



As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice plays an important role within the international legal system in promoting the rule of law and encouraging the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. The value of judicial settlement is high.

Besides, the Court's advisory opinions on legal questions may also be useful, especially in situations where actions in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law are accompanied with apparent misinterpretation of legal norms and principles. The authoritative legal opinion can also contribute to ensuring that peace settlement efforts are in line with international law.

It is also important to underline the role of the rule of law in establishing a stable and durable peace. The imperative of shedding light on real facts and combating impunity is undeniable. Such efforts must be free of selectivity and politically motivated approaches.

However, the harsh reality is that, where the political interests prevail, international law and any

commitments become ineffective. As a consequence, double standards in the application of the principles guiding inter-State relations contribute to instability and obstruct the effective preventive and conflict resolution efforts.

Unfortunately, in some situations of armed conflict, including those of a protracted nature, issues of accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have not received due attention and a response at the international and regional levels. As a result, wrongs of the recent past left unpunished and unrecognized continue to impede the progress in achieving