

**VI. SUMMARY RECORD OF
THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND JULY
2007 AT 3.45 PM**

Her Excellency Mrs. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla, President of the Forty-Sixth Session in the Chair.

A. General Statements

1. The **Leader of the Delegation of the Thailand** at the outset congratulated Madam Mabandla on her election as President of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation. He expressed his confidence that under her able leadership and the concerted efforts of the delegations of the various Member States, the Session would achieve complete success. He also sincerely thanked the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the warm welcome and hospitality that had been accorded to the delegation. The Leader of the Delegation also took the opportunity to welcome the new Member, the Republic of Cameroon, to the Organisation.

2. He underlined that the role of international law in this era of globalization could not be understated. The rapid increase in the cross-border flow of goods, services, people, capital, technology, and information was accelerating almost everywhere leading to serious challenges that could not be addressed by individual countries. In this context, international law had become the main vehicle for governments to intensify cooperation in areas such as international trade, investment, migration, environmental protection, transnational crime and terrorism. He stated that as the scope of international law expands, the sanctity and universality that were fundamental to its wider acceptance

could not be acquired without adequately accommodating and reflecting the needs and aspirations of the Asian and African States who represent two-thirds of the world's population.

3. He stated that his country therefore attached great importance to AALCO and the work it had carried out over the past several decades. Thailand valued AALCO's role in bringing together experience and expertise from Asia and Africa in order to evolve better understanding and common approaches on important legal issues, the assistance given to member countries to help them prepare and participate in a variety of international law meetings, the organization of specialized seminars and workshops on contemporary themes of international law, and its continued emphasis on cooperation with the United Nations, particularly its active involvement with the work of the International Law Commission. He commended AALCO's cooperation with other inter-governmental organizations such as the League of Arab States, World Intellectual Property Organization and International Organization for Migration. He stated that it was essential that the Asian-African perspective on important legal issues was brought to the attention of relevant organizations and Thailand looked forward to the conclusion of cooperation agreements with the International Criminal Court and the strengthening of relations with the Hague Conference on Private International Law through the conclusion of an MOU.

4. The Leader of Delegation noted that the issues on the Agenda of the Forty-Sixth Session which include the Law of Sea, Status and Treatment of

Refugees, International Terrorism, Trafficking in Women and Children, and Corruption were topical issues which are considered as high priority for Thailand. His delegation looked forward to sharing their views and experiences on these topics with the other member countries and learning from their experiences.

5. He concluded by thanking the Secretariat for steering the work of the Organization with great efficiency and competence. Accordingly, Delegation of Thailand were optimistic that the Organization would play an ever increasing role to ensuring that the interests of the two regions were well articulated in international fora and to ensure that their role in shaping a just and equitable international legal order was strengthened. He assured that Thailand holds dear their association as a Member of AALCO and that, as before, Thailand would support the Organization in all of its endeavours.

6. **The Leader of the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia** congratulated Her Excellency Mrs. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla on her worthy election as the President of the Forty-Sixth Session. He expressed confidence that under her leadership and with her great wisdom and guidance, the present Session of the AALCO would achieve copious of expected success by its deliberations on every subject on its agenda.

7. He also seized the opportunity to extend his profound gratitude for the invitation extended to Government of Indonesia to participate in the Forty-Sixth Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. Sincere appreciation was also expressed to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality

shown to all delegates, including the Indonesian Delegation. He conveyed the Delegation's profound appreciation to the Secretary- General of AALCO and the Secretariat for the well-organized preparation of the Session including the early dissemination of documents for discussion.

8. He also recalled the Statement made by Her Excellency the Minister of Justice of the Republic of South Africa regarding the excellent relations between the Asian-African nations that had been strengthened by the New Asia Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP), endorsed by the Asian and African leaders at the Asian-African Summit on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Commemoration held in Jakarta in 2005. The document was testimony to the growing sense of solidarity, reflecting the spirit of Bandung Conference of 1955. He stated that this Asian-African initiative was evidence of their commitment to establishing a cooperative global environment in which nations were equally respected, regardless of their domestic economic and political circumstances. The strategic relationship had ensured that at the multilateral level, there was close cooperation on the major global issues of the day and would continue to do so, affecting such important areas such as the struggle against terrorism, peace in the Middle East, the reform of the United Nations, and others. The Leader of the Delegation stated that in the economic sphere, there was a need to harness relative strengths to improve and strengthen economic relations by enhancing cooperation among business people and increasing trade, investment and technical collaboration. The Delegation therefore appreciated very much the initiative taken by AALCO to convene the first half-day Special Meeting on the topic

International Investment, Trade and Development. The AALCO must also work to encourage people-to-people interactions, including through cultural, scientific and exchange programs, as well as promoting two-way tourism.

9. He stated that AALCO had played a significant role as an advisory body to discuss issues on International Law and as a forum to strengthen the ties of Asian-African cooperation in legal matters in which members could express their aspirations to achieve the goal of progressive development of international law. In this regard, the Indonesian delegation supported the appeal made by His Excellency Mr. Narinder Singh in his previous day's remarks that AALCO should continue to deliver its significant contribution towards the work of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations.

10. The Indonesian Delegation was of the view that the Forty-Sixth Session was of paramount importance because it was expected to have fruitful discussions on recent international law issues, inter alia, the Law of the Sea, International Terrorism, Palestinian Cause, Refugees, International Criminal Court (ICC), the work of the International Law Commission (ILC), Trafficking in Women and Children, Human Rights in Islam, Anti-Corruption, World Trade Organization (WTO), and Folklore Protection. Indonesian delegation therefore fully supported the initiative to hold the second half-day Special Meeting on International Cooperation and Countering Terrorism.

11. Regarding the agenda item on international terrorism, the Indonesian Delegation believed that in order to crack down terrorists and their

networks effectively, international cooperation at every level had to be strengthened. Therefore, the Indonesian Government was committed to continue taking the necessary and appropriate measures aimed at strengthening the legal infrastructure and enhancing institutional capacities, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation. With regard to the agenda item Establishing Cooperation against Trafficking in Women and Children; the Indonesian delegation shed some light on their current efforts to eradicate the crime. Indonesia, conducts its efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, through three levels, namely Legal Framework, National Policy, and Law Enforcement Process. The Indonesian Government was also in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, especially Women and Children, along with its two other Protocols. Since the nature of trafficking of women and children was transnational/global, no country could successfully combat trafficking without the assistance of another country, therefore the Indonesian delegation reiterated the urgency of collaboration among nations through bilateral, regional and multilateral forum.

12. With regard the agenda of anti-corruption, the Indonesian delegation urged all Asian-African countries to intensify regional cooperation to deny a safe haven to officials and individuals guilty of corruption, those who corrupt them and their illicitly-acquired assets, and to prosecute those engaged in bribery, including in international business transactions.

Indonesia further agreed that the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption could have a positive impact in advancing their commitment towards a cleaner and more honest and transparent community in the Asian-African region. Therefore, Indonesia was of the view to call upon Asian-African Countries to create a best practice on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition, in order to ensure the supremacy of law in combating corruption.

13. On the agenda item Folklore and its International Protection, he reiterated strong commitment to exert continuous efforts to promote the protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources. In this regard, Indonesia had recently hosted “the Asian African Forum on the Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources” in Bandung on 18-20 June 2007. The important forum had passed the “Bandung Declaration” that reaffirmed the need of national, regional and international efforts to preserve, protect and promote the Traditional Cultural Expressions, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources. The declaration also emphasized on the importance of the Asian-African countries to work closely with relevant organizations in regional and international fora for the establishment of an international legally binding instrument on the protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources.

14. With regard to agenda item related to World Trade Organization, the delegation was concerned on the efforts of the Asian-African lawyers in order to enhance the capacity building

on the WTO's issues, especially the dispute settlement mechanism. In this regard, Indonesian delegation proposed that in the near future, AALCO could organize a legal training programme for Asian-African lawyers, in collaboration with the WTO or UNITAR. The Delegation believed that the endeavour could make significant contribution towards the empowerment of the Asian-African states in the WTO forum.

15. On the question on Palestine, Indonesia was concerned profoundly over continuing dangerous deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, and particularly condemned the Israel's military operation over Gaza City and Khan Younis on 27 June 2007. This act of indiscriminate killing and numbers of civilian casualties was a blatant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law. In this context, the Indonesian Delegation reaffirmed its long-standing and relentless commitment to support and contribute in the process towards finding a peaceful solution that would fulfill the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and statehood, to independently define and conduct its foreign relations, and to live in peace, and the rights of every Palestinian refugee to return to his or her homeland. In this regard, the Delegation welcomed and encouraged every effort aimed to bring about peaceful conclusion over the Palestinian case. The Delegation also took note of the appointment of the UN special envoy for the Middle East, Mr. Tony Blair, and looked forward to concrete steps undertaken in the near future.

16. With regard to the agenda item Law of the Sea; the Indonesian

delegation stated that despite the achievements of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the international community faced challenges in the governance of ocean affairs such as the issue of maritime security, safety of navigation and marine environment. On this specific issue, the Leader of Delegation underlined that maritime security had always been of significant concern for the Government of Indonesia. However it was of the essence that any attempt to deal with threat to the maritime security should not prejudice international law, in particular the law of the sea. International law provided a strong legal basis for coastal states by virtue of their sovereignty and sovereign rights to take appropriate measures to deal with maritime threat. The Indonesian delegation recommended that the annual formal meeting of the State Parties of the UNCLOS should be the forum for the discussion on all aspects related to the implementation of the Convention.

17. The Leader of the Delegation concluded by conveying his profound appreciation to the Government of South Africa for having convened the Forty-Sixth Annual Session and for giving his Delegation a warm welcome, as well as the proverbial hospitality. The Host Government had been exceptionally generous and the staff had been wonderfully helpful. Indonesia firmly believed that the Forty-Sixth Session would serve as an effective and efficacious forum for the discussion of current, as well as new issues and challenges faced by the International community as a whole.

18. The **Leader of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates**¹ at the outset appreciated Her Excellency on her election as the President of the Forty-Sixth Session of AALCO. He also appreciated H. E. Mr. Eddy Pratomo on his election as the Vice-President of the Session. He appreciated the AALCO's effort in developing legal rules and also highlighted United Arab Emirates' commitment and role in the international and regional negotiations to formulate comprehensive legal rules to maintain international peace and security. He commended AALCO's positive role in providing legal advice to the Member States. His country had spared no effort in supporting international and regional efforts in combating terrorism. It was party to all anti-terrorism convention and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) treaty and had recently become party to the Convention on Nuclear terrorism. The delegate informed that his country had promulgated a law in the year 2004 to combat all terrorist acts taking into consideration all international treaties and agreements and it could be a model for similar laws. It supported for a comprehensive agreement to combat terrorism and to have an accepted definition on terrorism. The delegate also commended the Rome Statute and the establishment of the International Criminal Court. It has also joined the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Leader of Delegation also commended the AALCO's contribution to the topic on Human Rights in Islam and reaffirmed its commitment to the topic. He also expressed and reaffirmed support to the Palestinian cause and condemned the violations committed against the

¹ Statement made in Arabic. Unofficial translation from Interpreter's version.

Palestinian people. The Leader of the Delegation concluded by wishing the Session a great success.

19. The **Leader of the Delegation of Japan** on behalf of the Government of Japan congratulated Mrs. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development of the Republic of South Africa on her election as President of the Forty-Sixth Annual Session of AALCO. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of South Africa for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to all delegates. He also expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Dr. Wafik Kamil, Secretary-General of AALCO and staff of the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing the Session. He stated that he was honoured to attend the meeting for the first time as Member newly nominated by the Government of Japan to succeed Ambassador Chusei Yamada who had served as a Member of AALCO since 1993. He recalled that Ambassador Yamada contributed enormously to the discussions in the past sessions of AALCO, while extending his broad and profound expertise as a member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations. He stated that he would do his best to contribute likewise, to the extent possible, for the further activities of AALCO.

20. He stated that AALCO was one of the significant outcomes of the historical Bandung Conference held in 1955. Since its establishment, AALCO had played a significant role in developing international law, as the only consultative body in the field of international law across Asian and African regions. He had personally observed the importance of this cross-regional organization, when he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in

various posts and postings including the ones relating to Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. He had paid official trips to many African countries. Japan, as one of the original Member States of AALCO, was pleased to see development and its tangible and significant role in developing international law for Asian-African regions.

21. He emphasised that the rule of law in the international community was reflected in Japan's foreign policy. At the beginning of the Diet session in January this year, Foreign Minister, Mr. Taro Aso put forth the "value oriented diplomacy" as one of the pillars of Japan's foreign policy. The Minister Aso enumerated the "rule of law" as one of universal values to be pursued in the international community, in addition to democracy, freedom, human rights and market economy. From this point of view, Japan had all along attached great importance to peaceful settlement of disputes through judicial settlement including the International Court of Justice. In this context, the Leader of the Delegation stated that Japan's accession to Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was expected very soon. In order to make substantial contributions to activities of the ICC, Japan intended to nominate a candidate for the election of judges, which would be held at the Sixth Assembly of State Parties in New York at the end of this year.

22. The Leader of the Delegation hoped that, following the last Golden Jubilee Session in New Delhi, this Session would also have tangible fruits through discussions on the issues such as Law of the Sea, International Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism, Trafficking in Women and Children

and Effective International Legal Instrument against Corruption, etc.

23. He also reflected upon the financial problems, which the Secretariat had been facing for a long time. He said that this question was partly discussed earlier in connection with the Draft Budget for 2008. He expressed hope that a reasonable initiative to solve this problem, taking into account various factors surrounding financial matters would be taken. He also recalled that the meeting discussed the serious problem of huge arrears of contributions by some Member States. It was earnestly hoped that this question would be tackled as an important task of AALCO in the coming months. He also expressed confidence that the Forty-Sixth Session would be as successful as ever, and AALCO would continue to play a significant role as one of the active international fora in Asian-African regions and beyond.

24. The **Leader of the Delegation of Malaysia** at the outset thanked H.E. Mrs. Brigitte Mabandla, the President of the Forty-Sixth Session of the AALCO, the Secretary General of the AALCO, the Host Country and the AALCO Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this AALCO Session.

25. He also expressed his appreciation to the AALCO Secretariat for its efforts in conducting detailed and in-depth studies of current issues in international law. He said that the reports provided by the Secretariat were extremely useful particularly in providing the briefs of current international law issues and developments. In addition, it served as an important source of information, which assisted Member States in the deliberations on the topics.

26. The Leader of Delegation looked forward to the exchange of views with Member States on the issues that had been included on the Agenda and would give specific comments on some of the topics during its allotted time. He also noted that AALCO had undertaken a host of activities since the Forty-Fifth Session which included, among others, the Meeting of International Experts on Human Rights in Islam (Kuala Lumpur, 15-19 May 2006), participation at the fifty-eighth Session of the International Law Commission (ILC), the Seminar on the "Future of International Refugee Law" (New Delhi, 31 August 2006) and the Meeting of Experts on Emerging Issues on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (New Delhi, 24 November 2006).

27. He observed that broad participation had opened up a number of interesting and important deliberations and the inputs attained from AALCO Member States could be used as a basis to put forward AALCO's views and be raised in a more coherent and effective manner. The views of AALCO could be presented more aggressively at the global level as a group rather than as individual views in order to achieve the necessary impact.

28. Although Malaysia noted that AALCO had presented its comments on selected items at the 61st Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, he was of the view that more could be done in order to achieve the objectives. A successful effort at the global level was usually achieved by having a united and strong voice, as well as the ability to garner support through structured lobbying process.

29. On the topic of Human Rights in Islam, his delegation called for the better understanding of the subject matter between the Muslim and non-Muslim countries. In the same manner, that it must be understood that existing norms and principles that had been accepted by the international community in respect of human rights, the discussion on the concept of Islam as a religion of peace would serve as a possible effective means to demonstrate a true and better picture of Islam in dealing with human rights issues.

30. He observed that the Islam is a religion of peace and the application of Islamic principles would ultimately bring peace, justice and harmony. His delegation supported the contention that in Islam, peace is achieved through administering justice, both social and economic, social empowerment, managing pluralism and diversity, universality and dignity, highlighting sacredness of human life, forgiveness and patience and achieving human equality.

31. His delegation was happy to note that the broad participation of experts and participants from AALCO Member States at the Meeting of International Experts on Human Rights in Islam (MIEHRI) which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 15-19 May 2006. They also thanked the AALCO Secretariat and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for collaborating in the organization of that event. His country believed that the outcome of the meeting contributed substantively to the better understanding of the subject matter, as well as enhancing international cooperation, mutual respect and the dissemination of human rights principles and practices.

32. He stated that on the matters related to the Law of the Sea, the most important measure taken to date with regard to maritime safety and security was the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) which was introduced by way of an amendment to the Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS) adopted in December 2002 by the IMO Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Security.

33. Further, he stated that for Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore the maritime safety and security of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore were of primary concern since the Straits of Malacca and Singapore are straits used for international navigation. In accordance with Article 43 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) the Tripartite Technical Experts Group (TTEG) Meeting on the Safety of Navigation, which was initiated in 1971 by Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, was currently working on establishing a co-operative mechanism which would enable a forum to be set up to promote general dialogue and exchange of views with major user States and other stakeholders on issues involving the safety of navigation and environmental protection of the straits in view of the events of 11 September 2001. To establish such a co-operative mechanism Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore emphasized that, as enshrined in the Jakarta Statement adopted on 8 September 2005 and Kuala Lumpur Statement adopted on 20 September 2006, the sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and territorial integrity of the three littoral States, the principle of non-intervention and the relevant provisions of international law in particular UNCLOS must be fully respected.

34. With regard to the development of legal principles for the preservation and protection of marine environment, be it within or beyond national jurisdiction, he observed that Part XII of UNCLOS provides the framework for such preservation and protection of marine environment. Based on the provisions of Article 237 of UNCLOS, the principle of sustainable development had often been considered an important part of the protection and preservation of marine environment. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, adopted in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, remains the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development in respect of oceans and seas.

35. Further he stated that the conduct of marine scientific research, which was regulated under Part XIII of UNCLOS, assisted the coastal States in their obligation to preserve and protect the marine environment. He said even though Part XIII of UNCLOS did not explicitly restrict the extent to which a coastal State could regulate marine scientific research, coastal States should be mindful of the balance that they would have to strike between their rights and the freedom of navigation. Accordingly, in exercising these rights the coastal States were limited to reasons specified in Articles 248 and 249 of Part XIII.

36. In areas of overlapping maritime claims, he emphasized the need to preserve and protect the marine environment as a matter of priority. In this regard, he opined that pending the final delimitation of the maritime zones, coastal States, in a spirit of understanding and co-operation, should make every effort to enter into provisional arrangements to such effect. This is in line with Article 241

of UNCLOS, which provides that marine scientific research activities should not constitute the legal basis for any claim to any part of the marine environment or its resources.

37. With regard to the increasing workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, he observed that a well-prepared submission would further assist the Commission in its work. In this respect, he said that the States preparing for submission and facing insurmountable difficulties in obtaining the necessary data due to limited budget and lack of technical, financial and scientific resources should co-operate together and consider undertaking joint survey in gathering the necessary data and information since Article 76(10) of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) explicitly provides that the provisions relating to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf under Article 76 were without prejudice to the delimitation between States. As such Article 76 was not concerned with the delimitation of overlapping claims between States. In fact Article 76 guarantees the rights of the States concerned in cases where the delimitation of the continental shelf were at issue.

38. On the issue of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), his country reiterated that success could only be achieved if the issues were addressed by all affected parties, be it the source, transit or destination country. In light of that, his country had enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007 (ATIP 2007), which was compliant with the TIP Protocol. In this process, his country had recourse to the Bali Process Model Laws, as well as the UNODC Legislative Guides for the

Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its related Protocols. This legislation criminalizes the act of trafficking and provides protection to victims of trafficking including preserving their dignity and human rights.

39. He stated that notwithstanding the ATIP 2007, States should also consider formulating a regional legal framework to facilitate co-operation to combat trafficking in persons. This was because a domestic law purely by itself could not curb trafficking. Regional co-operation would be required for the investigation and prosecution of these offences because the traffickers would have begun their operations in the source country. In this regard, the extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters regimes would apply. Therefore, if the source countries were not able or willing to prosecute the traffickers, the transit and destination countries that are affected could seek to prosecute the traffickers instead.

40. Finally, he expressed his warm gratitude to Ambassador Dr. Wafik Kamil, the Secretary-General of AALCO who would end his term of tenure at the helm of AALCO in 2008. His delegation commended the progress of AALCO under the able stewardship of Secretary-General Ambassador Dr. Kamil. Further, he stated that the Secretary-General had brought fresh impetus to the Organization and carried out his responsibilities in the most professional manner. On a personal note he stated that Ambassador Dr. Kamil was his close personal friend and he regarded him as a wise and visionary person.

41. The **Leader of the Delegation of People's Republic of China** on behalf of his delegation expressed his sincere wishes to the President of AALCO for being elected. He also expressed his appreciation to the outgoing President, Secretary-General of AALCO and his colleagues in the Secretariat for excellent jobs done in the past years. In addition, he expressed his sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the Session.

42. He said AALCO being an important intergovernmental Organization, since its inception had made great efforts to help Asian and African countries in international legal practices, as well as in promotion and development and codification of international law. He believed that as the number of its Member States increases and its work further expands, the AALCO could exert greater influence on international affairs and international law.

43. The Leader of Delegation observed that the current international situation was undergoing complicated and profound changes. In safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, the international community faced with both rare opportunities and severe challenges. He was of the opinion that the international community should work together to seize the opportunity, stand up to the challenges and build a harmonious world featuring lasting peace and common prosperity, democracy and justice, mutual cooperation, openness and inclusiveness.

44. His country placed great importance on the AALCO and highly appreciated its achievements scored since its establishment, and would

continue to support and participate actively in its activities.

45. In order to expand and enhance the influence of AALCO, he put forward some proposals: Firstly, AALCO should continue to pay close attention to important international affairs, and provide its Member States with profound international legal analysis. Secondly, AALCO should continue to strengthen its cooperation with other international organizations especially the relevant legal bodies of the United Nations, and support the United Nations role in safeguarding world peace and security and promoting common development. Thirdly, AALCO should follow closely the new issues, new trends and new developments in the field of international law and prepare reports on these topics and finally, AALCO should continue to hold seminars or workshops for the legal officers of Member States.

46. The Leader of the Delegation reminded the guiding spirit of Bandung and called the Member States to maintain good cooperation, and make important contribution to the world peace, development and cooperation.

47. The **Leader of the Delegation of Uganda** expressed his sincere greetings and congratulations to the newly elected President and Vice-President of AALCO. Further, he extended his appreciation to the Secretary-General of AALCO for his able stewardship and the Secretariat Staff for their commendable work on the preparation of the Session.

48. He appreciated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AALCO and the Republic of Kenya for establishing a Regional Arbitration Centre at Nairobi,

Kenya which was close to his country and considered it to be an important landmark for the entire East African region. He emphasized the Member States for building synergies between them to face the challenges and stressed on the regional grouping system.

49. The Leader of the Delegation suggested AALCO to explore possibilities of bringing out a research analysis on the concept of 'dispensing justice under traditional justice system'. He also commended the forefathers and mothers for the spirit of Bandung whatever may be the differences, religious, ethnic and cultural, the ultimate goal that was to peace and development.

50. The **Delegate of Pakistan** at the outset extended his warm and cordial congratulations to the President and Vice-President of AALCO on behalf of his country and the Leader of Delegation. He also congratulated the Secretary-General for presenting a lucid report on the work of AALCO and all other officers and staff of the Secretariat for the excellent preparation for the Session.

51. He stated that AALCO was established as a major forum to deal with international law issues among the Asian and African countries. The Member States with a spirit of achieving common goals in the field of international law had contributed to the growing status of AALCO. He said that AALCO had been effective to ensure that the position of the African and Asian States on matters of international law of common concern were purposeful within the Organization, which subsequently gave the necessary inputs that have influence on the codification and

progressive development of international law.

52. With regard to the substantive agenda items, he observed that his country had noted the work of the ILC, the progress achieved on the subject of the Law of the Sea, the Status and Treatment of Refugees, as well as Special Meetings on International Investment, Trade and Development and International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism.

53. Further, he stressed the need for all States to work together, in a coordinated and cooperative manner to address the menace of international terrorism, as it constituted one of the most pervasive threats confronted today. He emphasized that since there is no faith in terrorism, no one should become party to efforts as to link terrorism with any particular religion. On the contrary, greater efforts should be taken to foster inter-cultural understanding and cooperation.

54. The delegate observed that the common objective espoused was to make the world safe from terrorist violence and it was imperative for international peace and stability for development and prosperity and for the promotion and respect for human rights.

55. The delegate stated that another issue of interest was the war against corruption that needed to be addressed at all levels. His country had signed the UN Convention against Corruption and was in process of ratifying it. In order to show the commitment, his country had established a National Accountability Bureau to address the issue of corruption.

56. The delegate observed that the approved agenda of the session was

timely and relevant. His delegation gratefully noted that AALCO had focussed on current challenges faced by them and the issues were of special interest to his delegation.

The Meeting was thereafter adjourned.