

(b) Constitutional and Institutional Developments

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1. NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTED

On 7 February 2000 Judge Gilbert Guillaume (France) was elected President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by his peers. He has been a member of the Court since 14 September 1987. Judge Shi Jiuyong (China) was elected Vice-President. He has been a member of the Court since 6 February 1994. They will both serve a three-year term.¹

2. NEW REGISTRAR ELECTED

At a private meeting held on 10 February 2000, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) elected Philippe Couvreur, of Belgian nationality, to the post of Registrar. He succeeds Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, of Colombian nationality, who resigned a year before the expiry of his term of office.

Mr. Couvreur, who joined the Court in 1982 as special assistant to the Registrar and the Deputy-Registrar, has risen to the rank of Secretary, then First Secretary, in the Legal Department and has served as Principal Legal Secretary since 1995. He has lectured in public international law at various universities, including the Université Catholique de Louvain, and he is the author of a number of publications on the Court.

In accordance with Article 22 of the Rules of Court, Mr. Couvreur has been elected for a term of seven years. The functions of the Registrar are defined by the Rules of Court (Article 26). The Registrar assists the Court in the exercise of its judicial function and is responsible for diplomatic relations between the Court and States. He is also responsible for all departments of the Registry. The Registrar is assisted by the Deputy-Registrar. The current Deputy-Registrar is Mr. Jean-Jacques Arnaldez, of French nationality.²

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1. ICJ Communiqué No. 2000/1 of 7 February 2000. Biographies of President Guillaume and Vice-President Shi Jiuyong are attached to this Communiqué.
2. ICJ Communiqué No. 2000/4 of 11 February 2000.

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3. NEW MEMBER OF THE COURT ELECTED

On 3 March 2000, the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations elected Thomas Buergenthal (United States of America) as a member of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with immediate effect. Mr. Buergenthal succeeds Judge Stephen M. Schwebel (United States of America), who resigned as a member of the Court as of 29 February 2000. Pursuant to Article 14 of the Statute of the Court, he will hold office for the remainder of Judge Schwebel's term, which will expire on 5 February 2006.³

3. ICJ Communiqué No. 2000/8 of 3 March 2000. A biography of Judge Buergenthal can be found in an annex to this Communiqué.