



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- General Assembly backs historic World Court climate crisis ruling
- How will Habagat and Super El Niño affect the Philippines?
- Philippines donates \$60K to UN maritime agency for climate programs
- QC Mayor Belmonte warns climate funds bypass cities
- UN adopts resolution supporting international court's climate ruling
- UN backs historic climate crisis ruling, despite US attempts to stop resolution
- UN General Assembly backs "climate obligations" set by world's top court
- U.N. General Assembly Embraces Court Opinion That Says Nations Have a Legal Obligation to Take Climate Action

### AL JAZEERA

#### [UN adopts resolution supporting international court's climate ruling](#)

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### CLIMATE HOME NEWS

#### [UN General Assembly backs "climate obligations" set by world's top court](#)

By: Sebastian Rodriguez

A UN resolution endorses a landmark climate ruling by the International Court of Justice that states should reduce fossil fuels and repair the damage from global warming

### INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

#### [U.N. General Assembly Embraces Court Opinion That Says Nations Have a Legal Obligation to Take Climate Action](#)

By: Dana Drugmand

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## **GMA NEWS**

### **[How will Habagat and Super El Niño affect the Philippines?](#)**

What should the country expect after state weather bureau PAGASA warned that the southwest monsoon, or Habagat, may coincide with a Super El Niño from June to August this year?

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[QC Mayor Belmonte warns climate funds bypass cities](#)**

By: Trixee Rosel

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte raised concern over the limited direct access of local governments to climate financing, stressing that cities remain underfunded despite being at the frontline of climate change impacts.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **Philippines donates \$60K to UN maritime agency for climate programs**

By: Katrina Manubay

The Philippines on Thursday announced it contributed an additional \$60,000 to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) — the United Nations specialized agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping — to support programs on climate action, women in maritime, and technical cooperation amid growing geopolitical tensions affecting global shipping routes.

## **THE GUARDIAN**

### **[UN backs historic climate crisis ruling, despite US attempts to stop resolution](#)**

The UN has voted 141-8 to adopt a resolution backing a world court opinion that countries have a legal obligation to address climate change, with the US – which is the world’s biggest historical emitter – among the small group opposing it.

## **UN NEWS**

### **[General Assembly backs historic World Court climate crisis ruling](#)**

A landmark General Assembly resolution adopted on Wednesday is “a powerful affirmation” of international law, climate justice and science, according to UN chief António Guterres.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## AL JAZEERA

### [UN adopts resolution supporting international court's climate ruling](#)

141 UN member states voted in support of the ICJ's finding climate change is an 'existential threat'.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has voted to support a landmark ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which found states have a legal responsibility to act to prevent the climate crisis from worsening.

More than two-thirds of UN member states, 141, voted in favour of the resolution on Wednesday, with eight voting no and 28 abstaining.

Ralph Regenvanu, the minister for climate change from Vanuatu, which championed the case, described the vote as a victory for "communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis".

"Today the international community affirmed that climate change is not only a political and economic challenge, but a matter of law, justice, and human rights," Regenvanu said in a statement.

"For vulnerable countries like Vanuatu, this resolution is deeply significant because it confirms that no State is above its obligations to protect people, future generations, and our planet."

The historic ruling from The Hague-based court in July last year found that states have a legal obligation to act on the "existential threat" of climate change.

The case was the biggest ever to be considered by the ICJ's 15 judges, who reviewed tens of thousands of pages of written submissions and heard two weeks of oral arguments before delivering their verdict.

The case came to the court at the request of the UNGA after a resolution led by Vanuatu was adopted by consensus in March 2023.

Wednesday's vote, by contrast, attracted a number of objections, with Belarus, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Yemen voting no.

"We are strongly urging Vanuatu to immediately withdraw its draft resolution and cease attempting to wield the Court's Advisory Opinion as a basis for creating an avenue to pursue any misguided claims of international legal obligations," a copy of the cable seen by Al Jazeera stated.

Wesley Morgan, a fellow with the Climate Council, an Australian nonprofit, said the vote confirmed states had a legal duty to act on climate change.

“This landmark resolution is a massive victory for Vanuatu and the Pacific leaders who have spent decades fighting for survival on the frontlines of the climate crisis and a warning for Australian governments,” Morgan said in a statement.

“For far too long, fossil fuel heavyweights have treated climate action as a political choice, but the UN General Assembly has now confirmed it is a binding legal duty,” he added.

## CLIMATE HOME NEWS

### [UN General Assembly backs "climate obligations" set by world's top court](#)

By: Sebastian Rodriguez

A UN resolution endorses a landmark climate ruling by the International Court of Justice that states should reduce fossil fuels and repair the damage from global warming

The UN General Assembly on Wednesday adopted a "historic" resolution calling on countries to comply with their climate obligations, as outlined in a landmark advisory opinion issued last year by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Last July, in the opinion first requested by the Pacific island state of Vanuatu, the world's top court ruled that harming the climate by increasing fossil fuel production may constitute an "international wrongful act". This could result in affected countries claiming compensation from those responsible, the court said.

To follow up on the ICJ ruling, a dozen nations led by Vanuatu submitted a proposal to the UN's main deliberative body to recognise the advisory opinion and identify ways of implementing it.

Several large oil-producing nations mounted a late push to weaken the text by introducing last-minute amendments, but the General Assembly rejected those and adopted the resolution with 141 countries in favour at a plenary session in New York.

The resolution urges countries to implement measures to cut carbon emissions, including by tripling renewable energy capacity, "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems", and phasing out "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies.

It also requests the UN Secretary-General to draft a report "containing ways to advance compliance with all obligations in relation to the court's findings" by next year's UN General Assembly in September 2027.

Pacific islands celebrate "historic" resolution

The group of Pacific island nations, which led the diplomatic push for the resolution, as well as Latin American nations and the European Union, celebrated its adoption as a "historic" moment, while some countries noted the persistence of diverging views.

Belize's UN representative Janine Coye-Felson said in a statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) that the General Assembly resolution, as well as the ICJ advisory opinion, are important because "climate change is not governed only" by the Paris Agreement, but that "climate justice requires the application of the full breath of international law".

"When future generations look back at this moment, they will ask whether we rose to meet the defining crisis of our time with the full force of international law. Today, this General Assembly answers: yes," she told the plenary.

The EU said in a statement during the session that, with the adoption of the resolution, countries are moving beyond "simply recognising" the ICJ's work and instead "actively upholding the legal integrity" of the multilateral system by seeking to implement the court's recommendations.

Yet the bloc also warned the process that follows must not "seek to establish new mechanisms or engage in any determination of state responsibility", referring in particular to the upcoming report by the Secretary-General. Earlier drafts of the resolution contained proposals to establish a register of climate-driven loss and damage and a dedicated compensation mechanism, but these were removed during negotiations on the text.

France's ambassador to the UN, Jérôme Bonnafont, highlighted the resolution's provision to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and said "science clearly establishes their role in climate change". The recent increase in oil and gas prices, which have soared because of the war in Iran, "underscores the cost vulnerability of this dependence", he added.

#### Push-back by oil-producing nations

Some oil-producing countries - among them the US, Saudi Arabia and Russia - were critical of the new resolution, arguing that it creates "quasi-binding" obligations from an advisory opinion that should be non-binding, and rejected the request for a report from the Secretary-General.

"This is a direct duplication of work that is being done at the [UN climate convention]," said Russia's delegate. "Creating a parallel process will waste resources, will undermine the fragile consensus at the conference of the parties and will lead to the fragmentation of the climate regime."

In an effort to weaken the resolution, a group of seven oil-producing Middle Eastern states - including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran - tabled four last-minute amendments proposing to delete certain paragraphs and softening the language on the obligations of states.

Webinar: From Santa Marta to Bonn – where next for the fossil fuel transition?

In response, Pacific island nations said these amendments sought to "reopen provisions that were [the] subject of extensive negotiation", while the EU added that they were "difficult to reconcile with the spirit of cooperation". They were all rejected in a series of votes.

The US, for its part, described the resolution as "highly problematic" and denied the obligation of preventing climate harm beyond its borders, as well as the assertion that climate change is an "unprecedented civilizational challenge". The country urged others to vote against the resolution.

India, which abstained, said the text failed to address the need for climate finance flows from developed to developing countries, which is "a serious omission". The Indian delegate pointed to the absence of the term "climate finance" in the text, which "deserves more attention in a resolution that deals with the obligations of states".

"Turning point in accountability", activists say

WWF's climate chief and former COP president Manuel Pulgar-Vidal said the General Assembly's vote was a step forward that "raises the pressure on all states to act in line with their obligations".

Rebecca Brown, CEO of the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), said the UN resolution shows that "multilateralism works" and with it, countries "carry the ICJ's historic ruling forward as a roadmap for climate action and accountability".

"By acting together, we can prevent further climate harm, in line with science and the law, by speeding up a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, protecting climate-vulnerable communities, and advancing climate justice," she added in a statement.

Vishal Prasad, director of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change - a group of young people who first made the push for an advisory opinion from the ICJ - said "the world has not only reaffirmed that ruling, but committed to making it a reality".

"This must be a turning point in accountability for damaging the climate. Communities on the frontlines, like in the Pacific, have been waiting far too long and continue to pay too high a price for the actions of others," he said. "The journey of this idea from classrooms in the Pacific to The Hague and the United Nations gives us continued hope that when people organise, the world can be moved to act."

## INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

### [U.N. General Assembly Embraces Court Opinion That Says Nations Have a Legal Obligation to Take Climate Action](#)

By: Dana Drugmand

The U.S. was among eight countries that voted against endorsing the nonbinding ruling that said all nations must take steps to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly in favor of a climate justice resolution championed by the small Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu. The resolution welcomes the historic advisory opinion on climate change issued by the International Court of Justice in July 2025 and calls upon U.N. member states to act upon the court's unanimous guidance, which clarified that addressing the climate crisis is not optional but rather is a legal duty under multiple sources of international law.

"Last year, the International Court of Justice ruled that countries have a legal duty to protect the climate, and today the world has not only reaffirmed that ruling, but committed to making it a reality. This must be a turning point in accountability for damaging the climate," Vishal Prasad, director of Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change—the group that initiated the campaign to request a climate change advisory opinion from the ICJ—said in a statement.

While nonbinding, the court's opinion is widely viewed as an authoritative interpretation of existing law. Legal experts say it could be used as persuasive authority in domestic climate litigation and in diplomatic arenas like the annual U.N. climate summits.

In its opinion, the ICJ—the principal judicial body of the United Nations—affirmed that limiting long-term global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius remains the primary goal for global climate action. It clarified that customary legal obligations apply to all countries regardless of whether they are parties to the U.N. climate treaties, and that protection of the environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of human rights.

The court also said the countries have a duty to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, including by regulating private actors, and it suggested that continued boosting of fossil fuels could be considered an internationally wrongful act.

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly on Wednesday seeks to operationalize the court's opinion. It calls upon countries to comply with their international obligations as clarified by the court. It also urges countries to implement measures to achieve the 1.5-degree objective, including by transitioning away from fossil fuels. And it requests that the U.N. Secretary-General issue a report exploring ways to advance compliance.

When the vote finally came, following some procedural wrangling over proposed amendments, it passed by a resounding majority with 141 member states voting in support, and 28 abstaining.

Only eight countries, Belarus, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Yemen,

voted against the resolution.

Prior to the vote, the U.S. delivered an oral statement strongly opposing the proposal and urging all countries to vote against it. “The United States continues to have serious legal and policy concerns about this resolution,” Tammy Bruce, deputy representative of the United States to the United Nations, said on the assembly floor. She called it “highly problematic” in directing states to comply with “so-called obligations,” including the duty to prevent transboundary harm to the global climate, which she said was “legally wrong.”

“The resolution includes inappropriate political demands relating to fossil fuels and on other climate topics,” Bruce added. She further argued that it makes “alarmist political statements such as the idea that climate change is an unprecedented challenge of civilizational proportions.”

In a speech before the General Assembly in September 2025, President Donald Trump called climate change the “greatest con job” in history and described renewable energy and other measures to reduce carbon emissions as a “green scam,” urging member nations to reject climate measures and consume American oil and gas.

The court itself stated in its opinion, aligning with warnings from top climate and Earth system scientists, that climate change is an “existential problem of planetary proportions that imperils all forms of life and the very health of our planet.”

In the months leading up to the vote on the resolution, the U.S. had reportedly tried pressuring other countries to oppose it and demand that Vanuatu withdraw it altogether. Vanuatu did not drop the resolution, but it did make some compromises on the text, such as eliminating a call to establish a global registry to track climate-related loss and damage.

In the end, though, the resolution endorsing the court’s opinion passed by a considerable margin, without any last-minute amendments that climate justice advocates say would have weakened the text even further. Advocates celebrated the milestone.

“Today’s vote marks an important step in advancing climate justice,” said Camile Cortez, senior campaigner on climate justice at Amnesty International. “This resolution brings renewed momentum towards ensuring accountability for climate-driven human rights harms and protecting present and future generations.”

Joie Chowdhury, senior attorney and climate justice and accountability manager at the Center for International Environmental Law, said the resolution’s power comes from the “strong majority” of countries voting yes. “It sends a clear signal in very troubled times that governments

remain committed to the rule of law, and to collective action to protect the climate,” Chowdhury told Inside Climate News. “And it’s a victory for constructive multilateralism and cooperation.”

“It demonstrates the collective refusal by the global majority to let a handful of holdouts block the path to climate justice,” Chowdhury added. “And crucially, it helps ensure that the ICJ’s advisory opinion is not a one-off breakthrough, but is a lasting compass for advancing ambition and equity.”

## **GMA NEWS**

### **How will Habagat and Super El Niño affect the Philippines?**

What should the country expect after state weather bureau PAGASA warned that the southwest monsoon, or Habagat, may coincide with a Super El Niño from June to August this year?

According to Mark Salazar's report in "24 Oras" on Tuesday, PAGASA noted that there's a 92% probability of Habagat coinciding with the Super El Niño from June to August.

"We will have more heavy rainfall events because we will likely experience an enhanced southwest monsoon. During El Niño, the easterlies weaken and become westerlies, and there are instances when typhoons recurve during June, July, and August. When typhoons recurve, they end up pulling in our Habagat," said PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section chief Ana Liza Solis.

PAGASA uses the term "very strong" El Niño, which others refer to as a "Super" El Niño. However, both terms mean the same thing based on Pacific Ocean surface temperature measurements.

"Because one model they based it on shows a warming of more than 3 degrees or more than 3.5 degrees Celsius, which can truly be called a super, very strong El Niño," said Solis.

The intensity of the expected Super El Niño was last experienced back in the 1870s.

Historical data also shows that while a strong El Niño means fewer tropical cyclones entering the country, the ones that do make landfall are much more destructive.

"It's either strong winds or heavy rain. It is also possible to have no rain, or very little rain but with strong winds—so those are the characteristics of our tropical cyclones with this El Niño," Solis explained.

What are the effects of Super El Niño in the country?

According to data gathered by GMA News Research, there were nine tropical cyclones that entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) during the July 2023 to June 2024 El Niño. These are:

Dodong (2023)  
Egay (2023)  
Falcon (2023)  
Goring (2023)  
Hanna (2023)  
Ineng (2023)

Jenny (2023)  
Kabayan (2023)  
Aghon (2023)

During the November 2018 to July 2019 El Niño, 10 tropical cyclones entered PAR, including the Tropical Depression Usman in 2018, which killed over a hundred people. The other tropical cyclones that entered in that period were:

Samuel (2018)  
Tomas (2018)  
Amang (2019)  
Betty (2019)  
Chedeng (2019)  
Dodong (2019)  
Egay (2019)  
Falcon (2019)  
Goring (2019)

It was also during the El Niño cycle when Typhoon Lando entered PAR in 2015.

PAGASA is urging the national government and local government units to prepare, especially since most urban drainage systems and flood control infrastructures are outdated and no longer adequate.

“Regarding the intensity and duration, it could be a heavy downpour where the rain becomes that intense in just a matter of hours, or the rain could be light but completely continuous,” said Solis.

While it’s still a long way off, the end of the Habagat season could give way to a prolonged drought, potentially affecting the country’s food production.

“Since we are projecting this as a very strong El Niño, it will likely peak around October, November, and December. This means the prolonged dry spell or possible drought conditions will start then. By the end of the year until the first quarter, we will see a high possibility of a significant reduction in rainfall across almost the entire country,” said Solis.

Preparedness and mitigation measures have reportedly long been laid out before Task Force El Niño. But their efficacy will be tested during the actual onset of the El Niño phenomenon.  
—Vince Angelo Ferreras/RF, GMA News

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [QC Mayor Belmonte warns climate funds bypass cities](#)

By: Trixee Rosel

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte raised concern over the limited direct access of local governments to climate financing, stressing that cities remain underfunded despite being at the frontline of climate change impacts.

Speaking at the Philanthropy Asia Summit 2026 in Singapore, held from May 18 to 20, Belmonte said cities like Quezon City -- with a population of about 3.3 million -- are not directly reached by existing climate finance mechanisms, even as they carry the immediate burden of climate-related disasters.

At the panel "Turning Pledges into Progress: How Investment-Ready Governments Turn Climate Finance into Results," Belmonte underscored the widening gap between global climate finance commitments and actual delivery to local governments.

She also pointed out that philanthropic funding for the Philippines remains limited, citing what she described as reputational concerns, including issues linked to the flood control scandal, which have affected investor confidence.

Belmonte highlighted Quezon City's own climate initiatives, including the deployment of additional electric buses under the QCity Bus free ride program aimed at reducing emissions and improving public transport services.

She emphasized that beyond funding access, strong governance systems are crucial to ensure that climate finance is efficiently managed and translated into measurable and accountable results.

Joining Belmonte in the panel were Woonchong Um, CEO of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet; Zoe Whitton of the Investor Group on Climate Change; Arghya Sinha Roy of the Asian Development Bank; and Laurel Blatchford of Delivery Associates, with Kate Epstein serving as moderator.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **Philippines donates \$60K to UN maritime agency for climate programs**

By: Katrina Manubay

The Philippines on Thursday announced it contributed an additional \$60,000 to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) — the United Nations specialized agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping — to support programs on climate action, women in maritime, and technical cooperation amid growing geopolitical tensions affecting global shipping routes.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) emphasized that this contribution reflects the Philippines' ongoing commitment to strengthening multilateral maritime cooperation during a time of rising geopolitical tensions.

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“As global maritime trade faces heightened pressures, sustained support for the IMO's capacity-building work is seen as vital in ensuring stability, resilience, and the continued safe and efficient flow of international shipping for the benefit of all,” the statement read.

The donation was formally presented by Philippine Permanent Representative to the IMO Teodoro Locsin Jr. to Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez at the IMO Headquarters in London.

“The Philippine Government remains steadfast in championing the welfare and protection of all seafarers, especially Filipinos who make up a significant number of the profession, and recognizes the importance of contributing to global efforts that enhance maritime governance, improve safety standards, and foster fair and inclusive opportunities across the maritime sector, especially for women, who want to work in this field,” Locsin said.

“By helping the IMO, we are aiding not only ourselves but the entire global community in mitigating the devastating impacts of climate change that severely affect our country,” he added.

The donation will be channeled through the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Program within the Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, focusing on implementing strategies to reduce shipping-related GHG emissions and supporting the technical cooperation committee.

It will also help Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, aligning with the Philippines' commitment to assist fellow developing nations.

A portion of the funds will support the IMO's Women in Maritime Program, which aims to expand opportunities for women in the maritime industry and foster greater gender inclusivity, recognizing that more Filipina women are entering seafaring roles.

Currently, the Philippines is a member of the IMO Council's 40-seat category, having been reelected in November 2025 under Category C, which includes states with special interests in maritime transport or navigation.

## THE GUARDIAN

### [UN backs historic climate crisis ruling, despite US attempts to stop resolution](#)

The UN has voted 141-8 to adopt a resolution backing a world court opinion that countries have a legal obligation to address climate change, with the US – which is the world’s biggest historical emitter – among the small group opposing it.

The UN secretary general, António Guterres, said Wednesday’s general assembly vote, in which 28 countries abstained, underscored that governments are responsible for protecting citizens from the “escalating climate crisis”.

“I welcome the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the ICJ’s advisory opinion on climate change – a powerful affirmation of international law, climate justice, science + the responsibility of states to protect people from the escalating climate crisis,” Guterres said in a post on X.

The resolution, brought by the Pacific island Vanuatu, affirms a July 2025 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that states are obligated to reduce fossil fuel use and tackle global warming.

While not legally binding, the court’s advisory opinion is already being used in climate litigation around the world and judges are starting to reference it in their climate-related rulings.

But it has proved more intractable as a diplomatic lever. It failed to make a mark at last year’s UNFCCC climate talks in Belem; Saudi Arabia called its inclusion in final texts a “red, red line”.

The US joined Saudi Arabia, Russia, Israel, Iran, Yemen, Liberia and Belarus in opposing the resolution on Wednesday. Cop31 climate summit host Turkey, India, and oil producers Qatar and Nigeria were among those abstaining.

Australia, Germany, France and the UK were among the 141 voting in favour of the resolution.

The Trump administration has removed the US from the Paris climate agreement and other major environmental accords, and has pursued policies to boost fossil fuel production.

“The resolution includes inappropriate political demands relating to fossil fuels,” the US deputy ambassador to the UN, Tammy Bruce, said. Washington saw no basis for requiring the secretary-general to report on the legal issues raised, Bruce added.

The Associated Press reported in February that the Trump administration had been urging other nations to press Vanuatu to withdraw the resolution from consideration.

Before the vote, Odo Tevi, the Vanuatu ambassador to the UN, said: “We should be honest with one another about why this matters ... It matters because the harm is real and it is already here, along our islands and coastlines, for communities facing drought and failed harvests.

“The states and peoples bearing the heaviest burden are very often those who contributed least to the problem,” he said.

Vanuatu’s minister of climate change, Ralph Regenvanu, said: “In the current geopolitical context, sustained commitment to the rule of law is more important than ever” and that climate change “is no exception”.

“Upholding the court’s clarification of existing obligations is essential for the credibility of the international system and for effective collective action,” he said.

For decades, Pacific nations have watched their homelands slowly disappear.

In Tuvalu, where the average elevation is just 2 metres (6.6 feet) above sea level, more than a third of the population has applied for a climate migration visa to Australia, although only a limited number are accepted each year. By 2100, much of the country is projected to be underwater at high tide.

In Nauru, the government has begun selling passports to wealthy foreigners – offering visa-free access to dozens of countries – in a bid to generate revenue for possible relocation efforts.

The Paris climate agreement in 2015 set a goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius since preindustrial times, or the mid-1800s, giving rise to the mantra “1.5 to stay alive,” but now scientists say even their best-case scenario still shoots past that signature temperature mark.

Vishal Prasad, the director of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, which led the campaign for an ICJ opinion, called the vote a commitment to “making it a reality”.

## UN NEWS

### [General Assembly backs historic World Court climate crisis ruling](#)

A landmark General Assembly resolution adopted on Wednesday is “a powerful affirmation” of international law, climate justice and science, according to UN chief António Guterres.

The Secretary-General said it makes clear Member States’ responsibility to protect their own people from what is an “escalating climate crisis”.

The resolution drawn up by Vanuatu - a Pacific island nation on the frontline of the climate crisis, and several other countries - was adopted after intense discussion including multiple proposed amendments with 141 votes in favour, eight against and 28 abstentions.

Those voting against were Belarus, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the US and Yemen.

When the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN’s principal judicial body, ruled in July 2025 that States have an obligation to protect the environment from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the decision was hailed as a breakthrough. The UN chief described it simply as “a victory for our planet”.

#### ‘Legal duty’

The Court also ruled that if States breach these obligations, they are legally responsible and may be legally required to stop the wrongful conduct, offer guarantees that it won’t happen again, and make full reparation, depending on the circumstances.

Although the ICJ’s advisory opinions are not binding, they carry significant legal and moral authority – helping to clarify and develop international law by defining States’ legal obligations.

Wednesday’s General Assembly adoption following up on the ruling, sends a strong message that tackling the climate crisis is a legal duty under international law, and not just a political choice. “The world’s highest court has spoken,” responded Mr. Guterres. “Today, the General Assembly has answered.”

#### What’s in the resolution?

The resolution calls on all UN Member States to take all possible steps to avoid causing significant damage to the climate and environment, including emissions produced within their borders, and to follow through on their existing climate pledges under the Paris Agreement.

Governments are urged to cooperate in good faith and continuously coordinate efforts to tackle climate change globally and ensure that climate policies safeguard the rights to life, health, and an adequate standard of living.

In a statement released after the General Assembly vote, Mr. Guterres declared that those least responsible for climate change are paying the highest price, and that the path to climate justice “runs through a rapid, just, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.”

The UN Secretary-General noted that renewables have proved to be the cheapest and most secure form of energy and that the goal of keeping global temperature rises to no more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels is still within reach.

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