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**General Assembly
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**Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: election of
five members of the International Court of Justice**

**Security Council
Sixty-ninth year**

Identical letters dated 11 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the elections currently under way in the General Assembly and the Security Council to fill the fifth vacancy for the position of judge of the International Court of Justice.

As the general public is aware, following several rounds of voting held on 6 and 7 November 2014, Ms. Susana Ruiz Cerutti of Argentina obtained the absolute majority of votes in the Security Council, while Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson of Jamaica obtained the absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly.

It is also general knowledge that the Statute of the International Court of Justice stipulates, as a procedure for filling the remaining vacancy in a case where none of the candidates obtains the required majority in both organs, that a joint conference of the General Assembly and the Security Council may be formed for the purpose of choosing one name to submit to the Assembly and the Council for their respective acceptance.

In the light of the current Statute, these elections have shown that the decision to continue with the simultaneous voting in the Security Council and the General Assembly, in the hope that at some point one of the candidates would be able to obtain an absolute majority in both organs, would be consistent with the rules. The Statute itself also sets out, in its article 12, that the joint conference mentioned above may be formed if, after the third meeting held for the purpose of the election, one or more seats still remain unfilled.

The fact that this procedure has not been regulated to date cannot serve as a valid argument for ignoring or dismissing the provisions of the Statute. Rather, it shows the importance of making the necessary arrangements for the implementation of such mechanism should similar situations arise in the future.



Therefore, given that two candidates from the Latin American and Caribbean region possess the professional and moral qualifications required to be elected to the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the Argentine Republic has decided, once again and without hesitation, to avoid empty rhetoric or fallacious arguments and to highlight its unwavering commitment to the unity of the Latin American and Caribbean region, which has consistently supported Argentina's position in its efforts to protect its permanent interests.

Respecting and strengthening regional unity is a central tenet of Argentina's foreign policy.

To that end, Argentina works constructively and inclusively to ensure that the growing integration processes are the result not of the mere aggregation of national interests, but of a harmonious and concerted articulation of national interests around a vision shared by all the Latin American and the Caribbean countries, and are based on the principles of solidarity, consensus and equity.

For the aforementioned principles and reasons, the Argentine Republic has decided, in consultation with Ms. Ruiz Cerutti, to withdraw her candidature for the position of judge of the International Court of Justice.

The Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to express its deep appreciation to all countries that voted for Ms. Ruiz Cerutti both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council.

(Signed) María Cristina **Perceval**
Permanent Representative
