

PREFACE

In 2007 the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) has completed fifty-one years as a forum for consultation and cooperation on major International Law issues. By deliberating within the AALCO forum, the Member States have immensely benefited and had beneficially contributed to progressive development and codification of International Law, taking place in the UN. Indeed, through AALCO, the voice of Asia and Africa has come to be heard in the domain of International Law considered to be traditionally the exclusive preserve of western powers. Over the period of time it has expanded its activities to include contemporary and relevant topics on its agenda. Its work programme has also been suitably oriented to meet the needs of an expanding membership, which now includes forty-eight States from the most populous continents, namely Asia and Africa.

Consistent with the global reach of its activities the Annual Sessions of the Organization provide an appropriate forum for its Member States to consider and deliberate on some of the current and most important topics related to international law. The Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO that was held in the picturesque city of Cape Town, (Republic of South Africa) from 2 to 6 July 2007, was a grand success. In terms of participation thirty Member States, Observers from seven Non-member States, representatives of six International Organizations and one Regional Organization attended and contributed to fruitful deliberations in the Session.

A customary practice complied at the Session was the holding of two half -day Special Meetings, instead of one, with the active cooperation of the Host Government and sister inter-governmental organizations to extensively consider the topics chosen for discussion. Presentations made by internationally acclaimed and recognized subject-experts paved the way for thought provoking discussions. The topics for the two meetings were “International Investment, Trade and Development” and “International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism”. The Meetings were organized with the full cooperation of the Host Government, the representatives from various departments in the Republic of South Africa and UNODC. In this context, I would like to reiterate the importance of the Cooperation Agreements with International Organizations, which provide a very useful basis for holding such meetings and provide to AALCO its international exposure. Another note worthy event during the Session was the Signing Ceremony of the Agreement for the Regional Centre for Arbitration in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya. Thus, as of now five Regional Arbitration Centres, within the auspices of AALCO are functional at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt), Lagos (Nigeria), Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran), and Nairobi (Republic of Kenya).

Following the established practice the Secretariat prepared briefs on all the fifteen items on the agenda. Complying with the policy of rationalization of the agenda, nine items were extensively deliberated. This comprehensive Report presents to the Member States the discussions and deliberations on those items in detail. On the concluding day of the Session, the Member States adopted the Summary Report, Resolutions on Organizational, and Substantive Matters, including two Resolutions on the Special Meetings along with

the Message of Gratitude on behalf of all the Member States to H.E. the President of the Republic of South Africa. It gives me immense satisfaction to state that the Drafting Committee members spared no efforts in meticulously going through all the above-mentioned documents. Besides the documents that were adopted, the Secretariat officials also prepared the Provisional Summary Records of the Inaugural Session, First and Second Meetings of Delegations of Member States, as well as five General Meetings, that were distributed to all delegations. The Member States were requested to review the document and send their suggestions/comments to the Secretariat within a period of six weeks. After the Session, the Provisional Summary Records of the Third Meeting of Delegations of Member States, the Reconvened Fifth General Meeting and Sixth General Meeting (Concluding Session) were sent to all the Member States on 16 August 2007. As on date the Secretariat has received some responses from Member States, which have been duly reflected in this Report.

This Report of the Forty-Sixth Session contains mainly the text of statements of the Inaugural Session, three Meetings of Delegations of Member States and the six General Meetings; the Resolutions adopted at the Session; the Summary Report of the Session and the list of participants who attended the Session.

For the brilliant success of the Session I wish to thank the National Host Committee established by the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the excellent administrative and other preparations, where each and every detail was carefully put in place so that the proceedings during the Session went on smoothly and with precision.

Before concluding I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my friends and colleagues Dr. Xu Jie and Amb. S.R. Tabatabaei Shafaei, the Deputy Secretaries-General, for their outstanding contribution in the organization of the Session.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to the Assistant Principal Legal officer, Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi; Senior Legal Officers, Dr. Burra Srinivas, Mr. Shikhar Ranjan, and Mr. Rajesh Babu R.; and Legal Officers, Mr. Mohammed Hussain, Mr. Leeladhar Bhandary, Mr. Senthil Kumar, Ms. Shannu Narayan and Mr. Pandiaraj and the other Secretariat staff for their immense efforts exerted to help me in fulfilling my mandate, for their professionalism, sense of responsibility in an inspiring team work which contributed immensely towards making the Session a success and in bringing out all the documents referred to in this Preface, on time.

14 September 2007

Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil
Secretary-General