

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
SIXTH GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY, 4TH JULY 2008
AT 5:00 PM**

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

1. The **President** called the meeting to order. He invited the **Secretary-General** to present the “**Message of Thanks to the President of India**” on behalf of the participating delegations in the Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO.

2. The **Secretary-General** explained that it was customary to send a Message of Thanks, on behalf of the participating delegations in annual AALCO Sessions to the Head of the host State. As Forty-Seventh Session, was the Headquarters Session, the Message of Thanks would be addressed to **Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of Republic of India**. The text of message reads as under:

**MESSAGE OF THANKS TO HER
EXCELLENCY MRS. PRATIBHA
DEVISINGH PATIL, THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

“Excellency,

On behalf of all the Delegations of the Member States and Observers attending the Forty-Seventh (2008) Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, I would like to extend the following message as a token of our heartfelt gratitude and respect:

“We, the participants in the Forty-Seventh Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, would like to seize this opportunity to convey our profound gratitude and respect to Your Excellency and through you to your esteemed Government and the people of India for holding the

Headquarters Session of AALCO, under the auspices of the Government of India, in this beautiful city of New Delhi. Excellency, I thank the Government of India, on behalf of AALCO, and on my own behalf, for hosting the AALCO premises, in New Delhi, since its inception from 1956.

Your Excellency, India, being one of the founding Members has been providing vision and guidance in the work of the Organization. Moreover, the Government of India graciously gifted the Permanent Headquarters Building to the AALCO, which was inaugurated on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee in the year 2006. We the Member States and the Secretariat of AALCO would like to express our profound gratitude for this magnanimous gift in the prestigious Chanakyapuri Diplomatic Enclave of New Delhi. We are also pleased to bring to the kind attention of Your Excellency that the AALCO Secretariat is settled and functioning from the new Permanent Headquarters Building benefiting from all its facilities.

Your Excellency would be pleased to know that a spirit of constructive dialogue and co-operation amongst attending delegations marked this Session, thus enabling us to take crucial decisions on the substantive as well as organizational matters. Amongst other things, the Forty-Seventh Session appointed His Excellency Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohamad of Malaysia as the new Secretary-General of the AALCO. Although many factors contributed to the success of the conference, yet it would not be an exaggeration to put on record that the excellent cooperation from the Government of India, contributed significantly towards the excellent achievements of our deliberations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest respect and consideration and may the Almighty bless all the endeavours of your Great Country”.

3. The text of the Message of Thanks to **Her Excellency Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil** the President of the Republic of India was accepted with applause. The **Secretary-General** handed over the text to the **President**. The **President** assured that he would convey the Message of Thanks to the office of the President of India.

4. The **President** informed that the Drafting Committee had prepared the Summary Report and Resolutions and the copies of the same would be distributed to all the delegations. In addition, the Secretariat had prepared the Provisional Summary Records. He requested the delegations that, in case they felt that their views had not been accurately reflected, may give their suggestions in writing to the Secretariat which would carry out the necessary amendments. However, he reminded the delegations that these were only Summary Report, in which it was not possible to present all the views for all the issues that delegations might have raised. He requested the delegations to keep that fact in mind while submitting corrections. The President also informed that Verbatim Records would also be published in which the full statements of participating delegations would appear. With these clarifications, he hoped that they could consider Summary Report and Provisional Summary Records as adopted and move forward towards the adoption of resolutions.

5. The President placed for consideration **RES/47/ S 1** on “**Matters Relating to the Work of the International Law Commission**”. As there were no comments, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

6. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/S 3** on “**The Status and Treatment of Refugees**”. He informed that the topic was not discussed at the Session. There being no comments the resolution was adopted unanimously.

7. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/S 5** on “**Legal Protection for Migrant Workers**”. This topic was also not deliberated at the Session. The Resolution was unanimously adopted without any comments.

8. The **President** informed that as these were the only three resolutions, that were distributed, and it may take some time to get copies of other resolutions prepared. Meanwhile, he had a request from the **Delegation of Japan** seeking floor. Therefore, he invited the delegate of Japan to make a statement.

9. The **Delegate of Japan** took the opportunity to share information about the **Asian Society of International Law**. He informed that the Asian Society of International Law was established in a meeting, held in, Singapore, in April 2007. The Asian Society of International Law was an international, non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental, organization and its members were composed of scholars, lawyers and those who were interested in International Law. It was the Asian version of the American Society of International Law or the European Society of International Law. The next meeting would take place, in Japan, in August 2008. Its annual membership fee was 30 Singapore Dollars. He requested the interested delegates to check up the website of Asian Society of International Law. He also informed that on 7-8 August 2008, the Malaysian Chapter of the Asian Society of International Law and the Malaysian Society of International Law would jointly organize a Symposium in Kuala Lumpur for inauguration of the Asian Society of International Law and the theme of the

Conference was “The Place of International Obligation in the Domestic Legal Orders of State”. The symposium was open to public, including the African colleagues present there. He hoped that there would be many AALCO colleagues participating in the Asian Society of International Law.

10. The **President** thanked the representative of Japan for information about the Asian Society of International Law. Thereafter, he invited the Secretary-General to introduce the latest AALCO Yearbook.

11. The **Secretary-General** said that he was honored to release **AALCO Yearbook - 2007** containing all the activities of AALCO, including, statements, briefs, and other material, which had been prepared and printed during 2007. He informed that the Yearbook would be delivered to the Member States through their Embassies in New Delhi.

12. The **President** stated that it was customary that at the closing meeting the venue for the next Annual Session was decided. As there were no invitations or offer in that regard from any Member State, therefore a decision in that regard could not be taken. He also informed that one Member State was seriously considering holding the Forty-Eighth Annual Session in its capital. As soon as that offer was confirmed the Secretary-General would communicate it to all the Member States.

13. The **President** thereafter invited the **Leader of Delegation of Japan** for vote of thanks on behalf of the participating Asian Member States.

14. The **Leader of Delegation of Japan** expressed on behalf of the Leader of all Asian Delegations their most sincere gratitude and appreciation to, first, the Government of India – the gracious host of the Forty-Seventh Headquarters Session; second, His Excellency Mr. Narinder Singh

and His Excellency Mr. Muchemi, President and Vice-President of the Forty-Seventh Annual Session; third, His Excellency Amb. Wafik Kamil, the outgoing Secretary-General of AALCO for the excellent holding of the Session. He stated that the delegations found the Forty-Seventh Session particularly stimulating and productive, as regards all the expressly deliberated agenda items. These deliberations, he held bore significant and important bearing to the international community, particularly in the Asian and African regions. They were also very pleased that the Forty-Seventh Headquarters Session was held under special circumstances. The Delegate welcomed the appointment by the Session of **Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad** as the **new Secretary-General** of the Organization. He noted that he was elected by consensus, by acclamation, after going through two rounds of procedure. The delegate expressed confidence that the AALCO would continue to play its active and most important role as a consultative organization in African and Asian regions. Lastly, he expressed his equally sincere thanks to all the Staff of AALCO and all the supporting Staff and the able interpreters.

15. The **President** thanked the distinguished representative of Japan for the vote of thanks. Thereafter, he invited the **Leader of Delegation of Ghana** to propose a vote of thanks on behalf of participating African Member States.

16. The **Leader of Delegation of Ghana** said that first and foremost he would like to thank the Almighty God for giving them strength to go through deliberations and bring them to a very successful end. Secondly, they would like to thank the Government of India for hosting them throughout the Session. Thirdly, he thanked the President and Vice-President and the former Secretary-General and his deputies. He also thanked the **Secretary-General elect Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad**. He thanked the Secretariat particularly for

putting the various documents, which enabled the Conference to come to a very successful end. He also thanked the Interpreters for their excellent translation. In conclusion, he thanked all those who had cooperated to bring that Session to a successful conclusion.

17. The **President** thanked the **Leader of Delegation of Ghana** for his kind words to him and his delegation. Thereafter, he invited **Dr. Carol Batchelor**, the **Head of the UNHCR Office in New Delhi** to propose a Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Observer delegations.

18. **Dr. Carol Batchelor** thanked the Government of India, the President and the Secretary-General for the successful holding and conclusion of Forty-Seventh Session. She stated that the UNHCR had the privilege of having longstanding partnership with AALCO. She noted that AALCO had similar partnerships with several other UN Agencies and other International Organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross. In this regard, she referred to the successful holding of one-day special meeting on International Humanitarian Law jointly by the AALCO and ICRC. She emphasized that this was indicative of the value and importance that International Organizations placed on the relationship and partnership with AALCO. She observed that the World's Refugee Day was celebrated on the 20th of June and on that day the High Commissioner announced the number of refugees globally to be 14 million. The number of internally displaced persons had also risen to 26 million. She said that this represented only small number of people who were actually displaced and may be migrating. She stated that the world was presently facing enormous challenges, including rising sea-level and melting glaciers. In South Asia, she stated with concern that would lead to tens of millions of persons being displaced. They would contribute their small part in addressing those challenges in the future. She stated

that AALCO presented a venue and a vehicle for discussion about legal framework for discussion about standards, for dialogue on the contemporary challenge that the world was facing today and on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other International Organizations, she expressed her appreciation for the opportunity provided to them not only in that week but they also look forward to the future discussions and partnership with AALCO. She also took the opportunity to congratulate and welcome **Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad of Malaysia- the new Secretary-General**. She informed that the UNHCR enjoyed a very helpful and fruitful partnership with the previous Secretary-General and look forward to working with him. She also extended congratulations to Prof. Mohamad.

19. The **President** thanked Dr. Carol Batchelor for her kind words and vote of thanks. As more documents for adoption and approval were received, the **President** took them for consideration.

20. The **President** said that first the resolution on administrative matters would be taken up.

21. The Meeting considered **RES/47/ORG 1** on "**Report of the Secretary-General on Organizational, Administrative and Financial Matters**". As there were no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

22. The next resolution taken up for consideration by the Meeting was **RES/47/ORG 2** on "**AALCO's Draft Budget for the year 2009**". As there were no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

23. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/ORG 3** on "**Report on AALCO's Regional Centers for Arbitration**". There being no comments the resolution was adopted unanimously.

24. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/ORG 4** on **“Report on the Center for Research and Training of the AALCO”**. As there were no comments, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

25. The meeting then considered **RES/47/ORG 5** on **“Appointment of Secretary-General”**. There being no comments the resolution was adopted unanimously. He also informed that by that resolution it was decided that Dr. Kamil would continue as Acting Secretary-General until the 14th of August 2008 and that Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad would take over as Secretary-General on 15th of August 2008. He congratulated the new Secretary-General on his appointment. This was followed by an applause from the floor.

26. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/ORG 5A** on **“Expression of Gratitude to the outgoing Secretary-General”**. As there were no comments, the resolution was unanimously adopted. The President stated that with that resolution they appreciated the outstanding contribution made by Amb. Dr. Kamil in last eight years and expressed their gratitude to him. This was followed by applause from the floor.

27. Thereafter the meeting considered **RES/47/ORG 6** on **“Report on AALCO's Permanent Headquarters Building”**. There being no comments the resolution was adopted unanimously.

28. The meeting thereafter considered resolutions on substantive agenda items. The meeting then considered **RES/47/S 2** on **“The Law of the Sea”**. As there were no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

29. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/S 4** on **“The Deportation of Palestinians and other Israeli Practices among them the Massive**

Immigration and Settlement of Jews in all Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law Particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949”. There being no comments the resolution was adopted unanimously.

30. The meeting thereafter considered **RES/47/S 6** on **“Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed against Third Parties”**. As there were no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

31. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/S 7** on **“International Terrorism”**. There being no comments, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

32. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/S 8** on **“Establishing Co-operation against Trafficking in Women and Children”**. There being no comments the resolution was adopted unanimously.

33. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/S 9** on **“The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments”**. As there were no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

34. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/S 10** on **“Environment and Sustainable Development”**. There being no comments, the Resolution was adopted unanimously.

35. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/S 11** on **“An Effective International Legal Instrument against Corruption”**. There being no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

36. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/S 12** on **“Report on the Work of UNCITRAL and other**

International Organizations in the field of International Trade Law". There being no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

37. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/S 13** on "**WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for World Trade**" and **RES/47/S 14** on "**Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection**". He informed that these topics were not deliberated. As there were no comments the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

38. The next resolution placed for consideration was **RES/47/S 15** on "**Human Rights in Islam**". There being no comments, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

39. The President then placed for consideration **RES/47/SP 1** entitled "**New Delhi Resolution on Aspects of International Humanitarian Law**". As there were no comments the resolution was unanimously adopted.

40. The **President** observed that with the adoption of these resolutions the task of adoption of documents was concluded. He took the opportunity to thank all the participating delegations of Member States, Observer States and Observer Delegations of participating International Organizations for the excellent support and cooperation extended to him by all delegations during the Session. The Session provided them with an opportunity to hear and consider a number of important agenda items on which many delegations had expressed their views. He hoped that their deliberations would lead to further convergence of views amongst the Member States and that would result in closer cooperation between their delegations, when these items were deliberated in UN and other forums. He thanked the Secretary-General for the excellent support that he had extended as well as for the documents that they had

considered during the meeting. He also thanked the Deputy Secretaries-General for their support and for introducing different agenda items. He also thanked the Research Officers and other Staff of the Secretariat who had exerted all their efforts for preparing for the Annual Session and assisted them in their deliberations. He also thanked the staff of the Hotel for the excellent arrangements they had made for conduct of their work. In addition, to that he also thanked the interpreters who by their translation made the communication of delegations intelligible to each other. This helped them in proceeding with the deliberations in the Session. Finally, he thanked all those who were associated with the preparation of the Annual Session and once again he congratulated the Secretary-General elect and said that they looked forward to working with him and assured him of their full support and cooperation of himself and his department in the Ministry of External Affairs and of the entire Government of India. With these words, the President declared the Session closed and wished all delegates safe journey back to their capitals and bid goodbye to them.

The Meeting was thereafter adjourned.