



**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Prepared by

**The AALCO Secretariat
29 C, Rizal Marg,
Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi – 110 021
(INDIA)**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ASIAN-
AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION**

CONTENTS

	PAGES
I. INTRODUCTION	1 – 2
II. CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAMME OF AALCO AT THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO	2 – 3
III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION	3 – 16
A. Lecture at College of Comparative Law (Beijing, 26-30 September 2013)	
B. AALCO Legal Advisers Meeting and AALCO-ILC Meeting (UN Headquarters, New York, 24 October 2013)	
C. Meeting with the International Maritime Organization (London, 28 October 2013)	
D. Fourth Biennial Conference of the Asian Society of International Law (New Delhi, 14-16 November 2013)	
E. AALCO-UKM Workshop on Selected Agenda Items of the ILC (Bangi-Putrajaya, 29-30 November 2013)	
F. Workshop for Saudi Arabian Officials (14 January 2014)	
G. AALCO Legal Experts Meeting on the Law of the Sea (24-25 February 2014)	
H. Fifth South-Asian Conference on International Humanitarian Law on Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict (Kathmandu, 8-10 April 2014)	
I. International Workshop on “New Developments on the Law of the Sea” at South China Sea Institute (Xiamen, 24-25 April 2014)	
J. AALCO-ICRC Workshop on International Humanitarian Law (7-8 May 2014)	
K. 24 th SATS Programme (Colombo, 26-31 May 2014)	
L. Colloquium on the theme “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and Development of International Law (Beijing, 27 May 2014)	
M. “Reflecting on the Past, Building the Future”: KLRCA international arbitration conference (20 June 2014)	
N. Secretary-General’s visit to Geneva and Vienna	
O. The Secretariat	
P. Report of the Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at the United Nations Offices	
Q. Report on the Functioning of the Centre for Research and Training	

- R. Publications of AALCO
- S. AALCO's Draft Budget for the year 2015
- T. Membership

IV. STEPS TAKEN TO REVITALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION 16 – 20

- 1. Strengthening the Human Resources in the AALCO Secretariat
- 2. Measures to Improve the Financial Situation of AALCO
- 3. Requests received from the States of Palestine, Republic of Yemen and Lebanon regarding their arrears

V. FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION 20 – 25

- 1. Organizational and Substantive Projects for AALCO and its Financial Implications Commencing 2014-2016
- 2. Establishing Collaboration with Educational Institutions/Universities
- 3. Expanding Internship Projects in AALCO
- 4. Convening Young Jurist Conference
- 5. Improving the website of AALCO
- 6. Preparation of Studies on the Items on the Agenda of AALCO
- 7. Preparation of Studies on Selected Items on the Agenda of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- 8. Participation in International Meetings
- 9. Capacity Building Programmes
- 10. Strengthening the Library
- 11. Publications

VI. STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS 25 – 26

- 1. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization
- 2. Strengthening the Cooperation with Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations

VII. CONCLUDING REMARKS	26 – 27
ANNEX I: Communication from the State of Palestine	28 – 28
ANNEX II: Communication from the Republic of Yemen	29 – 29
ANNEX III: Communication from Lebanon	30 – 30
ANNEX IV: Projects proposed to be implemented from 2014 to 2016	31 – 37
ANNEX V: Draft Resolution on the agenda item “Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization” for consideration of the Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO	38 – 39

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with Rule 20 (7) of the Statutory Rules of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), it is an honour and privilege for Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary-General to present a Report to the Member States on the administrative, organizational and substantive matters since the conclusion of the AALCO's Fifty-Second Annual Session held at New Delhi (HQ), Republic of India, from 9 to 12 September 2013. This Report covers activities until 15 July 2014. An update for the remaining period shall be presented at the forthcoming Fifty-Third Annual Session.

2. To begin with, the Secretary-General expresses his sincere gratitude to the current President of AALCO, Her Excellency Dr. Neeru Chadha, Legal Adviser, Government of India and Joint Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for her guidance and support to the AALCO Secretariat in all its activities. The Secretary-General expresses profound thanks to Her Excellency Ms. Hema Odhav, Vice-President of the Fifty-Second Annual Session of AALCO and First Secretary (Multilateral), The South African High Commission, New Delhi, for discharging the duties as Vice-President of the Fifty-Second Annual Session of AALCO.

3. The Secretary-General also seizes this opportunity to express his gratitude to all Member Governments, for their constant encouragement, support and participation in all activities pertaining to the agenda of AALCO and reassures them that he will continue to fulfil his mandate, to the best of his abilities and for further strengthening the Organization. The Secretary-General is also grateful to the Ambassadors/High Commissioners and the Liaison Officers, for their valuable inputs in dealing with the substantive and organizational matters and for the kind support rendered to him, which has helped him in discharging his duties and functions in a smooth and effective manner. A special thanks is also due to all the Member States for paying their annual contributions and to those Member States who have started partial payment of their arrears. A robust financial situation would facilitate the Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the Member States.

4. The year 2013-2014 (September 2013 to July 2014) was significant in the ongoing journey of AALCO. Last year the Organization witnessed yet another successful Annual Session, the Fifty-Second Session, held in New Delhi the Permanent Headquarters of AALCO, where some progressive new initiatives like the half-day special meeting on the selected items on the agenda of the International Law Commission (ILC) was convened as per the mandate received from the Member States, according to which more time every year should be allocated to meaningfully deliberate on some of the important issues before the ILC. In addition, the outcome of the third Eminent Persons Group meeting was also placed for consideration of the Member States, which *inter alia* paved the ground rules and measures that the Organization would take for building upon its present acclaimed edifice, in the field of rendering valuable

advisory services to its Member States, in the field of international law, on some of the most important and pressing common concerns.

5. The Fifty-Third Annual Session is an important occasion to reflect upon the past achievements of the Organization and would also provide an opportunity to carve out the path for the next phase of development for the Organization.

6. The present Report is divided into seven sections, apart from a brief Introduction and Concluding Remarks, it contains: Steps taken to Revitalize and Strengthen the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization; Consideration of Work Programme of AALCO at the Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO; Activities undertaken since the conclusion of the Fifty-Second Annual Session of AALCO; Future Plan of Action; and Strengthening the Cooperation with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations.

II. CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAMME OF AALCO AT THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO

7. The Work Programme of AALCO, comprises (i) follow-up of the work of the International Law Commission; (ii) topics that have been placed on the agenda on reference by a Member State; and (iii) topics placed on the *suo-moto* initiative of the Secretary-General. Currently, there are 15 items on the work programme of AALCO namely:

- Report on Matters Relating to the Work of the International Law Commission
- Law of the Sea
- The Status and Treatment of Refugees
- 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
- Legal Protection of Migrant Workers
- Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties
- International Terrorism
- Establishing Cooperation against Trafficking in Women and Children
- The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Challenges in Combating Corruption: The Role of United Nations Convention against Corruption
- Report on the Work of UNCITRAL and Other International Organizations in the Field of International Trade Law
- WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for World Trade
- Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection
- Managing Global Financial Crisis: Sharing of Experiences

8. It may be recalled that since the Forty-Second (Seoul, 2003) Annual Session, the Organization, has adopted a policy of rationalization of agenda items, and out of these 15 items, certain items, depending upon the current importance are placed on the agenda of the Annual Session. In furtherance of this policy, for the Fifty-Third Annual Session the following agenda items are placed in the category of deliberated items:

- The Law of the Sea;
- The Status and Treatment of Refugees;
- 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;
- Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties;
- Environment and Sustainable Development; and
- WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for World Trade.

9. In addition, two half-day special meetings on agenda items pertaining to:

- “Selected Items on the Agenda of the International law Commission”; and
- “A World against Violence and Violent Extremism”, will also being convened in conjunction with the Fifty-Third Annual Session.

10. On the other hand, since the Forty-Ninth Annual Session (Dar es Salaam, 2010), the non-deliberated agenda items were being brought out in a single volume and the same were also placed for consideration of the Member States. However, during the past several years Member States have been insisting upon austerity measures to be adopted by the Organization, including cutting down costs on its publications. In compliance with this observation, this year the Secretariat will not be publishing the report on the non-deliberated agenda items. Consequently, draft resolutions on the non-deliberated agenda items would also not be discussed. Nevertheless, in the future, as and when an item is taken up as deliberated, the needful would be done.

III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

A. Lecture at College of Comparative Law (Beijing, 26-30 September 2013)

11. The founders of the Asia Academy of Comparative law realizing the importance of comparative law research and study in facilitating a better understanding of foreign legal systems and different legal cultures established the Asia Academy of Comparative law. This body established in September 2013, having its Headquarters in Beijing, People’s Republic of China, is engaged in the research and promotion of the study of comparative law with a view to better understand and appreciate the different legal systems that exist in Asia.

12. His Excellency Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary-General of AALCO, has been appointed as a Member of the Curatorium of the Asia Academy of Comparative Law. During his visit to the College of Comparative Law, China University of Political Science and Law, the

Secretary-General delivered a lecture on “International Law on E-Commerce: Legal Issues and Impact on the Developing Countries”. The presentation dealt with a brief overview of the legal regime of e-commerce with an emphasis on the UNCITRAL Model Law existing in this area, the major implications of e-commerce for developing countries, the most important constraints for the growth of e-commerce in the developing world and the way the World Trade Organization has dealt with this issue of e-commerce. At that juncture, he also met certain officials of the Department of Treaty and Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed few important matters.

B. AALCO Legal Advisers Meeting and AALCO-ILC Meeting (UN Headquarters, New York, 24 October 2013)

13. The AALCO Legal Advisers Meeting and AALCO-ILC meeting took place in New York on 24 October 2013. The agenda for this meeting included Inaugural statement by the Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Pressing Legal issues in Africa-UN Under-Secretary-General for Africa, E-Commerce: Opportunities and Challenges; and Use of force against non-State actors in terrorist activities. The second segment of the meeting was devoted to ILC Matters, Statement by the Secretary-General AALCO, views by some members of the ILC followed by a Discussion. The meeting was attended by Legal Advisers from over 70 States including the Member States of AALCO and non-members.

C. Meeting with the International Maritime Organization (London, 28 October 2013)

14. At the Fifty-Second Annual Session of AALCO, a Resolution on the Law of the Sea was adopted which directed the Secretariat to continue to assist the Member States in implementing the Convention by way of providing capacity building and assistance. In compliance with this mandate, the Secretary-General along with Dr. Yasukata Fukahori, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO visited the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (the “IMO”) at London and held meetings with Dr. Rosalie Balkin, Director, Legal Division/Assistant Secretary-General, IMO.

15. In pursuance with the “Exchange of Letters between the then Secretary-General of IMO and the then Secretary-General of AALCO on Matters Relating to Co-operation between IMO and the AALCO signed on 11 December 1985”, the proposed areas of joint cooperation were: (i) Sharing Marine Resources and Protection of Biological Diversity; and, (ii) Dispute Settlement Mechanism for Maritime related Disputes including Maritime Boundary Disputes.

D. Fourth Biennial Conference of the Asian Society of International Law (New Delhi, 14-16 November 2014)

16. The Fourth Biennial Conference of the Asian Society of International Law was hosted by the Indian Society of International Law and focused on the broad theme of “Asia & International Law In The Twenty-First Century: New Horizons”. The three-day Conference was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Vice President of India and featured some of the most illustrious

jurists from not only Asia, but several other regions as well, as several simultaneous panels were held on topics such as: National Implementation of International Law; Emergent Issues in International Human Rights Law; ASEAN; Key Elements of Sustainable Development in Asia; International Law and Cyberspace; and many more.

17. Among the topics was one dedicated to the “Asian-African Contribution to International Legal Jurisprudence”, which included presentations that focused on AALCO’s contribution to and role in the historical and contemporary contexts of international law. The Secretary-General, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, participated as a panelist in the First Plenary “President’s Forum on Asia & International Law in the Twenty-First Century: New Horizons”. AALCO Senior Legal Officer S. Pandiaraj delivered a presentation on “Meeting the Challenges of a Globalized World: Extraterritorial State Obligations in the Area of Socio-Economic Rights” at the session on the Asian-African Contribution to International Legal Jurisprudence, while AALCO Legal Officer Shannu Narayan made a presentation on “Reading Socialisation as a Method of Anti-Money Laundering Regime from a TWAIL Perspective” at the session on critical Perspectives on International Law and its History.

E. AALCO-UKM Workshop on Selected Agenda Items of the ILC (Bangi-Putrajaya, 29-30 November 2013)

18. The AALCO Secretariat organised a two-day Workshop on Selected Agenda Items of the ILC. This Workshop was convened jointly with National University of Malaysia (UKM) in Bangi-Putrajaya, Malaysia from 29 to 30 November 2013. At the inaugural session, addresses were delivered by Prof. Dato’ Dr. Aishah Hj. Bidin, the Dean of Faculty of Law, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary-General of AALCO. Special address was delivered by YBhg. Prof. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsahbinti Syed Hasan Shahabudin, the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Inaugural address was given by Honourable Dato’ Sri Idrus Harun, Solicitor-General of Malaysia.

19. The Workshop witnessed participation from Member States, academia and students from the Universities in Malaysia. At the AALCO-UKM Workshop, three current members of the ILC reviewed the work of the ILC on three topics. Prof. Shinya Murase from Japan who is also the Special Rapporteur for the topic “Protection of Atmosphere” briefed about the topic and its works; Dr. Hussein Hassouna from Egypt briefed about the topic “Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters”; and Mr. Narinder Singh from India briefed about the topic “Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction.”

20. The other distinguished speakers for the Workshop were Prof. Chia-Jui Cheng, Secretary-General of the Curatorium, Asian Xiamen Academy of International Law; and Prof. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO. Every working session had one main speaker and two panelists. The chairpersons for these sessions were from the academia. The Deputy Secretaries-General and the legal staff of the AALCO Secretariat also contributed as panelists. The Working Sessions were on: (i) ILC and its relationship with AALCO, (ii) Formation and Evidence of Customary International Law, (iii) Protection of Atmosphere, (iv) Protection of

Persons in the Event of Disasters, and (v) Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction.

21. The workshop was very successful as these two institutions have agreed to continue hosting this Workshop annually, and to establish a Working Group to frame views on the agenda item “Formation and Evidence of Customary International Law”. The Working Group on the topic “Formation and Evidence of Customary International Law” is designed to facilitate the work of the Special Rapporteur and more importantly recall the contributions of Asian-African States in the progressive development of International Law. It also endeavours to transmit the recommendations of AALCO Member States which includes their State practice and customary practices on various important issues that are raised by the Special Rapporteur. The topic has been consensually renamed as “Identification of Customary International Law”.

F. Workshop for Saudi Arabian Officials (14 January 2014)

22. The Secretariat of AALCO in collaboration with the Public International Law Firm ‘Volterra Fietta’ (located in London) had conducted a one-day “Training Programme on the Working of AALCO” for the diplomats, Legal Advisors to the Foreign Ministry, the Royal Court and the Ministry of Petroleum of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was held on 14th January 2014 at the premises of the Secretariat of AALCO located in New Delhi, India.

23. This Training Programme, which was designed to educate the high-level officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the various workings of AALCO, was divided into two Sessions. In the First Session four presentations were made. While delivering the Welcome Remarks the Secretary-General of AALCO Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad elucidated the importance of conducting Training Programmes for the benefits of the Officials of the Member States of AALCO and narrated very briefly the key aspects of the functioning of AALCO. This was followed by the Introductory Remarks delivered by Mr. Volterra from the London Firm. The next (substantive) presentation was made by the Secretary-General of AALCO on the theme “Contemporary Issues in International Law: An Asian-African Perspective”. This presentation saw the Secretary-General dwelling at length on the various challenges facing the Asian-African states in the field of international law. The next presentation was on “The Historical Background to the Establishment of AALCO and its Functioning” which was jointly delivered by the Principal Legal officer of AALCO Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi and Senior Legal Officer Mr. Pandiaraj. While the former focused on the institutional aspects of the functioning of AALCO in its historical perspective, the latter primarily dealt with the contributions of AALCO to the progressive development and codification of international law.

24. In the Post-Lunch session, two presentations were made. Making the first presentation on the topic, “Rule of Law”, Mr. Feng Quinghu, the Deputy Secretary-General focused on the evolution and the development of the concept of Rule of Law and the significance that it held for the developing countries in the Asian-African region. The second presentation was made by Dr. Hassan Soleimani, Deputy Secretary-General on the topic “The Relationship between the International Law Commission and AALCO”. He narrated the importance of ILC for the development of international law in general and the need of the Asian-African States to utilize

the Commission with a view to better reflect their interests and concerns in the making of international law. The presentations were followed by an interesting Q/A session. After the Vote of Thanks the participants were given certificates by the Secretary-General.

G. AALCO Legal Experts Meeting on the Law of the Sea (24-25 February 2014)

25. The Secretariat of AALCO had convened a Two-Day Legal Experts Meeting on the agenda item "Law of the Sea", on 24th and 25th February 2014 at AALCO Headquarters, New Delhi. The Secretariat is grateful to the Governments of Indonesia and Japan for deputing their experts to make presentations during this meeting as well as to the Xiamen University, China and University Terengganu Malaysia (UTM) for collaborating with AALCO for this event. High-level officials from various ministries of the Member States of AALCO, academics from many universities from the Asian-African region, a few officials from the United Nations and students from many Indian universities participated in this Meeting. There were five Working Sessions that focused on the following topics: (i) Regional Cooperation on Maritime Issues; (ii) Fragmentation of International Law: Law of the Sea; (iii) Piracy Legislation; (iv) Marine Biodiversity; and (v) Dispute Settlement: Afro-Asian Traditional Wisdom.

26. At the inaugural session, the welcome speech was given by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO. It was soon followed by the Inaugural Address by Dr. Neeru Chadha, the President of 52nd Annual Session of AALCO. The next keynote address was given by Amb. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India and Former Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Next came the special address from Mr. H.P. Rajan, Former Deputy Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations, and Former Member of the Legal and Technical Commission, International Seabed Authority. Finally, the inaugural session ended with the vote of thanks from Mr. Feng Qinghu, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO.

27. The First Working Session, which was on "Marine Biodiversity", was Chaired by Mr. Narinder SINGH, Secretary-General of the Indian Society on International Law. The first address was on the topic of "Marine Biodiversity: protection, Conservation and Exploration", by Mr. Balakrishnan PISUPATI, Former Chairman of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India. The next address was on "Access and Benefit-Sharing to Marine Biodiversity Resources", by Dr. Malathi Lakshmikumaran, Director of Lakshmikumaran and Sridharan, New Delhi.

28. The Second Working Session, which was on "Fragmentation of International Law: Law of the Sea", was chaired by Amb. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India and Former Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). The session began with the address by Prof. Kening Zhang, Professor of Law at the South China Sea Institute and Director of Centre for Oceans Policy and Law at Xiamen University in China, on the topic of "The International Seabed Authority and its Recent Developments." It was followed by an address from Dr. Luther Rangreji, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, on the topic of "Interface between Law of the Sea and Environment Issues: Marine Environment." The next address was by Mr. Takero Aoyama, the Counsel for

International Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, which discussed “Forum Shopping and Parallelism of Treaties (Southern Bluefin Tuna Case—Australia and New Zealand v. Japan).”

29. The third Working Session on day two, which was on “Piracy Legislation”, was chaired by Dr. Neeru Chadha. The session ticked off with an address on “Combating Piracy” by Ms. Zhen Lin, Assistant Professor at the South China Sea Institute, Xiamen University, China. It was followed by an address on “Maritime Security Issues: Piracy” by Prof. M. Gandhi, Professor and Executive Director, Centre for International Legal Studies at the Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India.

30. The fourth Working Session, which was on “Regional Cooperation on Maritime Issues” was chaired by Prof. Kening Zhang, Professor of Law, Professor of Law at the South China Sea Institute and Director of Centre for Oceans Policy and Law at Xiamen University in China. The session started with the address of Dr. Mohd Hazmi Mohd Rusli/Dr. Wan Izatul Asma Wan Talaat, Associate Fellow/Associate Professor, Institute of Oceanography and Environment at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. They based their address on “Oil Pollution from Shipping Activities in the Straits of Malacca and its Legal Implications.” They further addressed the gathering on the topic “Oceanic Health & Sustainability through Scientific Exploration and its Legal Perspective.” The final address of the session was given by Ms. Dyah Harini/Mr. Andhinur Anugriawan, International and Cooperation Office, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia.

31. The fifth Working Session, which was on “Dispute Settlement: Afro-Asian Traditional Wisdom”, was chaired by Prof. Y.K. Tyagi, Dean, Faculty of Legal Studies at the South Asian University in New Delhi. The session started with the address of Dr. Mohd Hazmi Mohd Rusli/Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Associate Fellow, Institute of Oceanography and Environment at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu/Secretary Genial of AALCO, on the topic “Freedom of the Seas in the Malay Archipelago: An unsung International Custom.”

32. At the end of these substantive sessions, there was a Concluding Session where concluding remarks were given by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO. Finally, the vote of thanks was forwarded by Mr. Feng Qinghu, the Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO.

H. Fifth South-Asian Conference on International Humanitarian Law on Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict (Kathmandu, 8-10 April 2014)

33. AALCO participated for the first time in the “5th South Asian Conference on International Humanitarian Law”, held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 8-10 April 2014. Three officials from AALCO were nominated to participate in this Conference; Mr. Feng Qinghu, Deputy Secretary-General, Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Principal Legal Officer and Ms. Shannu Narayan, Legal Officer. Deputy Secretary-General Feng delivered the Keynote Address at the conference.

34. The theme for the Conference was “Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict” and the topics under which discussion took place included; (i) Sexual violence during Armed Conflicts – Needs and Operational Observations; (ii) International Law towards Sexual Violence: Jurisprudence from Nuremberg to Rome; (iii) Prevention of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts and Post Conflict situations – law, operational doctrine and training; (iv) UN resolutions on Sexual Violence during Armed Conflict – An overview of existing instruments and mechanisms, (v) the changing role of women in military; (vi) addressing the needs of women and children in conflicts and post-conflict situations; (vii) strengthening legal protection for persons deprived of their liberty in relation to non-international armed conflict; and finally (viii) presentation on the work of National IHL committee of Nepal.

I. International Workshop on “New Developments on the Law of the Sea” at South China Sea Institute (Xiamen, 24-25 April 2014)

35. The Secretary-General of AALCO, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, presented a paper on 25 April 2014 in the South China Sea Institute on the theme, “The Law of the Sea in the Era of Rapid Development of Marine Science and Technology.” The conference was attended by some of the best intellectuals, academicians and officials from various UN divisions.

36. The presentation by the Secretary-General focused the contributions of AALCO towards the progressive development of the law of the sea, AALCO’s contemporary work related to the law of the sea, and the future challenges to the law of the sea regime, particularly challenges relating to Marine Genetic Resources, pollution, food security and scientific exploration of the international seabed, and implications of these issues for developing countries.

J. AALCO-ICRC Workshop on International Humanitarian Law (7-8 May 2014)

37. The Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) along with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) conducted a Joint “Workshop on International Humanitarian Law” (IHL) on 7th and 8th May 2014 at the AALCO Headquarters in New Delhi.

38. The theme of this workshop was “Contemporary Issues Facing International Humanitarian Law” and the individual sessions focused on topics such as: (i) The use of drones and how the changing frontline aligns with the traditional paradigm of IHL; (ii) Identifying the civilian-combatant and the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities; and, (iii) The implementation, enforcement and compliance mechanisms of international humanitarian law. The two-day workshop welcomed nearly 85 participants, including members of several Diplomatic Missions of AALCO Member States and non-Member States, representatives from various international organizations – including UNHCR, ICRC and AALCO – legal experts from various countries, and a number of academicians and students.

39. At the Inaugural Session, there were four addresses made. While the Secretary-General of AALCO Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad delivered the Welcome Address the Opening Remarks were delivered by Ms. Mary Wertz, the Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC, New Delhi. In

this Session two other addresses were also made, one by Dr. S. P. Agarwal, Secretary-General, Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and the other by Mr. Simon Missiri, Head of the South Asian Regional Delegation for the International Federation of the Red Cross and red Crescent Societies. In the Next Session, Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohammed gave a lecture on the “Role and Mandate of AALCO” while the topic of the “ICRC: Role, Mandate and Operations” was jointly dealt with by Mr. Benjamin Wahren, Deputy Head of ICRC and Mr. Surinder Oberoi, Senior Political Adviser, ICRC.

40. The first post-lunch Session, which focused on “The Use of Drones and Contemporary Armed Conflict: How the Changing Frontline aligns with the Traditional Paradigm of IHL”, saw three presentations made at the Session. They were by Mr. Lloyd Gillett, Regional Delegate to the Armed and Security Forces, ICRC, Dr. U.C. Jha, retired Wing Commander, Indian Air Force and Prof. Sikander Shah of the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan who made a presentation through Video Conferencing.

41. The next session, which was on the theme: “Identifying the civilian-combatant and the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities”, saw presentations made by three experts. They were Charles Sabga, Regional Legal Advisor, ICRC, Mr. Palitha Fernando, Attorney General of Sri Lanka, and Prof. Susan Lamb of the Jindal Global law School.

42. On the second day the first session was on: “Challenges Relating to IHL and Contemporary Armed Conflict”. At this session, presentations were made by Amb. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador of Iceland to India, Prof. Dr. M. Gandhi, Executive Director, CILS, Jindal Global Law School and Mr. Dominik Bartsch, Chief of Mission, UNHCR, India. The last substantive session which focused on: “From Law to Practice: IHL Implementation, Enforcement and Compliance Mechanisms” saw remarks made by Mr. Charles Sabga, Regional Legal Adviser, ICRC. This was followed by a Vote of Thanks.

K. 24th SATS Programme (Colombo, 26-31 May 2014)

43. The 24th South Asia Teaching Session (SATS) on International Humanitarian Law was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka at Colombo, Sri Lanka from 26th to 31st may 2014. It was attended by mid-level officials and academicians from all the South Asian Countries. The Secretary-General of AALCO had nominated AALCO Senior Legal Officer, Mr. S. Pandiaraj, to attend the programme.

44. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 24th South Asia Teaching Sessions (SATS) in Colombo started off with the Welcome Address by Ms. Cherine Pollini, Head of Delegation of ICRC Colombo and was followed by the Keynote Address by the Chief Guest Hon. Sarath Palitha Fernando (PC), Attorney General of Sri Lanka.

45. The first day saw two addresses delivered by Mr. Rajiv Goonetilleke (Attorney General’s Department, Sri Lanka) and Professor Venkata Rao on the topic “Basic Concepts of Public International Law”, and “Prisoners of War and Case Study”, respectively.

46. On the second day, there were four addresses delivered. The first two were by Cherine Pollini with David Quesne), and Dr. Rohan Perera on the topic “ICRC Mandate and Role in Delivering Humanitarian Assistance in Post Conflict Contexts”, and on “Relationship between IHL & Human Rights Law respectively. The next two were delivered by Mr. Charles Sabga and Ms. Supriya Rao on “Protection of Civilians and DPH Study” and “Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict” respectively.

47. The third day ticked off with the address of Mr. Lloyd Gillet, on “Means and Methods of Warfare” and a case study after the tea break. The next address was by Supriya Rao on “Protection of Children during Armed Conflict”. The final address of the day was made by Mr. Ahmer Bilal Sufi, on the topic “IHL and Peacekeeping”.

48. The fourth day began with Mr. Lloyd Gillet’s address on “Superior & Command Responsibility” followed by an address by Ms. Shyamala Gomez (Fokus Women), on “Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict”. Later, after the lunch break, a review test was conducted on the same day in which Mr. Pandiaraj scored the third place.

49. The penultimate day saw three addresses delivered. The first two were given by Prabodhini Munasinghe (along with David Quesne), and Dr. Sepali Kottegoda (Women and Media Collective) on the topic “IHL and the Missing” and “Women and Peace Building”, respectively. The last address was delivered by Mr. Muhammad Mohi-us Sunnah (UNHCR, Colombo) on “IHL and Refugee Law”.

50. The final day of the session saw its beginning with an address by Professor Nazmuzzmanand (along with Mr. Anura Meddegoda) on the topic “IHL in Post- Conflict Contexts”. Later, an address was given by Mr. Sunad Jacob, through a movie on “Sexual Violence and the Triumph of Justice”. Finally Mr. Charles Sabga, addressed the gathering on “Recent Development on IHL”.

L. Colloquium on the theme “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and Development of International Law”(Beijing, 27 May 2014)

51. The Colloquium on the “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and Development of International Law” was held in Beijing, China and was attended by more than 70 participants from China, India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, and international organizations such as the UN, the International Court of Justice and the Asian, American and European Societies of international law.

52. The Secretary-General of AALCO, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, made a statement at the colloquium emphasizing the need for revitalization of the Five Principles – originally envisioned as a response to imperialism, colonialism and hegemony – to meet the needs of the Asian-African community in the modern era and ensure its continued contribution to the development of international law.

M. “Reflecting on the Past, Building the Future”: KLRCA international arbitration conference (20 June 2014)

53. The Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA) held a conference on international arbitration with the theme “Reflecting the Past, Building the Future”. The conference featured eminent arbitration experts from across the globe to deliberate the foundations of arbitration, scrutinize the current state of the practice and form a road map for the future.

54. Sessions of the conference dealt with the topics: (i). Rethinking the notion of confidentiality; (ii) Balancing party autonomy in International Arbitration; (iii) Minimal Judicial Intervention on Arbitration: Boon or Bane?; (iv) Balancing the Scale: The rise and fall of investor treaty arbitration; (v) Focus Group: Arbitration in Practice; (vi) Promoting a fair economical and effective arbitration regime: The Roles of leading Arbitral Bodies.

N. Secretary-General’s visit to Geneva and Vienna

i. Statement at the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on IPGRTKF (Geneva, 7th July 2014)

55. The Secretary-General of AALCO, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, addressed the *WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore* at the Twenty-Eighth Session. In his statement, the Secretary-General focused on the need to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prevent misuse and misappropriation of folklore at the international level, as well as the use of databases to prevent the erroneous granting of patents relating to genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

ii. Statement at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the International Law Commission (ILC) (Geneva, 8th July 2014)

56. The Secretary-General, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, made his statement at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the International Law Commission, on 8 July 2014. He briefed the Commission on the following agenda items of the sixty-sixth session of the ILC: (i) immunity of state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; (ii) protection of persons in the event of disasters; (iii) identification of customary international law; and (iv) protection of atmosphere.

57. An exchange of views followed wherein the Commission appreciated the substantive statements of the Secretary-General while requesting that the AALCO Secretariat encourage more of its Member States to respond to the queries of the Commission, as well as that the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of AALCO be held prior to the Sixty-Seventh Session of the ILC to facilitate the transmission of State comments to the Commission. The Secretary-General was accompanied by Ms. Yukiko Harimoto, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO.

iii. Visit to ICRC Headquarters (Geneva, 9 July 2014)

58. The Secretary-General, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, accompanied by Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Yukiko Harimoto made an extensive visit to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). There he met with Ms. Christine Berli, ICRC Vice President, as well as the Heads of various divisions and operations of ICRC. Among the topics of discussions between the Secretary-General and the ICRC heads was the possibility of future collaborations between AALCO and ICRC and the areas of mutual interest where such collaborations could occur.

iv. Visit to UNODC Headquarters (Vienna, 11 July 2014)

59. The Secretary-General visited the headquarters of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna on 11 July 2014. The Secretary-General met with Mr. Trevor Michael Rajah, Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division of Treaty Affairs, and the possibility of further cooperation between AALCO and UNODC was discussed. Additionally, the Secretary-General invited UNODC to participate in AALCO's forthcoming fifty-third Annual Session, particularly in the planned Special Half-Day meeting on "World against Violence and Violent Extremism" (WAVE), as well as to contribute to the deliberations on the topic of international terrorism.

O. The Secretariat

60. Apart from the Secretary-General (Malaysia), three Member Governments, namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan and People's Republic of China, have offered assistance to AALCO by deputing their senior officials to the Secretariat on secondment. Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Feng Quinghu (People's Republic of China) and Ms. Yukiko Harimoto (Japan), have been rendering commendable services to the Secretariat. The Secretary-General wishes to place on record his gratitude to these Member Governments for rendering such valuable assistance, and also wishes to express deep appreciation for the dedicated services of these officials deputed to the AALCO. Dr. Yusukata Fukahori from Japan and Dr. Hassan Soleimani from the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully completed their tenure as Deputy Secretaries-General, with the AALCO Secretariat in January and February 2014 respectively. The Secretary-General wishes to place on record appreciation for their valuable services to AALCO.

61. The number of the locally recruited staff (permanent category) in the Secretariat as of 30 July 2014, is 11. The Legal Staff comprises of Principal Legal Officer, Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Senior Legal Officer, Mr. S. Pandiaraj, and Legal Officer Mr. Parthan Visvanathan (on contractual basis). The Secretariat of AALCO has also appointed Mr. H.P. Rajan, an expert in the field of the Law of the Sea, as "Legal Adviser to AALCO on the Law of the Sea Matters", for a period of three months subject to renewal. The remaining staffs are in the administrative and supporting category. Besides, some staff members have also been employed on temporary basis. After working in the Secretariat for almost nine years, Ms. Shannu Narayan resigned from the post of Legal Officer, to join as Visiting Faculty in National Law University

and Judicial Academy, Guwahati, Assam, the Secretary-General places on record appreciation for her valuable services. As of now this position remains vacant.

62. With the objective of enhancing the skills of the Legal Staff of the Secretariat, as well as giving them an opportunity to broaden their understanding on international law matters and promote capacity building within the Secretariat, the Secretary-General has been encouraging them to participate in such programmes. During the period under review the Legal Staff participated in the below mentioned activities. Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Principal Legal Officer; Ms. Shannu Narayan and Mr. S. Pandiaraj, Legal Officers judged the Thirteenth Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition, jointly organized by the Indian Society of International Law and ICRC in September 2013 in New Delhi. As mentioned earlier in this report Mrs Anuradha Bakshi and Ms. Shannu Narayan participated in the Fifth South Asian Conference on IHL, in Nepal in April 2014 and Mr. Pandiaraj participated in the 24th SATS Programme held in Colombo in May 2014.

(i) Retiral benefits to the AALCO Employees

63. The AALCO Secretariat in terms of payments of salary and retiral benefits to its employees closely follows the scheme followed by the Government of India. The Government of India in 2006, raised the ceiling limit for gratuity payable to its employees on cessation of employment to a sum of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Ten lakhs). The Same ceiling was also proposed for employees working in private sector. The AALCO does not pay any pension to its retired employees. In view of this, the ceiling of the gratuity amount payable to employees on the cessation of their employment was enhanced and the ceiling limit was brought at par with the Government of India (AALCO/RES/51/ORG 1 A, adopted on 22 June 2012).

P. Report of the Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at the United Nations Offices

64. It may be recalled that vide AALCO/RES/48/ORG. 1, dated 20 August 2009, the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO had endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals pertaining to the "Strengthening of Permanent Observer Missions of AALCO at the United Nations Offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna".

65. Dr. Roy S. Lee was appointed as the Permanent Observer of AALCO at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2009. However, the Permanent Observer of AALCO to the United Nations Offices in Geneva could not be accomplished last year due to some logistic issues. It is the considered opinion of the Secretary-General that AALCO's presence in Geneva also needs to be strongly felt as it is the seat of the International Law Commission, several UN Offices and the World Trade Organization. Therefore, for activating the Permanent Observer Mission at the UN Office in Geneva, adoption of some new measures is required. A brief report on the Legal Advisers Meeting held last year on the sidelines of the Sixty-Eighth Annual Session of the United Nations General Assembly has been given above in this report.

66. Concerning the Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at Offices in Vienna and UNIDO, Mrs. Christine J. Nemoto has been continuing her work. In future, the possibility of establishing a Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at the United Nations Offices in Nairobi can also be explored.

67. The Secretary-General has been endeavouring to ensure a close working relationship between the AALCO Secretariat and these Permanent Observer Missions at various UN Offices. In this regard, subject to availability of financial resources, he also proposes deputing Legal Officers from the AALCO Secretariat to these Missions, particularly during the Annual Session of International Law Commission at Geneva to render assistance to Asian-African Members of the Commission, as well as during the Annual Session of UN General Assembly in New York.

Q. Report on the Functioning of the Centre for Research and Training

68. The Centre for Research and Training ('CRT') has been functioning as an integral part of the Secretariat of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) since 1989 when it was established at the suggestion of the Government of Republic of Korea. The creation of CRT (known until 2001 as the "Data Collection Unit") marked a new chapter in the efforts of the Member States towards undertaking research activities, as well as conducting training programmes, within AALCO. It is to be recalled here that until the Fifty-Second Session of AALCO the Secretariat of AALCO used to prepare a separate (Organizational) brief on the CRT. However, from this year onwards, the activities of AALCO as covered in the CRT brief are going to form part of the Report of the Secretary-General itself.

R. Publications of AALCO

69. One of the primary objectives of the AALCO is to undertake activities for the promotion and wider dissemination of international law and strengthen international law expertise in the Asian-African region. Pursuant to this object, AALCO, since its inception, has regularly been bringing out numerous publications covering the activities of the Organization. The three most important and periodic publications of AALCO are: The Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, AALCO Journal of International Law and Newsletter.

70. While the Yearbook of AALCO contains a comprehensive account of the activities of AALCO in a particular year, the AALCO Journal is a half-yearly publication of an academic nature incorporating articles, critical essays, comments and high-quality works of scholarships in a wide range of international legal issues that have a critical bearing on the well-being of the developing states. The Newsletter covers the activities of the Secretariat of AALCO for six-months.

S. AALCO's Draft Budget for the year 2015

71. The Draft Budget for the year 2015 has been prepared on the basis of the 2014 budget, which was circulated to all the Member States during the 323rd Meeting of Liaison Officers held

on 18 December 2013. As the quorum for that meeting was not complete, the budget document was once again discussed during the Resumed 323rd Liaison Officers Meeting held on 19 February 2014. It is important to note that the Secretariat had proposed an increase in the budget which was not approved by some Member States; therefore the budgetary estimate for 2015 remained the same as 2014. There being no increase in the budgetary estimates in the draft budget for 2015, the same was adopted at the Resumed 323rd Meeting of Liaison Officers held on 19 February 2014. In accordance with Rule 24 (4) of the Statutory Rule of AALCO the same has to be finally approved by the Leaders of Delegations at the Annual Session. The Proposed Budget for the year 2015 is contained in document no AALCO/53/TEHRAN/2014/ORG 2.

T. Membership

72. 47 States from Asia and Africa are presently Members of AALCO. For further increasing the membership base of AALCO, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General are making earnest efforts to enhance the membership of the Organization and consequently one or two Member States in the Asian region have expressed serious interest in becoming members.

IV. STEPS TAKEN TO REVITALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

73. Pursuant to the adoption of the Putrajaya Declaration, in 2009, various programmes have been initiated on a regular basis, to make AALCO a centre for harmonizing the action of Asian-African States in international legal matters. These include: Capacity Building Programmes; initiation of AALCO Lecture Series, and AALCO-Eminent Persons Group (EPG)¹.

1. Strengthening the Human Resources in the AALCO Secretariat

74. The Secretariat plays a crucial role in strengthening the work of the Organization. Presently, the Secretariat functions under constraints of both human and financial resources. Yet the final products bear no witness to these insufficiencies and measure up to the quality and quantity of any important international conference and their outputs held anywhere in the world. In view of the decrease in legal staff strength and the increasing activities being undertaken by the Organization, it is proposed to recruit at least two or three new legal staff members in the Secretariat in 2014-2015 which will make the total of legal staff to 5. Hence, AALCO needs to further strengthen the present infrastructure and other facilities offered to the Secretariat Staff.

75. In the International Category Staff, presently, all officials are from the Asian States. Thus, in order to ensure that the African character of the AALCO is also visible, the Secretary-

¹ An overview of these measures will be given in the subsequent part of this report. Some of the details were also provided in the Secretary-General's Report of 2011 (AALCO/50/COLOMBO/2011/ORG 1) and (AALCO/51/ABUJA/2012/ORG 1)

General requests the African States to second at least one senior official to the Secretariat as Deputy/Assistant Secretary-General. Likewise, he also requests the Arab Member States to consider deputing one senior official to the Secretariat for managing the affairs of the Arabic Section.

76. Furthermore, to give an international character to the Professional Category of the Secretariat Staff, it is felt that there is a need to ensure that the Secretariat should be in a position to attract and retain the best talent from the two regions. This entails offering remuneration and other terms and conditions of services at par with the other Inter-governmental Organization. Towards realizing this goal Member States are requested to nominate legal officers on deputation from their Legal Ministry, to assist in the legal research. However, the remuneration for these officials would be borne by the sponsoring State.

77. To encourage the assimilation of academic inputs into the work of AALCO, the Secretary-General proposes a Visiting Fellowship programme for senior academic and research assistant for postgraduate students from AALCO Member States.

2. Measures to Improve the Financial Situation of AALCO

78. It may be recalled that to improve the financial situation of AALCO, at the Putrajaya Session, a proposal was placed for consideration of the Heads of Delegations, it was in the form of a comprehensive approach that included the following four measures: (i) Revision of Assessed Scale of Contributions; (ii) Action Plan to Collect Arrears; (iii) Voluntary Contributions; and (iv) Replenishment of Reserve Fund. An update on each of these following measures is presented below.

(i) Adoption of Revised Scale of Contributions and Receipt of Annual Contributions from the Member States

79. It maybe also be recalled that in 2009 at the Forty-Eighth Annual Session held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, vide resolution AALCO/RES/48/ORG 2, the “revised scale of assessed contribution of Member States” was adopted. Pursuant to that decision and in response to AALCO/RES/52/ORG 2, in the intervening period between the Fifty-Second and Fifty-Third Annual Sessions annual contributions from the following 24 Member States have been received for the year 2013, namely: Botswana; Brunei Darussalam; DRP Korea; India; Iraq; Japan; Kuwait; Kenya; Libya; Malaysia; Mauritius; Myanmar; Sultanate of Oman; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; South Africa; Sri Lanka; State of Qatar; Thailand; Turkey and Tanzania. The following 18 Member States have paid their contribution for the year 2014, namely: Brunei Darussalam; Thailand; Turkey; Republic of Korea; Kenya; People’s Republic of China; Arab Republic of Egypt; Malaysia; India; Union of Myanmar; Mauritius; UAE; Sri Lanka; Singapore; Japan; Sultanate of Oman and South Africa. The Secretary-General expresses his profound gratitude to these Member States for complying with their financial obligations.

80. Further, as regards Member States who have not paid their annual contribution, the Secretariat is, on a regular basis, informing them through their Diplomatic Missions and Liaison Officers in New Delhi, the importance of fulfilling their statutory and financial obligations to the Organization.

(ii) Action Plan to Collect Arrears

81. The Extraordinary Session held at the Headquarters on 1 December 2008, in order to tide over the precarious financial situation of AALCO had approved an “Action Plan”.² As per the Action Plan, the Member States in arrears have been divided under two heads: first, Member States which are in arrears for less than ten years; second, Member States in arrears for more than ten years. The Secretary-General was requested to take necessary follow-up action with these States. It may be recalled that AALCO had urged those Member States in arrears to expeditiously clear their arrears. Furthermore, vide resolution AALCO/RES/48/ORG 1 adopted on 20 August 2009, the Secretary-General was requested to implement this Action Plan, the same was also reiterated during the Forty-Ninth Annual Session.

82. Accordingly, the Secretary-General placed this onerous responsibility on the Deputy Secretary-General from Japan, who has been regularly meeting the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Liaison Officers of these Member States in New Delhi, for materialising the action plan to collect arrears.

a. Status of Collection of Arrears

83. The Secretariat is pleased to inform the Member States that since the Fifty-Second Annual Session, that the following Member States have either cleared or are in the process of clearing their arrears namely: Arab Republic of Egypt; Bangladesh; Cameroon; UAE; Cyprus; Islamic Republic of Iran; Libya; Pakistan and State of Qatar.

84. Efforts are continuing with the following Member States in arrears for more than ten years i.e., Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Mongolia, The Gambia, and the State of Palestine, through their Diplomatic Missions in New Delhi, to conclude MoUs.

(i) Voluntary Contributions

85. The Secretary-General is grateful to the Governments of Member States of the Sultanate of Oman, Malaysia (before Forty-Ninth Annual Session) and Turkey (after Forty-Ninth Annual Session) for their voluntary contributions and would like to propose that any voluntary contribution made by a Member State should not be added to the regular budget of the Organization. It would be utilized for project specific action for which the Member State has made such voluntary contribution.

² AALCO/ES (NEW DELHI)/2008/ORG. 1, from page numbers 7-9.

(ii) Replenishment of Reserve Fund

86. Rule 27 (3) of the Statutory Rules of the Organization authorizes the Secretary-General to maintain a reserve fund. To strengthen and firmly place the Organization on a firm financial footing, it is essential that an adequate Reserve Fund is maintained by the Organization. The amount kept in Reserve Fund should at least be enough so that it could meet the expenses of the Organization for at least a period of six months.

(iii) Increasing the Membership of AALCO

87. As mentioned above, 47 States are currently Member States of AALCO. 32 of these are Asian States and 15 are African States. In the informal regional grouping system that exists in the United Nations, both Asia and Africa account for 53 countries each. Therefore, both within the Asian and African continent, immense scope for widening the membership base of the AALCO exist. Building upon the efforts exerted by the distinguished predecessors, the current President of AALCO, as well as the Deputy Secretaries-General, the Secretary-General has approached the Heads of Diplomatic Missions of several of these countries in New Delhi. The Secretariat has received some positive responses from some of these States and the matter of their joining AALCO is under the active consideration of their respective Governments. In case these States become Member States of AALCO their prospective contributions would strengthen the financial stability of AALCO.

88. Last but certainly not the least, the Secretary-General would like to inform the Member States that continuous efforts are being made on optimizing the use of both the human and material resources available within the Secretariat. All efforts to minimize and curtail the operational costs are also being made.

3. Requests received from the State of Palestine, Republic of Yemen and Lebanon regarding their arrears.

89. On the one hand it has been very encouraging to see that after the consistent efforts on the part of the Secretariat some of the Member States who were in arrears have started paying their arrears. However, on the other hand The Embassy of The State of Palestine, in New Delhi, vide its Note Verbal No. ESP/A/10/10/11/13/765 dated 10 October 2011 requested the Secretary-General to exempt the State of Palestine from all its financial dues due to facts well known worldwide. Further, the Secretary-General was requested to transmit and recommend that request to the highest destinations as well as to the respected members of the Organization. (**Annex I**). Furthermore, at the 324th Meeting of Liaison Officers held on 15 May 2014, this request was once again reiterated by the Liaison Officer of the State of Palestine.

90. The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in New Delhi, vide its Note Verbal No/EMB/303/2012/AALCO dated 28 June 2012 requested the Secretary-General to reduce the

outstanding amount of arrears by 50% and also requested if it could pay the remaining amount of outstanding arrears in two parts on account of the economic situation in the country. (Annex II).

91. Similarly, the Embassy of Lebanon in New Delhi, vide Note verbal No. 208/2012 dated 14 November 2012 informed the Secretary-General that the Lebanese Government for the first time had officially decided to become a member of AALCO in its decision No. 49/2012, dated 19 September 2012 and would fully pay its membership for the year 2013 and also participate in all the activities of the Organization provided a settlement was reached regarding all the arrears of previous years during which Lebanon was not an official member of AALCO (2000-2012). The Lebanese Government also suggested that in order to end this pending matter it was ready to sign a MOU with AALCO to settle all the arrears by paying half of its accumulated arrears, and paying a full membership from 2013 onwards. (Annex III).

92. The Secretary-General in all the above three cases informed the authorities that he would place their respective requests for consideration of the Heads of Delegations and would act according to the decision taken at the Annual Session.

V. FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION

93. As a strong votary for enhancing the participation of Afro-Asian countries in the progressive development and codification of international law, the Secretary-General would persistently work to increase the influence of Asian-African States in the international legislative process.

94. The task entrusted upon the Secretary-General is a challenging one. It would be his constant endeavour to meet the growing expectations of the Member States and re-orient AALCO's activities in such a way so that it could provide more beneficial services to them. Some of the steps proposed to be undertaken in the coming year include:

1. Organizational and Substantive Projects for AALCO and its Financial Implications Commencing 2014-2016

95. It is pertinent to reiterate that as mandated by the 2009 Putrajaya Declaration on Revitalization of AALCO, the Secretariat is required to present its blueprint on how to strengthen AALCO's organizational and substantive matters. It is recalled that the 2009 Putrajaya Declaration summoned all Member States to renew their commitment in ensuring the relevance and significance of AALCO as the only legal body embracing two continents. The Secretary-General of AALCO presented the long, medium and short terms projects for AALCO in the Colombo Session in 2011.

96. Meanwhile, the Sub-Committee on the AALCO Secretariat's Human Resources and Financial Matters (Hereinafter Sub-Committee) to look into the Administrative and Financial matters of AALCO was established at the Resumed 308th Meeting of Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States which was convened at the Headquarters of AALCO, on Wednesday,

1st December 2010. In considering the fact that over ten Member States were not regularly paying their annual contributions and that the AALCO budget planned on the assumption that all Member States would pay their annual contributions in full had actually always been in shortfall, the Sub-Committee suggested that the administrative budget which would be covered by the actual regular income should be separated from the project budget which would be implemented only if the Secretariat would receive contributions over the administrative portion. Based on the suggestion, the Secretariat drafted the AALCO budget for 2012 separating the administrative budget from project budget. The Fiftieth Annual Session held in Colombo in 2011 considered and approved the budget.

97. At the Fifty-Second Annual Session of AALCO held in New Delhi (HQ), India in September 2013, the Representatives of Member States took note of the reports from the Secretariat and unanimously adopted the Resolution *AALCO/RES/52/ORG2* in which Member States mandated the AALCO Secretariat to look into all possibilities while framing the 2015 budget to achieve sustainable, balanced and stringent budget which would enable and satisfy the needs of Member States.

98. At the 320th Liaison Officers Meeting held on May 22, 2013, in considering and approving the proposed AALCO budget for 2014, the Liaison Officers mandated the Secretariat to provide detailed budgetary breakdown not only for administrative expenses but also substantive projects.

99. In response to the request from the 319th Liaison Officers meeting and also based on the past mandates received from the Member States as stated above, the Secretariat herewith submits detailed breakdown of planned projects to be implemented from 2014 to 2016.

Projects Proposed to be Implemented from 2014 to 2016

100. The Secretariat of AALCO proposes that projects would be classified into four categories; i.e., Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States, Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the International Law Commission (ILC) at AALCO, Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO, and In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff.

101. First, under the Capacity Building Programs for AALCO, the Secretariat would implement projects providing practical and important knowledge and administrative skills related to international law to the officials of Member States. The Secretariat has been implementing WTO Training Program since 2010. The Secretariat is of the view, and also based on the resolution adopted at the 51st Annual Session meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2012 as contained in the document RES/51/S1, that this project could provide up-to-date information relating to the fast changing trade rules and trends, and that it should continue for 2014 – 2016. Other projects derived from the past mandates from Member States may also be implemented if the Secretariat could receive enough contribution from Member States.

102. Second, under Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the International Law Commission (ILC) at AALCO, the Secretariat would implement research projects on current ILC issues for the purpose of forming useful inputs to ILC, mostly by employing academicians and experts from Member States for the publication of a book on the issue. It should be noted that the professional staff of the Secretariat has substantial knowledge and skill and is regularly working on these issues; therefore, the proposed projects are planned to provide information and insights which would require expertise outside of AALCO. All proposed projects are based on the past mandates given from the Member States. Currently the Secretariat is preparing a detailed background paper on the topic “Customary International Law”, which would probably be discussed in a Working Group, on the sidelines of the Fifty-Third Annual Session.

103. Third, under Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO, the Secretariat would implement projects which AALCO Member States hold deep interests in engaging AALCO. A number of possible areas of researches have been identified at the past AALCO meetings which include, climate change, piracy, corruption, human trafficking, terrorism, ICC, UNCLOS, cyber space, etc. Some projects related to these issues are proposed to be implemented for 2014- 2016.

104. Forth, under In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff, the Secretariat would implement capacity building projects for professional staff of AALCO. Professional staff of AALCO is crucially important in conducting day to day activities of AALCO, and the Secretariat needs to reinforce their capabilities relating to international law. Particularly, the Secretariat would like to train the staff for the better cooperation between AALCO Headquarters and our Regional Arbitration Centers. Relatively small amount of budget is planned under this category by mobilizing mostly the resources in India. The detailed breakdown of the envisaged projects in each category is submitted for the perusal of the Member States (Annex IV).

2. Establishing Collaboration with Educational Institutions/Universities

105. With the aim of further expanding the research activities in AALCO, it is envisaged that collaboration with Educational Institutions/Universities within and outside India is further enhanced. In furtherance of this proposal, within India, two institutes with whom plans are currently underway on research projects are the South Asian University, New Delhi; the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Moreover, with the same objective Deans/Directors of various law schools in Malaysia and certain other Member Countries have also been approached.

3. Expanding Internship Projects in AALCO

106. One of the main activities of the Centre for Research and Training (CRT) is to encourage the young students of law from the Member States of AALCO to get familiarized with the workings of inter-governmental Organization. Internship at AALCO is a practical educational experience whereby interns principally assist the Legal Staffs of the Organization in discharging their duties. Specifically, the internees are assigned a number of tasks which include: i) Compilation of legislation of Member States on a number of international legal

issues with the objective of creating a database of national legislation; ii) Assisting the legal staffs in the preparation of briefs and other documents; iii) Editing/proof-reading of various documents that are produced by the Secretariat and iv) visit to intergovernmental Organizations such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and institution such as Indian Society of International Law (ISIL).

107. As the internship programme is available throughout the year in the AALCO Secretariat, the Member States are requested to make use of this opportunity and thereby encourage the law students to undertake such internship programme with AALCO in New Delhi. In the course of the last one year, fifteen students from various Universities located in India had worked as intern at the secretariat of AALCO.

108. As the internship programme is available throughout the year in the AALCO Secretariat, the Member States are requested to make use of this opportunity and thereby encourage the law students to undertake such internship programme with AALCO in New Delhi.

4. Convening of Young Jurist Conference

109. It is also essential to encourage and develop young scholarship in International law in the Asian-African countries. To realize this objective, on earlier occasions the Secretary-General had proposed that a “Young Jurist Conference” may be convened on the sidelines of the Annual Session. This would render an opportunity to these scholars, particularly from that country and the region, in which the Annual Session takes place to interact with the legal luminaries attending the Session and benefit from their experience and scholarship. The Secretary-General would like to make this proposal operationally viable at the earliest opportunity.

5. Improving the website of AALCO

110. It is essential to note that AALCO’s website (www.aalco.int) has been regularly updated and reviewed to match the standards of other international organizations. Towards this end, all the recent activities and programmes undertaken within AALCO and documents pertaining to them have been uploaded on the website at the earliest. In this regard, to facilitate the Arabic speaking Member States of AALCO and utilising the Arabic Fund, an Arabic interpreter/translator has been appointed to update the website in Arabic language.

6. Preparation of Studies on the Items on the Agenda of AALCO

111. In pursuance of the mandate received from the Annual Sessions two special studies were released last year namely: A study on the Statehood of Palestine under International Law and

Unilateral and Secondary Sanctions: An International Law Perspective. Both have been highly appreciated by the Member States.

7. Preparation of Studies on Selected Items on the Agenda of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly

112. Following the established practice, with a view to assisting Member States in their participation at the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly, in particular the Sixth Committee, the Secretariat would prepare studies on selected items on the agenda of the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly.

8. Participation in International Meetings

113. Representation of AALCO and ILC at each other's Annual Session has now become a customary practice. Following that the Secretary-General attended the Sixty-sixth Session of the International Law Commission on 8 July 2014 and presented an overview of the discussions held at the Fifty-Second Annual Session of AALCO. In addition, he would also represent the Organization at the Sixty-ninth Session of the UN General Assembly. Another meeting, which would be convened in New York is the AALCO's Legal Advisers' and AALCO-ILC joint meeting on the sidelines of the Sixty-ninth Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Subject to availability of funds AALCO might be represented at one or two other international meetings where its participation would be useful.

9. Capacity Building Programmes

114. Buoyed by the success of the Meeting to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary Meeting of the UNCLOS held last year, in February 2014 the Secretariat held another successful Legal Experts Meeting on the Law of the Sea. Besides this a seminar on Climate Change: Post Koyato Climate Change policy was also convened in January 2014. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and AALCO also cooperated to host a Workshop on IHL in May 2014. All these programmes were highly appreciated by the member States and other participants.

115. E-commerce is an emerging field of international law, which can be very useful to our Member States. The Secretariat proposes to strengthen its cooperation with the UNCITRAL and UNCTAD and other International Organizations dealing with International Trade Law. It is proposed that seminars or workshops could be held in cooperation with these Organizations on topics such as cyber law.

10. Strengthening the Library

116. Library is the backbone for research activities of any Organization. Fortunately, in the new Headquarters building one full floor has been devoted to the Library. It is equipped with adequate stacks and cupboards and work is in progress to scientifically organize, catalogue and place properly all the available resources. Subject to the availability of funds, online legal

database, such as *Lexis Nexis*, *Westlaw* or *Hein Online* could be subscribed. Plans are also afoot to make a Digital Library.

11. Publications

117. Publications of an organization are its face to the outside world. In order to ensure wider and periodic dissemination about the various activities of AALCO, the Organization has re-oriented its existing publications and provided them a new and more reader friendly look, apart from enhancing the quality and content of the publication. The advantages of digital revolution have to be ushered into the AALCO's publication policy and in this regard, it is proposed and to some extent has been implemented, for the past two years, that most of the Secretariat publications are brought out in electronic format, this has resulted in sending lesser number of hard copies to the Member States, which in turn saves some financial resources of the Organization. The Verbatim Record of the AALCO Legal Experts Meeting on the Law of the Sea, held on 24-25 February, 2014 and Proceedings of the Workshop on Selected Items before the ILC, on 29 and 30 November 2013 held in Malaysia will also be released during the Annual Session.

VI. STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

118. It may be recalled that the United Nations General Assembly vide its Resolution 35/2 of 13 October 1980, had requested the AALCO to participate in its sessions and work in the capacity of observer. Since then AALCO has been actively participating as an Observer in the work of the UN General Assembly. Following the adoption of new pattern by the General Assembly, the item pertaining to the Cooperation between the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and the United Nations is considered on a biennial basis. Accordingly, the item would be considered at the forthcoming Annual Session of the UN General Assembly. The AALCO would be represented during the consideration of the item and Member States are urged to participate during the deliberations on this item in the UN General Assembly.

2. Strengthening the Cooperation with Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations

119. Since the very beginning, it has been a privilege for AALCO to work in cooperation with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations. As envisaged in its Statutes, such co-operation began with the International Law Commission. Subsequently, on matters concerning Status and Treatment of Refugees, AALCO and UNHCR established close relations. With its involvement in International Trade Law matters, AALCO initiated its cooperative arrangements with UNCITRAL, UNCTAD, UNIDO and other Inter-

governmental Organizations, such as the UNIDROIT and the Hague Conference on Private International Law. However, a great impetus was given to such cooperative arrangements with the according of Permanent Observer Status to AALCO by the United Nations in 1980. As a follow-up, Agreements were concluded with the United Nations, IMO, IAEA, UNIDO, UNEP, and UNITAR. AALCO also concluded similar co-operation agreements with International Organizations, which include, Council of Europe, Commonwealth Secretariat, League of Arab States and the African Union (formerly Organization of African Unity).

120. In August 2000, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between AALCO and WIPO. In 2001, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations University (UNU). In 2002, similar MoUs were concluded with the UNHCR and ICRC. The Cooperation Agreement with the ICRC entered into force in July 2003. In September 2004, administrative arrangements for cooperation between the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and AALCO were formalized. At the Nairobi Session (2005), a revised and revitalized Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was signed. In February 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding between the AALCO and the International Criminal Court (ICC) was concluded.

121. In July 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the AALCO Secretariat and the Xiamen Academy of International Law. In October 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between the Secretariat of AALCO and the Institute of International Law of Wuhan University of the People's Republic of China. During the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO at Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania in 2010, a MoU was concluded with the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL).

122. Other Organizations with whom process may be initiated include the World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and other regional groupings of North and Latin American countries.

123. It needs to be emphasized that these cooperation agreements provide very useful basis for organizing joint meetings and seminars on topics of mutual interest with these Organizations. These Organizations provide funds for the participation of resource persons and experts, which enrich the deliberations in the AALCO meetings. AALCO's financial commitments are minimum. This is a very practical way to enhance AALCO's activities and broaden its base of research activities.

VII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

124. Ever since Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad assumed the office of the Secretary-General of AALCO he has had a twin objective i.e. fulfilling the mandate entrusted to him by the Member States and enhancing the stature of the Organization among the international fraternity. The activities undertaken during the past one year, despite the severe human and financial constraints that the Organization faces, are quite satisfactory. He would like to assure the

Member States that once the financial status of the Organization is further strengthened and coupled with the continued encouragement and support of the Member States, much more useful initiatives could be undertaken for furthering the common cause of Asian and African states in the international law arena.

125. AALCO's contribution towards progressive development and codification of international law and rule of law in international affairs till date has been very significant. The Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO would provide yet another opportunity to revive the Bandung Spirit of solidarity amongst the Asian-African States and work towards the betterment of peoples of the two regions and at larger level to contribute to the well-being of humanity and humankind. In the current year 2014, the AALCO has entered into the fifty-eighth year of its effective functioning towards achieving its objectives and mission of establishment; this can be achieved further *inter alia* by abiding by the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" propounded in 1954, which bears a close and direct kinship with the birth of AALCO itself.

126. In conclusion it can be emphasized that during this long period, AALCO's journey has not always been smooth, but for the immense support by its Member States, the Organization has witnessed tremendous progress. This in itself is demonstrative of the continued ideological and substantive relevance of the Organization. The voice of the people of the Afro-Asian region which is host to the largest part of the humanity needs to be echoed in various international fora. In this regard, towards enhancing the work of AALCO, the Secretary-General is convinced that Member States of AALCO would encourage and contribute towards its future activities, besides promising to place AALCO on a sound financial footing.

ANNEX I

Embassy of the State of Palestine
India



ANNEX I
سفارة دولة فلسطين
الهند

No: ESP/A/10/10/11/13/765

Date: 10th October 2011

الرقم:

التاريخ

Embassy of the State of Palestine in India presents its compliments to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) – New Delhi, and has the honour to kindly request the Secretary General of (AALCO) to exempt the State of Palestine from all financial dues by the esteemed organization for the facts well known worldwide.

It will be highly appreciated if the Secretary General of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) transmits and recommends our request to the highest destinations and as well as the respected members of the organization.

Embassy of the State of Palestine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) – New Delhi, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the State of Palestine
New Delhi

Annual Seminar
[Signature]
[Seal of the State of Palestine]

ANNEX II

ANNEX II

Embassy of the
Republic of Yemen
New Delhi



سفارة الجمهورية اليمنية
نيودلهي

REF NO : EMB/303/2012/AALCO
DATE : 28/06/2012

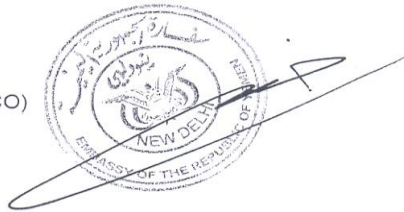
The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen presents its compliments to the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization, New Delhi, and has the honor to forward a request regarding Bi-lateral meeting and negotiation between the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen and your Organization during the past period about the mechanism of paying outstanding arrears U\$ 51,633 (U\$ Dollar Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three), to reduce the outstanding amount by 50% i.e. U\$ 25,816.5 (U\$ Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen and five only), due to the recent economic situation of Yemen, to be paid in two parts.

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has already paid amount of U\$ 12,967.03 (U\$ Dollar Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Seven and three only) and balance will pay in next year i.e. 2013. (copy enclosed)

The Yemen Embassy request the esteemed organization to accept the reducing amount from the arrears and also the Embassy is looking forward to sign Memorandum of Understanding regarding the above said outstanding amount and after that the Embassy will pay the rest of the amount.

The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization the assurance of its highest consideration.

Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)
29- C, Rizal Marg, Diplomatic Enclave
Chanakyapuri- 110021
New Delhi



ANNEX III

ANNEX III

Embassy of Lebanon
New Delhi



السفارة اللبنانية
نيودلهي

Note no. 208/2012

14

The Embassy of Lebanon in New Delhi presents its compliments to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation, and in reference to its Note No. AC-2013/115/AALCO dated 26/09/2012 related to the payment of Annual Contribution for the year 2013 has the honour to inform that, for the first time, the Lebanese Government has officially decided to become a member of the Organization in its decision No. 49/2012, dated 19/09/2012 and will fully pay its membership for the year 2013 with a full participation in all of the activities of the esteemed organization, provided a settlement is reached regarding all the arrears of the previous years during which Lebanon was not an official member, from the year 2000 to 2012 included.

The Lebanese authorities, wish to end this pending matter in a fair way for both sides based on the fact that from 2000 to 2012 Lebanon was not actively participating in any decision making related to the organization, did not actively participate in its activities, especially from 2007 to 2012.

Despite all the financial difficulties that the Lebanese Government faces for the time being and the effects that it suffers from the surrounding regional turmoil, the Embassy proposes signing an MoU with the organization to settle all the arrears by paying half of it as a mean of settlement till end of 2012 provided the Lebanese Government approval and paying a full membership from 2013 onwards with a full participation afterwards.

The Embassy of Lebanon is looking forward to end this misunderstanding that has been going on for more than a decade now and is eager to put an end to this matter once and for all, and for that purpose is looking forward to cooperate with the esteemed Organisation.

The Embassy of Lebanon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New Delhi 14th November 2012

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization
29-C, Rizal Marg, Diplomatic Enclave,
Chanakyapuri-21



ANNEX IV

Projects Proposed to be Implemented from 2014 to 2016

Projects for 2014

Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States #All cost figures are in USD

- 1) WTO Training Program (RES/51/S13): USD 12,620

Honorarium for 5 Lectures: $100 \times 5 = 500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500 \times 3 = 4500$

Accommodation: $250 \times 3 \times 6 = 4500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 6 \text{ days} = 840$

Printing training materials:

Program: $2 \times 100 = 200$

Lecture Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$

Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day $\times 6 \text{ days} = 300$

Refreshment: $100 \times 5 = 500$

Miscellaneous: 180

- 2) Expert Group Meeting in Cooperation with WIPO (RES/51/SP2)(tentative): USD 10,160

Honorarium for 4 International Participants: $100 \times 4 = 400$

Airfare & Lodging for 4 International Participants:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500 \times 4 = 6000$

Accommodation: $250 \times 4 \times 2 = 2000$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$

Printing materials:

Working group Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 20 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 20 = 100$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day $\times 2 \text{ days} = 100$

Refreshment: $100 \times 2 = 200$

Welcome Dinner: $40 \times 20 = 800$

Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the ILC at AALCO

- 3) Research on Protection of Persons in the event of Disasters (RES/51/S1) : USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850 \times 3 = 5550$

Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10 \times 500 = 5000$

4) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500 \times 3 = 1500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500 \times 3 = 4500$

Accommodation: $250 \times 3 \times 2 = 1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Program: $2 \times 100 = 200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$

Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40 \times 100 = 4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO

5) Research on corruption: USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850 \times 3 = 5550$

Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10 \times 500 = 5000$

6) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500 \times 3 = 1500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Vienna: $1500 \times 3 = 4500$

Accommodation: $250 \times 3 \times 2 = 1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Program: $2 \times 100 = 200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$

Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40 \times 100 = 4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff

7) Arbitration Centers Cooperation program (tentative): USD 1,131
Honorarium for 4 Local Lectures: $200 \times 4 = 800$
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$
Miscellaneous: 51

Total: USD 79,831

Projects for 2015

Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States

1) WTO Training Program (RES/51/S13)): USD 12,620

Honorarium for 5 Lectures: $100 \times 5 = 500$
Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500 \times 3 = 4500$
Accommodation: $250 \times 3 \times 6 = 4500$
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 6 \text{ days} = 840$
Printing training materials:
Program: $2 \times 100 = 200$
Lecture Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$
Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$
Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)
Photocopier Rental: 50 per day $\times 6 \text{ days} = 300$
Refreshment: $100 \times 5 = 500$
Miscellaneous: 180

2) UNCLOS Expert Group Meeting in Cooperation with ITLOS (RES/51/SP2)(tentative):
USD 10,160

Honorarium for 4 International Participants: $100 \times 4 = 400$
Airfare & Lodging for 4 International Participants:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500 \times 4 = 6000$
Accommodation: $250 \times 4 \times 2 = 2000$
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$
Printing materials:
Working group Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 20 = 100$
Stationary: $5 \times 20 = 100$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)
Photocopier Rental: 50 per day $\times 2 \text{ days} = 100$
Refreshment: $100 \times 2 = 200$
Welcome Dinner: $40 \times 20 = 800$
Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the ILC at AALCO

- 3) Research on The Identification of Customary International Law (RES/51/S1) : USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850 \times 3 = 5550$

Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10 \times 500 = 5000$

- 4) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500 \times 3 = 1500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500 \times 3 = 4500$

Accommodation: $250 \times 3 \times 2 = 1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Program: $2 \times 100 = 200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$

Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40 \times 100 = 4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO

- 5) Research on corruption Phase 2: USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850 \times 3 = 5550$

Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10 \times 500 = 5000$

- 6) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500 \times 3 = 1500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Vienna: $1500 \times 3 = 4500$

Accommodation: $250 \times 3 \times 2 = 1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Program: $2 \times 100 = 200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$

Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50
Refreshment: 100
Reception Food & Drink: 40*100=4000
Venue for Reception: 3000
Miscellaneous: 180

In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff

7) Arbitration Centers Cooperation program Phase 2 (tentative): USD 1,131

Honorarium for 4 Local Lectures: 200*4=800
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : 70*2*2 days = 280
Miscellaneous: 51

Total: USD 79,831

Projects for 2016

Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States

1) WTO Training Program (RES/51/S13): USD 12,620

Honorarium for 5 Lectures: 100*5=500
Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: 1500*3=4500
Accommodation: 250*3*6=4500
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : 70*2*6 days = 840
Printing training materials:
Programme: 2*100=200
Lecture Proceedings (book form): 5*100=500
Invitation: 1*100=100
Stationary: 5*100=500 (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)
Photocopier Rental: 50 per day *6 days =300
Refreshment: 100*5=500
Miscellaneous: 180

2) Expert Group Meeting on the Status of Refugee (RES/51/S3)(tentative): USD 10,160

Honorarium for 4 International Participants: 100*4=400
Airfare & Lodging for 4 International Participants:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: 1500*4=6000
Accommodation: 250*4*2=2000
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : 70*2*2 days = 280
Printing materials:
Working group Proceedings (book form): 5*20=100
Stationary: 5*20=100 (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day *2 days =100
Refreshment: 100*2=200
Welcome Dinner: 40*20=800
Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the ILC at AALCO

- 3) Research on Immunity of State Officials (RES/51/S1) : USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: 1850*3=5550
Publication of the research outcome (book form): 10*500=5000

- 4) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: 500*3=1500
Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: 1500*3=4500
Accommodation: 250*3*2=1500
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : 70*2*2 days = 280
Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000
Printing Seminar materials:
Programme: 2*100=200
Seminar Proceedings (book form): 5*100=500
Invitation: 1*100=100
Stationary: 5*100=500 (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)
Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50
Refreshment: 100
Reception Food & Drink: 40*100=4000
Venue for Reception: 3000
Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO

- 5) Research on Human Trafficking (RES/51/S8) : USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: 1850*3=5550
Publication of the research outcome (book form): 10*500=5000

- 6) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: 500*3=1500
Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: 1500*3=4500
Accommodation: 250*3*2=1500
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : 70*2*2 days = 280
Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Programme: $2 \times 100 = 200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5 \times 100 = 500$

Invitation: $1 \times 100 = 100$

Stationary: $5 \times 100 = 500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40 \times 100 = 4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff

7) Management and Organization Governance training program (tentative): USD 1,131

Honorarium for 4 Local Lectures: $200 \times 4 = 800$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis): $70 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ days} = 280$

Miscellaneous: 51

Total: USD 79,831

ANNEX V

SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT
AALCO/RES/DFT/53/ORG 1
18 SEPTEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization at its Fifty-Third Session,

Recalling the functions and purposes of the Organization as stipulated in Article 1 of the Statutes of AALCO;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Organizational, Administrative and Financial Matters pursuant to Rule 20 (7) of Statutory Rules as contained in Document No. AALCO/53/TEHRAN/2014/ORG 1;

Having heard with appreciation the introductory statement of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Secretary-General on Organizational, Administrative and Financial Matters;

Also having heard with keen interest and appreciation the statements of the Heads of Delegations of AALCO Member States on the Report of the Secretary-General;

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the activities of the Organization and to implement its work programme as approved at its Fifty-Second Annual Session held in New Delhi (HQ), Republic of India, from 9-12 September 2013;

Also appreciating the continued practice towards the rationalization of its work programme, including consideration of the agenda items during its annual sessions;

Reiterating the mandate of the Putrajaya Declaration on Revitalizing and Strengthening the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization; and the Action Plan as explained in Document No. AALCO/ES (NEW DELHI)/2008/ORG.1 adopted by the Extraordinary Session of AALCO Member States held on 1 December 2008, in New Delhi (Headquarters), India;

Welcoming the efforts by the Secretary-General for Revitalizing and Strengthening the AALCO;

Noting with satisfaction the increased co-operation between the Organization and the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, other international organizations and academic institutions:

1. **Approves** the work programme of the Organization as set out in the Report of the Secretary-General and urges Member States to extend their full support to the implementation of that programme;
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts and explore the ways and means to enlarge the Membership of the Organization in Asia and Africa, in particular, to increase the representation from the African States and Central Asian States;
3. **Further extends the mandate of the Sub-Committee of Liaison Officers of Member States on the AALCO Secretariat's Human Resources and Financial Matters; (Clarification needed)**
4. **Encourages the Member States to actively participate in the Sub-Committee of Liaison Officers of Member States on the AALCO Secretariat's Human Resources and Financial Matters so as to enable it to place its Report at the Fifty-Fourth Session of the Organization;**
5. **Encourages** Member States to make voluntary contributions to support the capacity building activities under the approved work programme of the Organization; and
6. **Further requests** the Secretary-General to report on the activities of the Organization at its Fifty-Fourth Annual Session.