

PREFACE

Ever since its establishment in 1956, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) has emerged as a leading inter-governmental regional organization, which renders consultative and advisory services in the field of International Law, in its wide definition, to its Member States. AALCO's Annual Sessions is one of its forum where productive discussions takes place on issues of contemporary relevance in international law concerning Asian-African region and in turn contribute to the progressive development and codification of international law.

The Forty-Third Session of the AALCO, held in Bali, Republic of Indonesia from 21-25 June 2004 was a grand success. In terms of participation, the growing enthusiasm and interest in AALCO's Session is reflected from the fact that thirty-four Member States and Observers from three Non-member states and representatives of six Intergovernmental Organizations attended and contributed to fruitful deliberations in the Session. Bali Session welcomed South Africa as the 47th Member State of the Organization. Growing membership definitely enhances the status of our organization at the international level. I hope that our membership would cross fifty, matching with the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary/Golden Jubilee of the Organization in 2006.

The Secretariat prepared briefs on all the sixteen items on the agenda. Based upon the new policy of rationalization of the Agenda, the deliberations took place on ten items. This comprehensive report presents the deliberations for the consideration of the Member States.

It has now become customary at AALCO Annual Sessions to convene a One-day Special Meeting, in association with the Host Government and sister inter-governmental organizations to focus in-depth upon a topic. Presentations made by internationally recognized subject-experts pave the way for thought provoking discussion. This year the One-day Special Meeting was on the item "Establishing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children". The Meeting was organized with the full cooperation of the Host Government and representatives from UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC and IOM who made their presentations. In this context, I should reiterate that AALCO's Cooperation Agreements with these Organizations are very rewarding and mutually beneficial.

The Drafting Committee which was constituted at Seoul Session (2003) was again established in Bali Session and prepared the Summary Report and the texts of the Resolutions. Based upon the thorough and careful work, the Session on the concluding day adopted the Summary Report and the Resolutions as final documents. The Provisional Summary Records of the Inaugural Session, two meetings of Delegations of AALCO Member States, as well as five General Meetings was prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to all the delegations on the concluding day. The Member States were requested to review the document and send in their suggestions/corrections within a period of six-weeks. After arrival of the Secretariat team, at the Headquarters, the Summary Records of the Third meeting of the Delegations and Sixth General

Meeting were prepared and circulated amongst member States. The Secretariat highly appreciates the interest with which the Member States have gone through the documents. It values the suggestions/corrections received from Member Governments of Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia and the People's Republic of China. All these suggestions/corrections have been duly reflected in this report.

I wish, before concluding to place on record, my thanks and deep appreciation for my colleagues the Deputy Secretaries-Generals Amb. Dr. Ali Reza Deihim, Mrs. Toshiko Shimizu and Mr. Chen Meidi, Senior Legal Officer Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Legal Officers Dr. Burra Srinivas, Mr. Shikhar Ranjan, Mr. R. Rajesh Babu, Ms. Pooja Ahluwalia and Mr. Mohammed Hussain K. S. for their immense efforts exerted to help me in fulfilling my mandate and for their professionalism, sense of responsibility in an inspiring team work which contributed immensely in making the Session a success and in bringing out all the Documents referred to in this preface, in time.

14 October 2004

Amb. Dr. Wafik Z. Kamil
Secretary-General