

**IV. SUMMARY RECORD OF  
THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
DELEGATIONS OF AALCO  
MEMBER STATES  
HELD ON MONDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY  
2007 AT 11: 45 AM**

**His Excellency Mr. Narinder Singh,  
President of the Forty-Fifth Session  
in the Chair.**

1. The **President** welcomed back the Delegates for the First Meeting of Delegations of AALCO Member States and announced that the meeting was exclusively for the delegations of AALCO Member States, and therefore requested the Observer Delegations to withdraw from the Meeting of Delegations and later join the Session for the General Meetings.

2. Thereafter, the **President** referred to the Provisional Agenda and the Schedule of Meetings for the Forty-Sixth Session. There being no comments from the delegations, the President declared the Agenda and Schedule of Meetings for the Session as adopted.

3. The next item taken up was related to the "Admission of Observers". There being no comments the admission of Observers was approved by the Meeting.

4. The meeting then took up the agenda item "**Election of President**". The **President** invited the **Leader of Delegation of the People's Republic of China** to make a proposal in this regard. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China proposed the name of Her Excellency Mrs. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla, the current Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development of the Republic of South Africa as the President of the Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO. Outlining

the profile of Mrs. Mabandla, the Delegate stated that she was the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development of the Republic of South Africa since April 2004 and was also the Member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. She was also a Member of the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee of the African National Congress. Previously, she was the Minister for Housing of South Africa from February 2003 until April 2004 and prior to that she was Deputy Minister of Science, Art and Culture, since April 1995. The Delegate observed that the election of Mrs. Mabandla as the President of the Forty-Sixth Session would contribute greatly to success of the Session.

5. The **Leader of Delegation of the Republic of Kenya** seconded the proposal. The Delegate of Kenya highlighted that the credentials and the active participation of Her Excellency Mrs. Mabandla to the struggle against apartheid was well known. She has been very active in legal affairs, as well as academic and related matters. She held many important Ministerial positions in the Government of Republic of South Africa for very long. Politically, she is an important leader of South Africa and is Member of both the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee of the African National Congress. The Delegate stated that her election would make history in AALCO, as she would be the first lady President of an AALCO Session. He said that the Organization was fortunate to have this beginning in South Africa and wished that it would be replicated more in future.

6. The **President** declared the election of Her Excellency Mrs. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla, Minister for

Justice and Constitutional Development of the Republic of South Africa as the President of the Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO.

7. The **President** thereafter took up for consideration, the agenda item on the “**Election of Vice- President**”. The **Leader of the Delegation of Republic of South Africa** proposed **Mr. Eddy Pratomo the Leader of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia**, as the Vice-President of the Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO. Outlining his distinguished career, the Delegate stated that presently Mr. Pratomo was the Director-General, Legal Affairs and International Treaties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Republic of Indonesia. Earlier, he had held various senior positions in his Government and had served with great distinction both at the Capital, as well as representative of his country at the UN headquarters in New York. The **Leader of the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam** seconded the nomination of Mr. Eddy Pratomo. There being no other proposals Mr. Pratomo was declared elected as the Vice-President of the Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO.

8. The **President** thereafter invited the President-elect Ms. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla to assume her position.

**{The President of the Forty-Sixth Session of the AALCO assumed seat on the Dias.}**

9. The newly elected **President** thanked His Excellency Mr. Narinder Singh, the outgoing President, for his able leadership during the past year. She observed that through his dedication and vision, AALCO had enjoyed a successful year in fulfilling the mandate of the Organization.

10. She observed that she looked forward to working with His Excellency, Amb. Dr. Kamil, the Secretary-General and his able and efficient staff during the Session and the year ahead. In the short period of time that the Host National Committee had in preparing for this conference, they were struck by the professionalism of the AALCO Secretariat.

11. The **President** hoped that with the support of all the Distinguished Delegations of Member States, particularly the Ministers of Africa who were present there would assist her in persuading more African countries to join the AALCO. This was not only an important professional body, but also a platform for friendship and solidarity.

12. She wished the Conference every success, and would try, to the best of her ability, to ensure that this Session was fruitful and during South Africa's Presidency she would do all in her capacity to promote the work, ideals and interests of all AALCO Member States.

13. The **President** thereafter invited the **Secretary-General to present his “Report on the Work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization”**.

14. The **Secretary-General** Amb. Dr. Kamil expressed his warm congratulations to Mrs. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla, the President of the Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO. He stated that her election that morning marked a new beginning for AALCO, in the first year after its Golden Jubilee. It was for the first time that a woman had been elected as President of the Organization, after fifty-one years of having been established.

15. On behalf of Member States and on his own behalf, he earnestly thanked the President for hosting the Forty-Sixth Annual Session of AALCO in the beautiful city of Cape Town. The Secretary-General observed that it was only because of her firm determination and commitment to the ideals and objectives of AALCO, that, despite joining AALCO recently, her Government readily agreed to convene the Forty-Sixth Session dedicated to promote Asian-African solidarity on international law matters. Her inspiring leadership, wisdom, progressive vision and excellent command over international law issues would, he believed certainly leave an indelible mark during the term of her Presidency on the work of the Organization and it would be able to attain much greater heights. The Cape Town Session itself, he was quite confident would prove to be a momentous one, as under her energetic leadership and constant guidance, the Host Government Committee had left no stones unturned to make it a historic success.

16. On behalf of his colleagues in the Secretariat and on his own behalf, the Secretary-General assured the President of his full co-operation in all her endeavors to promote the work of the AALCO, during the term of her Presidency and also to make that Session a grand success.

17. He also took that opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, Mr. Eddy Pratomo, the Leader of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia on his election as the Vice-President of the Session. Together, with Madam President, he was quite confident that he would strive to ensure the accomplishment of the objectives of this Session.

18. The Secretary-General also seized the occasion to express his deep gratitude to all Member States for reposing confidence in him. Their kind support and co-operation was valuable for him in discharging his duties up to their satisfaction. He assured them that he would continue to work with greater zeal and sincerity throughout his remaining tenure.

19. The Secretary-General stated that it was indeed an honour and a duty for him to summarize the main aspects of his Report contained in document AALCO/46<sup>th</sup> /CAPE TOWN SESSION/2007/ORG 1. The Report covered the activities of AALCO till April 2007 and was sent for the consideration of Member States, on 16<sup>th</sup> of May, therefore he would be brief in highlighting its salient features.

20. Presently, the substantive agenda of the Organization contained as many as fifteen items. In order to ensure focused and fruitful deliberations on the topics, the policy of rationalization of agenda had been adopted since Seoul Session in 2003. This policy of rationalization of agenda had been found to be extremely useful and he observed that it had become a useful tradition for AALCO to divide its agenda into deliberated and non-deliberated items.

21. Building upon this policy, he observed that, for the Forty-Sixth Session, as was endorsed by the Leader of Delegations in their first meeting that morning, the Session would have detailed deliberations on 10 items. He invited Member States and Observers, who wished to do so, to give their comments/observations regarding the following non-deliberated items either in their General Statements or in a Written Form handed over to the Secretariat that could later be included

in the Report of the Forty-Sixth Session. The non-deliberated items for that Session were: International Terrorism; Legal Protection of Migrant Workers; Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties; Environment and Sustainable Development; and Report on the work of UNCITRAL and other International Organizations in the field of International Trade Law. The Secretariat had prepared studies on all these agenda items and had been distributed along with the other studies.

22. The Secretary-General recalled the useful contribution made by the Drafting Committee in the last four Sessions. Such a Committee was constituted for the first time in Seoul Session (2003) and since then it had become an integral and important part of the work of the Sessions. The preparation of the Summary Report and Resolutions by the Committee had gone a long-way in further improving their work. The Open-ended Drafting Committee met either before or after the General Meetings and based upon its thorough and careful work, the Session, would adopt on the concluding day the Summary Report and the Resolutions as final documents of the Session. He therefore, looked forward towards constituting later in the day a Drafting Committee, headed by a Senior Official from the host Government with participation open to all the delegates to facilitate their work. He requested the Leader of Delegations to nominate one or two Members from their Delegations to be part of this Committee.

23. After this brief summing up of the non-deliberated items, as well as about the Drafting Committee, the Secretary-General proceeded to draw

the attention of the august body on some of the activities undertaken by the Organization since the Forty-Fifth Session.

24. The Secretary-General stated that for the Organization, to contribute more effectively in international legal matters, a strong Membership was essential. He, as well as his predecessors had exerted strenuous efforts in that regard. Such efforts continued to bear fruits and very soon after the Headquarters Session, last year, Republic of Cameroon became the newest Member of the AALCO family. He further stressed that in Africa there existed tremendous potential of further expanding the Membership of Organization, and in this regard, he recalled the plan that was discussed together with the President aimed at seeking her, and the Government of South Africa's help in motivating some of the countries in their region to join AALCO. The Secretary-General said that he was quite confident that the Hon'ble President would do her utmost to fulfil that common goal.

25. Thereafter, he drew attention to the very successful Meeting of International Experts on Human Rights in Islam (MIEHRI) that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15 to 19 May 2006. The Government of Malaysia in collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the AALCO Secretariat had organized the Meeting. The main theme of the Meeting was "Understanding Human Rights as Understood in Islam". The Meeting was a grand success and highlighted human rights principles envisaged in Islam and also served as a platform for experts from various fields to examine Islamic principles on human rights with the main purpose of dissuading misunderstanding of Islam

and the Muslims. On behalf of Member States, he recorded his profound gratitude to H. E. Hon'ble Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Attorney-General of Malaysia; and through him to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this Meeting and also to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their cooperation and for the financial assistance, which contributed to make the Meeting a success.

26. In July 2006, upon an invitation from the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice of Nigeria, he participated in the Joint ECOWAS-ECCAS-UNICEF Meeting of Ministers on Trafficking in Persons in Abuja, Nigeria. At the end of this meeting an Agreement to curb trafficking in Persons was signed.

27. Later, he proceeded to attend the second part of the fifty-eighth Session of the International Law Commission and placed before the Commission the crux of the views of AALCO Member States during the deliberations at the Forty-Fifth Session on the agenda item. These views had been considered very valuable by the Members of the Commission in proceeding with its Work Programme. The Secretary-General mentioned that his former colleague, Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Motokatsu Watanabe represented the Organization at the commemorative ceremony, held in Hamburg, Germany, to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

28. The Secretary-General highlighted that the United Nations considered on a biennial basis the item pertaining to "Cooperation between United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization". Last year the General Assembly considered

the item on 20 October 2006. The Representative of India at the United Nations, on behalf of the President of the Forty-Fifth Session introduced the item and the resolution. Delegations from the People's Republic of China and Japan supported that resolution and highlighted the contributions made by the AALCO. In his address, to the General Assembly, he highlighted the work of the Organization during the last two years (2004-06).

29. Later, on the sidelines of the General Assembly Session, on 30 October 2006, he convened a meeting of AALCO Legal Advisers and AALCO-ILC Joint meeting. H. E. Mr. Narinder Singh, President of the Forty-Fifth Session chaired both these meetings, which were highly successful. These Meetings constituted a major part of the Inter-sessional work of the Organization.

30. On an official invitation, extended by H. E. Mohammed bin Ali al Alawi, Minister of Legal Affairs, Sultanate of Oman, he visited the Sultanate of Oman, from 22 to 26 April 2007. His visit to the Sultanate was highly successful. It not only reaffirmed the cooperation and relationship between the AALCO and the Sultanate, but also gave an opportunity to appreciate the rich historical, cultural and religious heritage and significance of one of the important Member States of AALCO. The Meetings with the H. E. Mohammed bin Ali al Alawi, Minister of Legal Affairs; H. H. Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers; and H. H. Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture; were very productive and gave a new dimension and direction to the effective cooperation between the AALCO and the Sultanate. An

important outcome of the visit was the welcoming in principle of his proposal for organizing an Expert Group Meeting/Seminar on the topic "Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection" jointly with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, Sultanate of Oman and AALCO, with the cooperation of the UN Specialized Agencies. He took that opportunity to profoundly thank H. E. Mohammed Bin Ali al Alawi, Minister of Legal Affairs, Sultanate of Oman, for inviting him to Oman and according him and his colleague a very warm hospitality, as well as for facilitating very fruitful meetings during the course of his visit.

31. Further, he mentioned that he and his colleagues had attended different meetings on various subjects of international law on the agenda of AALCO that took place in New Delhi.

32. The Secretary-General thereafter observed that the Organization had as many as 17 cooperative arrangements with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations. Since he assumed office, it had been his endeavour to conclude more such Agreements. He hoped that these Cooperation Agreements would start to bear fruits after the Secretariat moves to the Permanent Headquarters Building of the Organization. There was a plan to organize training/internship programmes on diverse topics of International Law for the benefit of officials from Member States.

33. The Secretary-General then proceeded to highlight the Secretariat's initiative of restructuring and revitalizing the AALCO publications. Publications were the face of an Organization and AALCO publications

in their new shape had been very well received by the Member States. The Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization now found a place of pride amongst the publications of International Organizations. The monthly Newsletter had received positive feedback from the Member States. The Secretariat on a regular basis received requests from different parts of the globe for these publications. A commemorative volume to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Organization entitled "*Essays in International Law*", would be released by Madam President during the course of the Session. The volume contained contributions from some of the very eminent International Lawyers.

34. With the encouragement and support of Member States, the AALCO Secretariat, he observed, planned to continue to strengthen its various publications. In this regard, constant efforts would be made to improve their quality and content. The Secretariat looked forward to valuable comments and suggestions from the Member States to further improve them and make them as beneficial as possible to Member States.

35. The Secretary-General on behalf of the Member States thanked the People and Government of India for providing the AALCO with its Permanent Headquarters Building. As was mentioned by the President of the Forty-Fifth Session, the building was inaugurated in conjunction with the Forty-Fifth Session by Hon'ble Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 in the presence of all the delegations from Member Governments and non-Member States attending the Session. Soon after the inauguration, the Secretariat was keen to shift to the Permanent Headquarters

Building, however, owing to some pending works and technical requirements, the shifting has been postponed.

36. On behalf of the Member States and the Secretariat, he made an earnest request to the Government of India to expedite the completion of work pertaining to pending matters and handover to the Organization a well-equipped and fully functional Permanent Headquarters Building.

37. He took that opportunity to thank the President of Forty-Fifth Session Mr. Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India who along with his colleagues at the Legal and Treaties Division, has been exerting tremendous pressure on the construction agencies such as Central Public Works Department (CPWD), as well as with all other concerned authorities to ensure that all construction work was timely completed and the Organization moved to its Permanent Headquarters Building.

38. In conclusion, the Secretary-General observed that he was gratified by the presence of several Hon'ble Ministers and distinguished delegates assembled there. He sought their guidance and suggestions to revitalize AALCO's role and activities so that it could be more vibrant and render useful services to its Member States. He assured them that he would do his best to attain the objectives of the Organization and for this he needed their support and full cooperation.

39. There being no comments on the Report of the Secretary-General on Organizational, Administrative and Financial Matters, the President proceeded to place for consideration

the **“Draft Budget for the Year 2008”** and invited the Secretary-General to introduce the proposals in this regard.

40. At the outset, the **Secretary-General** mentioned that the Draft Budget of 2008 was in fact the Budget for the coming year wherein AALCO would commence functioning from its new Headquarters Building. It had a deficit. He drew attention of the Member States to the difficult financial situation being faced by the Organization. He stressed that during his entire tenure, together with his colleagues, he had tried his best to take the Organization to greater heights amongst the family of Intergovernmental Organizations. During the last 14 years, there was no increase in contributions to the Budget of the Organization, therefore keeping in view the rising inflationary pressure, the contribution of Member States payable to the AALCO Budget needed to be revised. In this regard, together with the Liaison Officers, the Secretary-General stated that he had deliberated upon a scheme of enhanced contributions. However, as there was no consensus on his proposals and as the matter was within the sovereign powers of the Member Governments, he had withdrawn his proposals, for increase in contribution. The Draft Budget for the year 2008 placed for consideration was similar to the Budget for 2007, but there were two-three reasons for the variation between income and expenditure. The first reason in this regard was the drop in the rates of US dollar vis-à-vis Indian rupee and that had negatively affected the Secretariat Budget. The second reason was that every eighth year, after the completion of the term of the Secretary-General there would be an incoming and outgoing Secretaries-General. In this regard, an allocation of

US \$ 25, 000 had been made to take care of the expenses related to meet the expenditure of incoming and outgoing Secretary-General pertaining to airfare, transportation of luggage and other related expenses. This was very well within the Financial Rules of the Organization and such an expenditure would occur only once every eighth year. However, this amount could be met from the Reserve Fund. Further, the budget could be streamlined to the extent of US \$ 20, 000 as one Senior Legal Officer had submitted his resignation and another senior colleague at the Secretariat was about to retire. He stated that to streamline the Budget he had reluctantly accepted the resignation and would not consider making any new recruitment for these positions in the Secretariat. Thus both salaries would be saved and there would be less expenditure on the Organizational Budget.

41. The Secretary-General observed that very little allocation had been made in the new Budget to take care of the Secretariat's functioning from the new headquarters building. It was a massive building and to take care of the Security and electrical maintenance, particularly of the huge generators installed in the basement of the building, in view of its safety, he would have to recruit more Security staff, as well as a technically qualified person, round-the-clock, to take care of generators and electrical installations. Further, there would be additional staff required to take care of cleaning and maintenance of the building.

42. To take care of the expenses pertaining to the outgoing and incoming Secretary-General in the year 2016, he had suggested that an annual amount be saved and put in fixed deposits, so that the amount saved could be utilized without any

constraint on the Budget in 2016. This proposal was very much appreciated by the Liaison Officers.

43. The Secretary-General mentioned that after a long wait of fifty years the Organization was about to commence its functioning from the new Permanent Headquarters Building. He hoped that a new era with a new dimension would commence in AALCO activities with the moving in of the Secretariat to this new building. There were excellent facilities to conduct training programmes/seminars conferences with the aid of latest technology and interpretation facilities in the building. He hoped that the Member States would consider his request for adoption of the budget and give to the Secretariat an opportunity to start the new era.

44. The problem of arrears was a huge burden on AALCO's budget. In this regard, he urged those Member States that had not contributed to make their contributions at the earliest. He informed the Member States that both the paying and non-paying Member States were being offered same level of service by the Organization and there was no discrimination as far as rendering of service was considered to any of the non-paying Members. Many paying Member States had informally expressed to him their displeasure at this situation and felt that it was unfair.

45. The Secretary-General mentioned that he had put in his best honest efforts to exercise strict control over the Budget. This was highly appreciated by the Auditor appointed by the Member States.

46. Finally, the Secretary-General stated that he wanted to hand over to his successor a clean budget with



enough funds so that he could steer the Organization to greater heights.

47. The President invited the **Leader of the Delegation of Japan** to make a statement on the Draft Budget of 2008. The Leader of Delegation of Japan stated that the adoption of the Draft Budget for 2008 was an important question for all the Member States including Japan. However, his delegation was under strict instruction from his Government not to agree to any raise in the Budget. Japan was the largest contributor to the budget of AALCO. His country wanted the Organization to further develop, however at the same time, it wanted it works on a sound financial footing. The Leader of Delegation of Japan then requested his fellow delegate to explain the Japanese position relating to the budget. The Delegate of Japan stated in their understanding the Draft Budget was not approved at the 294<sup>th</sup> meeting of Liaison Officers, held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the AALCO Secretariat. The Liaison Officers had decided to transfer it for the consideration of the Forty-Sixth Session. Japan was in principle agreeable to the budgetary proposals for the year 2007. However, the draft proposals for 2008 contained a hike of 18.7% that was not acceptable to his Government. However, keeping in view the principle of consensus, on the basis of which AALCO functioned, they could agree upon a hike of 5% increase with reference to 2007 Budget, provided the following two conditions were met. First, the increase in 2008 budget was exceptional and a one time affair only. Second, eventual deficit be covered from the Reserve Fund. The Delegate appreciated the efforts of Amb. Kamil to put AALCO on a sound financial footing, and hoped that a realistic approach would

be found to the budgetary problem of the Organization.

48. The **Leader of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**<sup>1</sup> accorded his approval to the Draft Budget for 2008. He called upon the Member States, in arrears to honourably meet their financial commitments as they were the Members of a Legal Organization and men of law should abide by their own law. He proposed that a mechanism be drawn up to deal with countries in arrears.

49. The **Leader of the Delegation of the Republic of Kenya** stated that by all accounts the hike proposed in the Draft Budget for 2008 was a modest one. In comparison to the other Intergovernmental Organizations, AALCO functioned on a very modest and reasonable budget. The key question, however, was how to solve the problems of arrears and to that end what could be done. In this regard, he suggested that the President and the Secretary-General could informally place the matter before the Head of State/Government of the concerned State so that the matter could be resolved at the highest level. He stated that he shared some of the concerns of Japan. However, his main concern was that the budgetary allocation for the Centre for Research and Training at US \$ 4000 which was very less, compared to the allocated amount of US \$ 25, 000 for the incoming and outgoing Secretaries-General. Research was a very important activity for the Organization and there was a need to prioritize the needs of the Organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

50. The **Leader of the Delegation of Malaysia** observed that the matters pertaining to Budget had been frequently discussed at almost all the Annual Sessions. The concern of his delegation in this regard was that the Secretary-General had already exerted efforts to collect arrears and by exercising financial control over the Budget. He had brought the matter to the attention of Member States and it was for the Member States to decide upon the future course of action. He further said that whatever was due to the outgoing Secretary-General must be provided to him as it was his entitlement. One must not take his right for such benefits, which accrue, to anyone in civil service. In his view, it was not the right thing to do. He suggested that the Drafting Committee considers devising a proposal for a supplementary budget, as well as provision for voluntary contributions from the Member States.

51. The **Leader of the Delegation of Uganda** stated that indeed the budget of AALCO was very modest. By looking at the means of income, one realizes that they were very limited. There was little scope of generation of royalty from the publications of AALCO. However, there was a need to galvanize the resources of AALCO. One such mechanism could be that the Secretariat could charge reasonable fees for the services it renders to its Member States. He expressed his pleasure at the building being provided to the Organization and suggested that in order to generate revenue for the Organization, the building could be partly rented.

52. The **Leader of the Delegation of United Arab Emirates**<sup>2</sup> hoped that the problem pertaining to the arrears of contribution could be amicably resolved. He suggested that to overcome the exchange rate disparity two separate accounts in US Dollar and Euro be maintained. He concurred with the proposal relating to the renting of the part of the building, as well as creating avenues for establishing any new activity from which the Organization could profit.

53. The **Leader of the Delegation of Sultanate of Oman**<sup>3</sup> stated that it was not for the first time that matters pertaining to Budget were being discussed at such length. He appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary-General to manage within the available resources, the activities of AALCO. As regards, non-paying Member States, he drew attention to the case of Somalia, which had requested for an exemption from making contribution. The Organization had favourably considered its request. As regards, for the other non-paying Members they had made no such requests, and the next step could be to withdraw their membership.

54. The **Delegate of Sudan** observed that the Leader of Delegation of Sudan had not arrived so far and that he would address this matter later.

55. The **Leader of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran** stated that the proposed budget seemed modest and reasonable. Keeping in view the rising inflation, as well as shifting to new headquarters building and provisions for the outgoing and incoming Secretaries-General, he

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<sup>2</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

<sup>3</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

called for acceptance of the Draft Budget for the year 2008.

56. The **Leader of the Delegation of Japan** referring to the Statutory Rule 13 of the Organization stated that decision of Organization was taken by consensus. If in the event of the proposals being accepted, in the best spirit of constructive cooperation his delegation wished to state that it could not associate itself with that decision by consensus.

57. The **Leader of the Delegation of Senegal** felt that there was some communication gap between the Secretariat and the non-paying Members. As regards, his country, it never remained in arrears in paying its contribution to any International Organization. He stated that he found his country in the list of countries in arrears and would upon his return to the capital do his utmost to get these arrears cleared at the earliest. As regards, the budgetary proposals, they were in his view humble and modest and in order to reactivate and revitalize the Bandung spirit, be approved.

58. The **Leader of Delegation of Arab Republic of Egypt**<sup>4</sup> stated that the Budget was a very modest one. If Member Governments desired the Organization to function in a proper manner, then they must financially support it. He suggested that a provisional budget be drawn up to surpass the current obstacle. He also supported the Saudi Arabian proposal for creating a mechanism to deal with the non-paying Members.

59. The **Leader of Delegation of Saudi Arabia**<sup>5</sup> once again took the

floor to propose on the behalf of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Gulf States to form a mechanism to review the continuance of membership of countries in arrears. He requested the non-paying countries to fulfil their financial commitments.

60. The **Leader of Delegation of Arab Republic of Egypt**<sup>6</sup> concurred with the proposal made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

61. The **Leader of Delegation of Kuwait**<sup>7</sup> also expressed his support to the proposal made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of those countries representing the Gulf Cooperation Council. The meeting should also discuss how the non-paying countries could be persuaded to pay their arrears quickly.

62. The **Leader of the Delegation of the Republic of South Africa** said that the budget proposals should be accepted. There had been in the last fourteen years no hike to the Budget of the Organization. As this matter had not been looked into there was a huge deficit to the tune of US \$ 1.2 million. This was an enormous amount. The Organization should support the Secretary-General by accepting the Budget. Further, a Committee should be constituted to deal with the problem of arrears.

63. The **President** stated that there seemed to be a consensus on the Draft Budget of 2008. In view of this, she declared the Budget to be adopted. However, the records of the proceedings would note that the Japan disassociate itself from any such decision.

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<sup>4</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

<sup>5</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

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<sup>6</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

<sup>7</sup> Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreter's version.

**The meeting was thereafter  
adjourned.**