



Delegates of Member States Deliberated on Asian-African Principles and Guidelines to Combat Violent Extremism and its Manifestations

New Delhi: The Secretariat of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) convened a two-day “Inter-Sessional Meeting of Legal Experts on Violent Extremism and its Manifestations” on 28th and 29th January 2016. This two-day meeting has witnessed the participation of delegations from 23 Member States and International committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regional office, New Delhi. The delegations comprising legal experts and diplomats from AALCO Member States deliberated on the Draft Resolution prepared by the Secretariat on the guiding principles to combat violent extremism and its manifestations.

In his welcome address, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary General of AALCO, stressed on the significance of AALCO as a major platform for Asian-African legal exchanges and cooperation and its critical role in safeguarding common interests of the regions. He reminded that the meeting presents a unique opportunity for the Member States to begin consolidating and elaborating international legal norms to comprehensively tackle violent extremism and its various manifestations. The inaugural address was delivered by H.E. Tan Sri Dato Sri Hj Mohamad Apandi Bin Haji Ali, Attorney-General of Malaysia. He acknowledged that addressing the threat of violent extremism requires coordinated and cooperative actions of Member States at domestic, regional and inter-regional levels through bilateral and multilateral means. He emphasized on the necessity to demarcate the term “violent extremism” and distinguish it, where necessary, from separate but possibly interlinked topics of terrorism, civil unrest, violations of humanitarian law, and so on.

The menace of violent extremism has increasingly been the focus of the world community in recent times. The United Nations General Assembly *vide* Resolution 68/127, entitled “A World Against Violence and Violent Extremism”, and Security Council, *vide* Resolution 2178, have entreated all UN Member States to take measures to combat violent extremism globally, and have made countering violent extremism a global priority. Violent extremism is also a phenomenon that disproportionately affects States in Asian-African regions. For these reasons, AALCO has taken the initiative to make strides towards the creation of a regional legal framework to combat violent extremism. The topic of “Violent Extremism and its Manifestations (Legal Aspects)” was originally introduced into the agenda of AALCO in 2014 Annual Session in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The Secretariat convened this Meeting of Legal Experts in accordance with the mandate received from Member States at its Annual Sessions in 2014 and 2015.

The deliberations of the delegations of AALCO Member States were held behind closed doors, but representatives of international and intergovernmental organizations, as well as representatives from non-member States of AALCO were invited to attend the inaugural session of the meeting.

The first reading of the Draft resolution was concluded in the meeting. The Draft Resolution with proposed amendments and corrections is expected to be deliberated further in the next Annual Session before its final adoption.