

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
FIRST GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY,
30TH JUNE 2008, AT 04:30 PM**

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

A. General Statements

1. The **Leader of the Delegation of Pakistan** expressed, on his behalf and on behalf of his delegation his deep appreciation to the AALCO Secretariat for organizing and hosting the Session and for the excellent arrangements. The Delegate congratulated the President and Vice-President the Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO on their election. He also expressed his delegations gratitude and admiration to Madam Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla for conducting the office of the AALCO in her capacity as President of the Forty-Sixth Session. He also congratulated the Secretary-General and all other officers and staff of the Secretariat for the untiring efforts exerted for the preparation of that Session, particularly the Secretary-General for presenting a very comprehensive and lucid report on the work of AALCO.

2. The Delegate noted that AALCO had established itself as a major forum that deals 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 which consisted of countries with varied legal systems. However, AALCO had been effective in ensuring that the positions of Asian and African States on matters of international law of common concern were purposeful for the Organization. This provided Pakistan the necessary inputs that had influence on the codification and progressive development of international law.

3. Speaking on the substantive items on the agenda of the Session, he noted that it would deal with international law which was of concern to the international community. In that regard, Pakistan had noted the work of the ILC and progress achieved on the subject of the Law of the Sea, the International Legal Instrument against Corruption, and International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism.

4. He stressed the need for all States to work together in a coordinated and cooperative manner to address the menace of international terrorism which constituted one of the most pervasive threats confronted today. It threatened to destabilize all modern societies. He felt that there was a need for all State to work together to address that menace comprehensively in all its forms and manifestations.

5. All this however, would have little meaning if efforts were not made immediately to provide technical assistance to States needing capacity building to allow them to fight terrorism effectively. The Delegate noted that terrorism had no faith. Therefore, one should not become party to efforts to link terrorism with any particular religion. On the contrary, greater efforts should be made to foster inter-cultural understanding and cooperation. This was the only way forward.

6. On the issue of war against corruption, he felt the need for it to be addressed at all levels. He noted that Pakistan had signed and ratified the UN Convention against Corruption. Pakistan had also established a National Accountability Bureau to address the issue of corruption in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

7. The Delegate noted that the approved agenda of the Session was timely and relevant. His delegation was grateful to note that AALCO had focused on current challenges faced by Pakistan. These issues

were of special interest to Pakistan. Finally, he said that Pakistan looked forward to fruitful deliberations during the Session on all items on the agenda and assured the Meeting of the full cooperation of the Pakistan delegation to bring the work of the Session to a successful conclusion.

8. The **Leader of the Delegation of Malaysia** noted that Malaysia had been and would continue to be placing high importance on the discussion relating to international law. It was with this in mind that Malaysia regarded AALCO as one of the most important platforms available for intellectual and apolitical discourse on issues relating to international law. It was based on this commitment that Malaysia had answered the very encouraging calls by many AALCO Member States for Malaysia to be directly involved in AALCO through the candidature of the Secretary-General of AALCO.

9. He expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude of the Malaysian Government to the Governments of all AALCO Member States that had showed the fullest support and endorsement for Malaysia's candidate. He felt extremely encouraged and touched by the relentless support and sincerity of the efforts on behalf of the Malaysian candidate by some very senior members of some AALCO Member States.

10. The Delegate noted that the commitment and hard work shared by all concerned had culminated in the successful outcome of the election of the Malaysian candidate for the post of the Secretary-General of AALCO. He trusted that Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohamad would fulfill his promises to work hard for the benefit of all AALCO Member States. Having observed his predecessor Ambassador Wafik at work over the past 8 years as well as the interim periods, he was well aware of the challenge that awaited Professor Dr. Rahmat. Being also an acquaintance of Professor Dr. Rahmat, he

was confident that he would rise to the challenges.

11. The Delegate then shared his views on some of the topics on the agenda of the Forty-Seventh Annual Session. On the development and codification of international law, his delegation had been following with interest the works of the International Law Commission. He found it heartening to note that their contributions on the subjects under consideration at the United Nations General Assembly, Sixth Committee and the Annual Session of the AALCO have been advanced for the further consideration of the Commission. In this regard, he commended the Secretary-General of the AALCO for the efforts made on behalf of the Member Countries.

12. On the topic of "Law of the Sea", he noted that Malaysia would like to congratulate the AALCO Secretariat for its in-depth analysis of the substantive work that was on-going in the various fora, in particular, relating to the following issues. Firstly, on equitable geographical distribution of seats in the CLCS and ITLOS. Secondly, on relevant legal regime for "marine genetic resources" in areas beyond national jurisdiction. And lastly, the Right of transit passage through Straits used for international navigation.

13. On the topic "International Terrorism", the Delegate noted that Malaysia reiterates its commitment to work with the United Nations and its Member Countries in taking concerted action to combat international terrorism. Further, to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Malaysia continued to focus its primary counter-terrorism efforts on preventive as well as prescriptive measures. He highlighted that Malaysia was now party to 9 of the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. Most recently, Malaysia acceded to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection on 26 January 2008.

Malaysia remained committed to the early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). With this perspective in mind, Malaysia invited its AALCO counterparts to remain active in the ongoing discussions on the CCIT and to stay focused in resolving the outstanding issues, in particular those centered on Article 18. Malaysia reiterated its support to the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations as part of sustained efforts to combat terrorism and address the extensive political issues underlying such efforts by the international community.

12. Malaysia recorded its appreciation to the AALCO Secretariat for the detailed study on the topic "Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties" and the continuation of that important item on the AALCO agenda. Malaysia noted the two issues highlighted for Member States focused consideration as well as the succinct and pertinent comments and observations of the AALCO Secretariat set out in paragraphs 80 to 85 of the study.

13. On the topic of "International Criminal Court", Malaysia found the paper prepared by the AALCO Secretariat very helpful for AALCO Member States to further partake in the discussion on that very important issue. The Delegate noted that Malaysia would share its views on the six issues raised by the AALCO Secretariat at paragraph 14 of its paper on that agenda item.

14. The Malaysian delegation thanked the Secretariat of the AALCO for its Report on the topic relating to "Environment and Sustainable Development". He urged all delegations to discuss in great detail the four important issues enumerated at paragraph 4 of the Secretariat's Report. As Malaysia placed very high importance on that topic, they would take part in the deliberations on that topic and looked forward to that

exchange of views with the other delegations.

15. He further noted that there were 7 items on which the AALCO Secretariat had prepared papers but not placed them on the Agenda of that Annual Session. Due to the importance of these topics, the Delegate also provided Malaysia's views on these issues.

16. On the topic of "Refugees", Malaysia noted that the Secretariat's paper highlighted the significance of international humanitarian law to the plight of refugees. Although Malaysia recognized that conflicts create refugee situation whether within internal borders or transnationally, States should not lose sight of the fact that there was existing and well-established regime of international law which applied to refugees. This was reflected through customary international law principles as well as the 1951 Convention and its Protocol. In particular, on the suggestion as mentioned in paragraph 72 of the Secretariat's Paper that the 1951 Convention should cover persons who become "refugee" due to violation of economic and social rights, Malaysia wished to submit that the spirit of the 1951 Convention of addressing political refugees or asylum seekers should be maintained. Malaysia further submitted that a different legal international framework that specifically addressed the issue of economic migrants such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990) could be resorted to, in addressing the rights of persons who become "refugees" because of violations of their economic and social rights.

17. With regard to the topic of "Migrant Workers", he noted that Malaysia was supportive of the AALCO Secretariat's proposal to identify ways and means through which the human rights of migrant workers could be protected taking into consideration the national security aspects of States. As this affected the sovereignty and national

policies of States, Malaysia was of the view that any form of instrument that may be proposed by the Secretariat on this issue should be in the form of guidelines and not a mandatory or binding instrument. In preparing such guideline, the Secretariat should examine the compatibility of national security measures and applicable domestic legislations with the applicable and acceptable international legal regime on migrant workers.

18. On the issue of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Malaysia's commitment and adherence to the international norms on prevention, prosecution and protection were enshrined in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007 (ATIP), which came into force on 28 February 2008.

19. Malaysia accorded its appreciation for the continued efforts of the AALCO Secretariat to keep the Member States informed of developments in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("UNCITRAL") and other international organizations in the field of international trade law. Being the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, UNCITRAL had evolved to be the effective medium by which the United Nations played an active role in reducing or removing obstacles to the flow of trade, which were often caused as a result of prevailing disparities in national laws governing international trade. Hence, realizing the imperative role that UNCITRAL was playing, Malaysia, which used to be an observer in UNCITRAL, had vied a seat for its Membership. Eventually, on 22 May 2007, at the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Malaysia was elected to be a Member of the UNCITRAL Commission for a six-year term beginning on 25 June 2007.

20. In this connection, Malaysia welcomed the finalization and adoption of the Draft Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions at the 40th UNCITRAL

Commission Session in 2007. This was an acknowledgment of the importance of security interests in the area of intellectual property protection.

21. The Delegate further noted that the recommendations of the Guide generally applied to security rights in intellectual property to the extent that they were not inconsistent with intellectual property law. In that respect, Malaysia was of the view that this new project undertaken by UNCITRAL was indeed revolutionary and pioneering, which deserved attention and thorough study. Malaysia was also mindful of the fact that the work on security interests in intellectual property rights was taken in response to the need to supplement the Guide by providing guidance to States as to the appropriate coordination between secured transactions and intellectual property law.

22. Currently, Malaysia did not have a specific law relating to security interest in intellectual property. However, Malaysia's intellectual property legislations recognize the right of third party by way of assignment or transfer. At present, no domestic case law relating to security interest in intellectual property had been reported.

23. With reference to the topic "World Trade Organization", the Delegate noted that the Secretariat had significantly highlighted the lack of progress in the negotiation of the Doha Round. The failure of the multilateral trade regime to address the shortcomings identified since its establishment, especially in relation to the interest of the developing and least developed economies had increased recourse to regional and bilateral free trade agreements. Unless and until this multilateral process could be equitably organised to level the playing field the vision and effectiveness of the WTO would not be achieved.

24. On the topic of “Human Rights in Islam”, Malaysia appreciated the Secretariat’s study which highlighted the contribution of Islamic Law with respect to international humanitarian law (IHL). The study confirms that Islam as a religion of peace condemns all forms of armed attacks against civilians, including terrorism. The principle of peaceful co-existence of people and nations under the Charter of the United Nations was very much consistent with the tenets of Islam.

25. Finally, the Delegate expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Ambassador Dr. Wafik Kamil, the long serving Secretary-General. After dedicating the last 8 years of his life to the Organization, the Member States must now bid him a formal farewell whilst welcoming his successor, Professor Dr Rahmat bin Mohamad. The Delegate noted that Dr. Kamil leaves giant footprints to fill and a tough record of success to maintain. AALCO had been revitalized under his visionary and able leadership. For this AALCO and all its Member States would be forever indebted to Ambassador Dr. Wafik Kamil. On a personal note, the Delegate noted that Dr. Wafik had become a dear friend from whom he had gained a wealth of knowledge and the benefit of his worldly experience in the international legal field. His delegation and he wished Ambassador Dr. Wafik well and all the best in his future endeavours. The Delegate nevertheless believe that Dr. Kamil had much more to contribute to AALCO and that he would remain engaged with the work of AALCO for a long time to come.

26. The **Leader of the Delegation of the Sultanate of Oman**¹ said that since the dawn of the Renaissance, Oman has given utmost importance to their citizens as they are the main players in Oman’s development and enforced their rights which created peace and security for every citizen. In that

¹ Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from interpreter’s version.

regard, a recent report prepared by the Studies and Data Unit of the UK Economist on the Global Peace Index placed Oman first among the Arab States in peace and security, thereby making it 23rd globally. He noted that Oman also earned top marks (safest) in many bases used to compile the Index, such as: respect for human rights, internal and external conflicts, and relationship with neighboring States, organized crime, terrorist activities and the importation and exportation of traditional weapons.

27. The Delegate also highlighted that another report prepared in May 2008 by the International Committee for Growth and Development stated that Oman was the only Arab State among 13 that has achieved what was described as an ‘economic miracle’ in the period following the Second World War until the present time.

28. With regard to the International Criminal Court, the Delegate noted that Oman had been closely following the work of the ICC since adoption of the Rome Statute until the Sixth Session of State Parties. Oman supported the ICC’s effort in enforcing its role and empowering it in exercising its judicial competence concerning the most destructive crimes on humanity. The Delegate noted that Oman looked forward to studying the definition of ‘crime of aggression’ in order to enable the court to prosecute criminals which have and continue to cause devastation, resulting in the death of many innocent victims, as this was the most dangerous crime on humanity.

29. The Delegate observed that Oman had been closely following the draft amendment submitted by the crime of aggression group and was encouraged by the contents of the draft relating to the definition of the crime of aggression in light of the discussions of the Group during the past three years. These amendments highlighted the true efforts undertaken by the Group. Oman believed that in order for the ICC to use its competence, the support of the

international community and its insistence on the prevalence of criminal justice was essential.

30. As for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Oman had always given much importance to its environment. Oman prepared a National Strategy for the protection of the Environment and the Achievement of Sustainable Development as well as a National Plan to Combat Dryness and Desertification. Oman also designated certain areas as nature reserves in line with the International Convention on Biodiversity. Further, Oman named the 8th of January of every year as Omani Environment Day. It also established the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change by virtue of Royal Decree 90/2007, merging two issues – environment and climate change – in order to ensure better guarantees for the safety of the Oman environment by looking at the effect of global climate change on the environment.

31. The Delegate hoped that the AALCO Session would look into improving the manner in which meetings were conducted in an effort towards specific, more modern topics for a maximum of consideration of a topic in three consecutive sessions, with the objective to introducing vitality and diversity in sessions. The Delegate suggested that the Secretary-General follows the contemporary topics on the global arena, such as: the Law of the Sea and the ICC and prepare report and studies on them to be submitted to AALCO Members for discussion.

32. **The Leader of the Delegation of Republic of Kenya**, on behalf of the Republic of Kenya, expressed his pleasure on the occasion of the Forty-Seventh Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). He congratulated H.E. Mr. Narinder Singh on his election as President of the Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO and wished him every success in his tenure.

33. The Delegate thanked the AALCO Secretariat and in particular Ambassador Dr. Wafik Z. Kamil, Secretary General of AALCO, for his tireless efforts in steering the work of this Organization in a very able and efficient manner. Not only had he ably steered the work of the Secretariat, but he had also ensured that the interests of the two regions were well articulated at various fora such as the United Nations General Assembly, the International Law Commission and even in the World Trade Organization.

34. He said that AALCO was established in 1956 at a time of political awakening for Asians and Africans in their respective countries. AALCO had ensured through its Annual Sessions, the continued sharing of experiences and goals of the two largest continents which together represented about two thirds of the world's population. Since joining the Organization in 1970, Kenya continued to actively participate at meetings of the Organization and it had hosted the Twenty Eighth Session in February 1989 and the Forty-Fourth Session in 2005 respectively in Nairobi.

35. One of the main objectives of AALCO was its role in serving as an advisory body to its Member States in the field of international law. This, together with its close relationship with the International Law Commission, the UN General Assembly and other International Organizations, indicate the importance of having these Annual Sessions which allow for a regular forum to formulate the positions on the various legal issues.

36. The Delegate noted that rule of law and good governance was of great importance to the people of Kenya. Kenya had in the recent past been implementing various policy programmes geared at providing a framework that respects the rule of law and good governance for the benefit of Kenyans. This had also meant keeping abreast of international developments, and

hence Kenya's active participation at all relevant international meetings. In this regard, Kenya had followed closely the work of the International Law Commission and articulated their position on various issues wherever necessary. Kenya had been very supportive in the push for the codification and progressive development of international law.

37. The Delegate felt that it was, therefore, noteworthy that the agenda of AALCO's Annual Sessions include such topics as the consideration of an Effective Legal Instrument against Corruption, WTO, the recent developments in the work of the International Criminal Court and International Terrorism, amongst other topics.

38. Kenya had been at the forefront in the formulation of the African position in the WTO negotiations from time to time. Kenya appreciated the role played by AALCO in the preparation of reports and studies undertaken, which enabled Member States to make informed common positions on the respective topics.

39. Kenya considered agriculture to be of critical importance for the economic improvement of developing countries, particularly now that the food prices were at an all time high. Developing countries must be able to pursue agricultural policies that were supportive of their development goals, poverty reduction strategies, food security and livelihood concerns. This must go hand in hand with the development of the necessary infrastructure, for without the necessary infrastructure, international trade would be hampered.

40. In the environmental arena, Kenya had been at the forefront in several international fora, articulating its position on environmental Conventions. Where shared natural resources were concerned, Kenya supported the laid-down principles of International Law, that accords States the

sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and with the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

41. In that regard, Kenya upheld the stand for the elaboration of an international legal framework to guide the use, allocation, preservation and management of trans-boundary groundwater. Critical consideration should be given to the management and sharing of confined aquifers which was a non-renewable resource and which in future may be a source of conflicts.

42. Terrorism had been acknowledged by the global community as a threat to international peace and security. To address the unique challenge that the threat of terrorism posed, there was urgent need for increased international cooperation to tackle the same. The Delegate recognized the important role that AALCO played in seeking a common legal position to address the threat of terrorism. This forum was both important and useful and complements the global efforts to conclude legal instruments on terrorism. Kenya was currently consulting at national level with all stakeholders with a view to re-publishing the Suppression of Terrorism Bill, which would soon be tabled in Parliament.

43. The Delegate noted that Kenya had identified corruption as a principal structural bottle-neck to the realization of human rights. The phenomenon of corruption was a social vice which infiltrated the very fabric of society. The practice was responsible for the consumption of vast resources in the two continents, which otherwise would have been utilized to improve the economic and social well-being of their people. The Government of Kenya was at the forefront of the fight against corruption in all spheres

of Kenyan life. Kenya was relentless in the pursuit of the eradication of that vice. In this regard, Kenya was the first country in the world to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Mexico in 2003. The Government had subsequently adopted and implemented practical strategies, including legal and institutional mechanisms, to combat that vice.

44. The **Leader of the Delegation of Sri Lanka**, at the outset, congratulated the President of Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO on his election. He also congratulated Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad the Secretary-General elect. He wished him all success in his endeavour to enhance the role of the Organization and assured him of Sri Lanka's full-support and cooperation.

45. On behalf of the delegation of Sri Lanka, he expressed Sri Lanka's appreciation for the work undertaken by AALCO, through the valuable assistance rendered as an advisory body to Member States and its contribution towards the progressive development of international law. From a small group of seven States in 1956, of which Sri Lanka was privileged to be a founding member, AALCO had now evolved into a prominent inter-governmental Organization comprising 47 Member States. AALCO's work in the international arena continued to serve as a beacon in guiding the progress of Asian-African States on international law and reflected in it a spirit of Afro-Asian solidarity and cooperation among Member States. The Annual Sessions of the Organization had a rich and vibrant history of addressing diverse international legal issues affecting citizens and Member States. This Session was no exception. It was Sri Lanka's hope and expectation that Member States would discuss a wide-ranging, timely issues, in particular the Law of the Sea, Terrorism, and Environment issues, which had continuously played a prominent role in the agenda of AALCO.

46. The Delegate also expressed appreciation for the significant role undertaken by the outgoing Secretary-General Ambassador Kamil in enhancing the role of AALCO as a principle legal forum for States of Africa and Asia, in articulating their views on key international legal issues.

47. On the Law of the Sea, the Delegate noted that it was pertinent to recall the important contribution of AALCO, in the negotiation process of the Law of the Sea Convention, especially at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, enabling AALCO to leave its imprint on the largest progressive codification process in the past century – the codification of the Law of the Sea Convention. AALCO continues to play an important role, pivotal in preserving Member States interests in matters relating to the Law of the Sea, in particular on the work of the Law of the Sea Tribunal, Commission on the limits of Continental Shelf and International Sea Bed Authority. AALCO's role, as the predecessor of this Organization, in the crystallization and progressive acceptance of the concept of the Exclusive Economic Zone, which was of vital economic importance to developing States, was a matter of undisputed record.

48. The Delegate noted that issues pertaining to the Law of the Sea continued to take prominence in the agenda of AALCO. State Parties to the Convention were currently at a crucial stage in respect of the presentation of national submissions to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in accordance with Article 4 of Annex II of the Convention. Sri Lanka had now reached the final and crucial phrase, which relates to the processing and analysis of data and the preparation of Sri Lanka's submission to the UN Commission on limits of the Continental Shelf. AALCO had, in the past, provided a forum for Member States to deliberate issues and seek a coordinated response in a spirit of

cooperation. Accordingly, it would be opportune to utilize this meeting, to informally exchange views with other delegations on the current status of preparation of national submissions to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and to identify modalities of cooperation. Additionally, discussions pertaining to the relevant legal regime for "Marine Genetic Resources" in areas beyond national jurisdiction would be timely considering the outcome of deliberations at the 62nd UNGA Session. Sri Lanka believed the time was ripe for a fruitful discussion on the matter to address the issue comprehensively, and in a manner that better reflected the views of all Member States.

49. According to the Delegate, a pivotal issue that threatened regional peace, security, stability and democracy was the persistent menace of terrorism. International legislation aimed at combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was an essential pre-requisite to an efficient regime to combat this crime. The international community, today, had reached a crucial milestone in this regard. Sri Lanka was chairing the Ad Hoc Committee, established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210, mandated with the task of concluding the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The Draft comprehensive Convention was expected to have a significant impact on combating terrorism by complementing the existing legal framework, filling existing gaps, and enhancing cooperation between States. The Convention would harmonise the existing regimes governing terrorism and prove a more effective, legitimate framework from which governments could operate to eliminate terrorism. Considering the paramount importance of this issue to the security and stability of Asian-African States, it was Sri Lanka's hope that the Member States would exert all efforts to demonstrate the necessary political will and a spirit of compromise to overcome the

current impasse surrounding the Convention. Sri Lanka reiterated the decision by the General Assembly reflected in the Resolution on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted at the 62nd Session of UN General Assembly that Member States shall on an expedited basis continue to elaborate the "draft Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism". As Member States could not afford to fail in that task.

50. The Delegate noted that climate change had emerged as one of the greatest challenges of our times, and combating the threat posed by climate change remained an urgent task and a responsibility of the international community. In addressing climate change and in taking preventative measures to alleviate its detrimental effects, the international community should take into account the disproportionate vulnerability of the developing countries to the threat posed by climate change and it was the main responsibility of the developed States to take action to reduce the threat, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as enshrined in the Climate Change Convention. Sri Lanka encouraged Member States to take a greater, proactive role in addressing the threat posed by Climate change to avert an impending disaster.

51. The Delegate once again commended AALCO and expressed support for the future work of AALCO. He hoped that the Asian-African States would take the initiative to proactively address the issues of terrorism and climate change, in the same spirit of cooperation, that underlined AALCO's involvement and its significant role in matters pertaining to the codification of other important branch of International Law such as the law of the sea, law of Refugees and the law of treaties.

52. **The Leader of the Delegation of State of Kuwait**² on behalf of his delegation thanked the former Secretary-General of AALCO Amb. Dr. Wafik Z. Kamil for his cooperative efforts to serve the Organization and appreciated his role in making AALCO an Intergovernmental Organization from Committee. The delegate wished all success for the Session and urged Member States to effectively participate and cooperate during the Session. They also appreciated the Secretariat staff for organizing the Headquarters Session.

53. The Delegate congratulated Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, on his election as the new Secretary-General of AALCO and wished him all success and extended his heartfelt support in order to encourage and promote the activities of AALCO.

54. The Delegate pointed out that preservation of peace was an important aspect. Deportation of Palestinians through criminal acts by Israeli Practices was a continuous violation of international law and particularly International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and it was a great challenge for the international community. The recent Cairo meeting was an example of such cooperation to condemn and discuss the crimes conducted against Palestinians in West Bank region.

55. The Delegate stated that Kuwait was a party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and condemned such violations in order to perpetuate the victims. The Ad Hoc Review Committee would meet in 2010 and criminal acts against Palestinians should be denounced and the Israeli officers must be held responsible under international law. He urged the rest of the delegation from Member States to move on in different levels and make efforts to help the Palestinian people.

56. The Delegate stated that "International terrorism" was a topic of extreme relevance, which not only terrified innocent people but also had a destructive negative impact on different people. Means to combat it should be to strike a balance between terrorism and human rights. International Criminal Court's efforts in trying to prepare for the Review Conference in 2010 should be viewed, as an opportunity by countries to frame a definition of terrorism and it was one of the first kind after the adoption of the Rome Statute. Through effective participation at the working groups at the Ad Hoc Review Committee, a term for the definition of terrorism could be materialized.

57. Combating corruption was a responsibility entrusted upon the whole international community, which forms trans-migratory crime. Effectively combating corruption would be essential in order to utilize the available resources and not to destroy them. He stated that Kuwait believed in establishment of the rule of law and transparency and henceforth, had ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Moreover, the Government of Kuwait had taken measures to establish a High-Level Committee on Corruption.

58. The Delegate further stated that the agenda item "Environment and Sustainable Development" was another area of interest for them. He quoted the former Secretary-General of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold in relation to the statement on environment. He thanked the Government of India for such a friendly attitude and for being a sisterly country rendering its hospitality and generosity. He also thanked the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, its staff and also interpreters for organizing that meeting and appreciated their efforts.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned.

² Statement made in Arabic. Unofficial translation from interpreter's version.