

ANNOUNCEMENT

The UN Secretary-General's Trust Fund

In response to the need of developing countries, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established in 1989 a Trust Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance in order to encourage States to seek a solution to their legal disputes through the International Court of Justice.

Legal disputes exist in various parts of the world. The high costs incurred in proceedings often constitute a financial obstacle to the seeking of a judicial settlement through the Court. This is particularly true in many developing countries where multiple needs compete for very limited funds. There are known cases where the parties are prepared to resort to judicial settlement but are in need of funds or legal expertise or both. There have also been cases where the parties were willing but unable to implement an ICJ Judgement. The availability of external resources in such cases can therefore be extremely helpful in their search for peaceful means through the Court for the settlement of disputes. The Trust Fund offers limited financial assistance for the purpose of defraying expenditures incurred in Court proceedings. It thus encourages States to make better use of the International Court of Justice and also actively foster the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Fund has received worldwide support and some 30 States from all regions of the world have made financial contributions. It received its first application in March 1991 and an award was subsequently made the following May to a developing country which is seeking a solution to a dispute with its neighbour through the International Court of Justice. A second application, also from a developing country, is now pending. The present assets of the Fund are however very limited.

Relations in many regions of the world will indeed be greatly improved if more legal disputes can be settled through the International Court of Justice, the legal arm of the United Nations.

The Fund relies on voluntary contributions and is open to all entities. It welcomes contributions from States, individuals, institutions, corporations and non-governmental organizations. Contributions may be made in monetary terms (to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to assist States in the Judicial Settlement of Disputes, Chemical Bank, UN Branch Account No. 015-004473). Further information may be obtained from the Office of Legal Affairs, Office of the Legal Council, United Nations Secretariat, New York, N.Y. 10017.

ANNOUNCEMENT**Hungary Applies to the International Court of Justice in its Dispute with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic over the Projected Diversion of the Danube**

The following information has been communicated to the Press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice (Communiqué No. 92/25, 26 October 1992):

On 23 October 1992 the Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Netherlands presented at the International Court of Justice an Application against the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in the dispute concerning the projected diversion of the Danube.

In that document the Hungarian Government, before detailing its case, invites the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to accept the jurisdiction of the Court.

A copy of the Application has been transmitted to the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in accordance with Article 38, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Court, which reads as follows:

'When the Applicant State proposes to found the jurisdiction of the Court upon a consent thereto yet to be given or manifested by the State against which such application is made, the application shall be transmitted to that State. It shall not however be entered in the General List, nor any action be taken in the proceedings, unless and until the State against which such application is made consents to the Court's jurisdiction for the purposes of the case.'