

of the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.

The jurisdiction of the Court comprises all cases the parties, by agreement, refer to it and all matters specially provided for in the Charter of the United Nations or in other international treaties and conventions. States may declare that they accept, with or without exceptions or reservations, the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court in certain categories of cases. Furthermore, "the Court may give an advisory opinion on any legal question at the request of whatever body may be authorized by or in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to make such a request". (Article 65 of the Statute)

Admission of new members

Under the Charter, membership in the United Nations is open to all peace-loving states that accept and, in the judgment of the organization, are able and willing to carry out the obligations of the Charter. New members are admitted by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council, where proposals may be vetoed by any one of the permanent members. At San Francisco, Canada opposed granting any one of the five great powers a veto over the admission of new members and strongly supported an Australian proposal by which new members, apart from the ex-enemy states, would be admitted by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly, but the Australian proposal was defeated. Canadian support for the Australian proposal reflected the view, which Canada has held and advocated consistently ever since, that the United Nations should have as one of its important goals universality of membership.

The United Nations was not intended to be an exclusive club. A Secretary-General, U Thant, put the case for universality in this way, in an address at the University of Denver in April 1964: