Council Adopts Resolution 2768 (2025), Sustaining Monthly Reporting on Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea

One year after adopting a text demanding that the Houthis immediately cease all attacks on merchant and commercial vessels in the Red Sea, the Security Council reiterated that demand in a new resolution and called for ongoing monitoring of the situation as these attacks continue with increasing sophistication.

Welcoming Announcement of Gaza Ceasefire, Hostage Release Deal, Secretary-General Calls on All Relevant Parties to Uphold Commitments, Ensure Full Implementation

The Secretary-General welcomed the announcement of a deal to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza. He commended the mediators - Egypt, Qatar and the United States of America - for their dedicated efforts in brokering this deal. He also called upon all parties to facilitate the rapid, unhindered and safe humanitarian relief for all civilians in need. The Secretary-General urged the parties and all relevant partners to seize this opportunity to establish a credible political path to a better future for Palestinians, Israelis, and the broader region.

Secretary-General Urges Greater Action to Tackle Rampant Conflicts, Inequalities, Climate Crisis, Outlining United Nations 2025 Priorities to General Assembly

The Secretary-General highlighted that runaway conflicts, widening inequalities, the intensifying climate crisis and the unchecked rise of technology were some of the pressing global challenges as he presented the Organization's priorities for 2025 to the General Assembly. However, despite the overall grim global snapshot, there is still room for hope, the Secretary-General told Member States and added that the year 2025 begins on the heels of major commitments made in the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.

The United Nations and International Law

Public Statement by Chair of Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

After examination of the fourth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Nigeria (document S/2024/559) and the adoption of conclusions on the report, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict agreed to address the following messages through a public statement by its Chair. Among others, it urged all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, called upon all parties to further implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group, stressed the importance of accountability for all violations and abuses against children in armed conflict, strongly condemned the high number of and sharp increase in incidents of abduction of children by JAS and Islamic State West Africa Province and the ongoing attacks against schools and hospitals in north-east Nigeria, expressed deep concern about the deprivation of liberty of children for their or their parents' or relatives' association or alleged association with armed groups, expressed grave concern about the killing and maiming of children and the significant increase in verified cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against children, expressed particular concern that many children in armed conflict, in particular girls, lack access to education.

The United Nations and International Law

Marking Anniversary, Secretary-General Commends United Nations University for ‘Uniting World through Knowledge Partnerships’ to Address Global Challenges

In his message for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations University (UNU), the Secretary-General noted that for half a century, university leaders, staff, students and alumni have driven peace and progress. He added that by bridging the worlds of education, research and policy, by acting as a trusted source of evidence-based policymaking and by uniting the world through knowledge partnerships to address our most pressing global challenges, the United Nations University is truly multilateralism in action.

‘Shocked and Saddened’ by Wildfire Devastation in the United States, Secretary-General Says United Nations Stands Ready to Provide Assistance if Needed

The Secretary-General was shocked and saddened by the widespread devastation caused by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area in California. He extended his sincere condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Further, the Secretary-General commended the courage of the thousands of firefighters and first responders doing everything they can in extremely difficult conditions.

Security Council Delegates Trade Barbs over Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s Hypersonic-Missile Launch, Military Ambitions

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has been actively working towards acquiring new military capabilities that undermine the global non-proliferation warned Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. He also noted that such conduct escalates tensions and contributes to the country’s isolation.

The United Nations and International Law

Caretaker Authorities Should Extend Hand of Reassurance, Trust to All Communities in Syria, Special Envoy Tells Security Council

Special envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen, noted that over the past month, the “caretaker authorities” in Syria who are formed largely of individuals from the former Idlib-based Government, have been consolidating their authority. However, there are signs of instability, he pointed out, noting reports of violent incidents in the coastal regions and Homs and Hama in particular, as well as “combing operations” in which former Administration officials or elements are arrested.

In Briefing Security Council, Senior Humanitarian Official Notes Famine Conditions in Sudan and Stresses Need for Immediate Cessation of Hostilities

In her briefing to the Council, Director of Operations and Advocacy Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Edem Wosornu stressed that it is a man-made crisis. She continued that the latest from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is shocking and that analysis indicates that famine conditions are now present in five areas. The findings also project that five additional locations - all in North Darfur - will be affected between now and May, with risk of famine in 17 other areas.

Security Council Debates Israeli Attacks on Hospitals Allegedly Misused by Hamas

Following Israel’s attack on the last functioning hospital in north Gaza, the Security Council heard calls for urgent international action to protect civilians and ensure accountability, including independent investigations into these incidents and the alleged misuse of medical facilities by Hamas. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, noted “A human-rights catastrophe continues to unfold in Gaza before the eyes of the world”. Citing a recent report by his Office, he also pointed to a pattern of attacks against hospitals between 7 October 2023 and 30 June 2024 that begin with Israeli airstrikes and are followed by ground raids and the detention of patients and staff. Meanwhile, Hamas and other armed groups continue to reportedly operate behind civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, exposing them to attacks.

The United Nations Treaty Collection

Depositary Notifications

Serbia ratifies the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Panama signs the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-Based Investor-State Arbitration.

Israel ratifies the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.

Poland ratifies the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Eritrea accedes to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Cote d'Ivoire accedes to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.

Denmark accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Intentionally Using Starvation of Civilians).

The United Nations Treaty Collection Depositary Notifications

Denmark accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Blinding Laser Weapons).

Denmark accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Weapons the Primary Effect of which is to Injure by Fragments Undetectable by X-Rays in the Human Body).

Denmark accepts Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Weapons which use Microbial or other Biological Agents, or Toxins).

Denmark accepts Amendment to Article 124 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Denmark accepts Amendments on the Crime of Aggression to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Denmark accepts the Amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.



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