

**RES/47/SP 1**  
**4 JULY 2008**

**"NEW DELHI RESOLUTION ON  
ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN LAW"**

*The Asian-African Legal Consultative  
Organization at its Forty-Seventh Session,*

**Noting** with appreciation the views expressed by delegations, panelists and other related statements during the Special Meeting on "Contemporary Issues in International Humanitarian Law", organized jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on 2 July 2008 during the Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO held in Headquarters (New Delhi),

**Expressing** grave concern that civilian populations account for the vast majority of casualties in armed conflicts, and taking note of the need for better protection of civilian populations during armed conflicts by ensuring respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflicts,

**Reaffirming** the significance of effective implementation and enforcement of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts in protecting the integrity and dignity of all those affected by armed conflicts,

**Recalling** the "Seoul Resolution on the Relevance of International Humanitarian Law in Today's Armed Conflicts", and Resolution of the Special Meeting on "Universal Jurisdiction and its Role in the Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law", adopted by AALCO at its Forty-Second (Seoul, 2003) and Forty-Fifth Golden Jubilee (Headquarters, New Delhi, 2006) Sessions respectively,

**Being aware** that many sub-munitions of cluster munition fail to detonate and thereby become explosive

remnants of war and kill and maim innocent civilians long after the conflicts end,

**Being concerned** about the indiscriminate and inhuman impact of anti-personnel landmines by way of their disastrous effect on the civilian population,

**Taking note** of the growing involvement of private military and security companies (PMCs and PSCs) in conflict and post conflict situations and the necessity of regulating their activities within the framework of international law in general and international humanitarian law and human rights in particular,

**Noting** the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 30 May 2008 in Dublin,

**Also noting** the wide acceptance by the international community of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction,

**Recognising** the necessity of preventing certain potential adverse consequences resulting from the use of force by the PMCs and PSCs and also from the growing reliance of armed forces on these entities,

1. **Commends** the AALCO Secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for their efforts in successfully organizing the Special Meeting on 'Contemporary Issues in International Humanitarian Law';

2. **Urges** Member States, who have not done so, to consider becoming parties to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its five Protocols;

3. **Encourages** Member States, who have not done so, to consider becoming

parties to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction;

4. **Also encourages** Member States, who have not done so, to consider becoming parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

5. **Calls upon** Member States to consider making efforts towards ensuring and promoting respect for international humanitarian law and human rights by PMCs and PSCs working in conflict areas and develop appropriate measures at national, regional and international levels;

6. **Requests** Member States to take all necessary measures in order to ensure that the rules of international humanitarian law are fully respected, in particular through the adaptation of domestic laws, including military manuals and the dissemination and teaching of international humanitarian law;

7. **Welcomes** the Advisory Service activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in supporting the efforts made by AALCO Member States to take legislative and administrative action to implement international humanitarian law and in promoting the exchange of information on those efforts between Governments;

8. **Reaffirms** the importance of continuing to discuss, study, disseminate and develop international humanitarian law through mutual participation in conferences, meetings and seminars, as appropriate and feasible, as referred in the Co-operation Agreement signed between AALCO and the ICRC on 7 July 2003.