I. SUMMARY RECORD OF THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE
FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5TH AUGUST 2010 AT 9:30 AM

His Excellency Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Attorney-General of Malaysia and the
President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO in the Chair.

1. Welcome Address by H. E. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General
of AALCO

Karibu – Welcome to the United Republic of Tanzania.

Your Excellency, Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of
Tanzania,

Your Excellency, Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, the Attorney-General of Malaysia and the
President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO,

Your Excellency, Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, Minister for Constitutional Affairs and
Justice, the United Republic of Tanzania,

Your Excellency, Dr. M. Gandhi, Director, Legal and Treaties Division, Government of
India representing Mr. Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser, Ministry of
External Affairs, Government of India and the President of the Forty-Seventh Annual
Session of AALCO,

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and my own behalf, I
respectfully and warmly welcome Your Excellency Mr. Phillip S. Marmo and this
distinguished gathering to the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO.

Your Excellency, the AALCO, since its foundation in 1956, has a unique tradition of
holding its Annual Session, at the invitation of its Member States, on a rotational basis in
the countries of the two continents. “It’s Time for Africa”, says the Anthem of the
recently held 2010 FIFA Football World Cup in South Africa. For AALCO, also this
Anthem stands true, and here we are in Tanzania – “The cradle of humankind” in the
African continent meeting for our Forty-Ninth Annual Session, in this historical,
beautiful and majestic city of Dar es Salaam.

I would like to express on behalf of the Organization and its Member States our profound
gratitude to Your Excellency, to the Government and people of the United Republic of
Tanzania for inviting the AALCO to hold its Forty-Ninth Annual Session. Personally, I
am also beholden to your esteemed Government for responding to my request for holding
the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO with utmost speed and efficiency.
We are privileged to be in Tanzania a country well known for its great cultural and linguistic diversity; a country always at peace with itself and with its neighbours; a land that holds the roof of Africa- Mt. Kilimanjaro and is the land of Serengeti – a world heritage site and recently proclaimed a 7th worldwide wonder. We are also overwhelmed by the warmth, generosity and hospitality of the Tanzanian people.

Your Excellency, let us also take this opportunity to remember and pay our tribute to Late Julius Nyerere the father of the Nation of Tanzania and the great hero of social justice. As the first Tanzanian President Nyerere led Africa to come out of colonialism. In true Bandung Spirit, Tanzania provided moral, material and political support to all the freedom movements in the African continent. This was instrumental in attaining political freedom for Africa. To attain economic freedom, Nyerere envisaged a social and economic system that placed human beings rather than the maximization of profit at the center of all economic endeavour and it is this vision, that provides the basis for the non-violent struggle for social justice. Suffice, it to say that the vision of Julius Nyerere continues to guide and inspire us.

As an illustrious follower of Nyerere’s ideology, Your Excellency’s contribution to the all-round development of Tanzania and for promoting international peace, justice and rule of law in international affairs, are well respected and recognized. It is a matter of honour and privilege, for us that our Annual Session is being inaugurated by an outstanding, respected and eminent leader of your stature from our region. We are confident, with your Excellency setting the pace for our deliberations; the Dar es Salaam Session is going to be a historic success.

Your Excellency, the United Republic of Tanzania joined the then AALCC in 1973, and ever since then, the Government of Tanzania has actively contributed to the work of AALCO. Its commitment to the AALCO’s objective of increasing the Afro-Asian influence in the progressive development and codification of international law is further demonstrable from the fact that it is for the second time we are assembled in your country for our Annual Session. Earlier the AALCO was privileged to hold its Twenty-Fifth Annual Session in Arusha in 1986. I am quite confident that our Forty-Ninth Annual Session will also be equally successful.

Mr. President, the AALCO, has always been in the forefront of forging Afro-Asian solidarity in promoting justice and rule of law in international affairs. I would like to recall, in this context, the words from the Message of Late President Julius Nyerere on the occasion of twentieth anniversary of AALCC in 1976, I quote:

“For many years International Law has been in many respects Eurocentric and thus geared to serve only the interests of States in Europe. It has failed to serve as an instrument of justice and peace for the rest of the world whose interests were not taken into account at the time of its development. The founding of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee was a turning point in organising the struggle for justice of the peoples of two continents….. We hope that the struggle enunciated and pursued by the
Committee to transform International Law to an instrument of justice to all mankind will be kept up and that more African and Asian countries will join the Committee so that its impact in international legal issues becomes greater.”

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; the AALCO in its journey of fifty-four years has been steadfastly contributing towards realizing such vision. Today, it has emerged as a leading inter-governmental regional organization, which renders consultative and advisory services to its Member States. It has been making significant studies on various branches of international law and conducting researches on issues having contemporary relevance for the Afro-Asian region. In the contemporary world, taking into account the current practice of international law making, the role and range of activities required to be undertaken by the AALCO has multiplied several fold, thereby it is imperative that the Organization remains on a strong ideological foundation and enjoys firm financial support from its stakeholders- the Member States.

Your Excellency, over the course of coming four days, our Annual Session would be deliberating upon several important international legal issues. Very soon after this Inaugural Session, the Heads of Delegations of the participating delegations through their General Statements engage in sharing of experiences and perspectives on contemporary areas of core concern in international legal matters for Afro-Asian States. Thereafter, a thematic debate on “Making AALCO’s participation in the work of International Law Commission more Effective and Meaningful” is to take place. On Saturday, the 7th of August during the course of two Special Meetings, organized jointly by the Tanzanian Government, the AALCO Secretariat, and partner organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), we would be addressing in the first meeting, crucial issues pertaining to the International Criminal Court (ICC), namely the principle of complementarity and the crime of aggression. The second meeting on Environmental Law would analyze the legal issues surrounding the building of momentum for the Cancun Climate Change Conference, as well as the revised version of the African Convention on Nature and Natural Resources; and the Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development. The Annual Session is also expected to address the following topics that are on the work programme of AALCO, namely, 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; WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for World Trade; Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection; and Challenges in Combating Corruption: The Role of United Nations Convention against Corruption. In addition, the Heads of Delegations would also be reviewing the organizational matters, including the financial situation of AALCO.

I request the delegates to avail this unique opportunity and reflect the concern of their Governments/countries regarding these topics and to share their experiences with and among AALCO Member States as it is in my view one of the fundamental aims of our annual meeting. Together with the National Organizing Committee of the Host
Government, the AALCO Secretariat has done its utmost to make all the necessary arrangements for the success of our Forty-Ninth Annual Session. Pardon us, if there is any shortcoming in the arrangements of this Session from our part.

I am quite confident we would be able to achieve amicably, in the spirit of reconciliation, friendship, and mutual trust, the objectives of this Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO.

I once again welcome you all to the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO and to Dar es Salaam – the “haven of peace”. Asante.

2. Address by H. E. Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Attorney-General of Malaysia and the President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO

Honourable Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Honourable Mr. Mathias M.M. Chikawe, Minister for Constitutional Affairs and Justice, United Republic of Tanzania,

His Excellency Secretary-General of AALCO, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; on behalf of the Organization and all the Member States, allow me to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Government and the people of Tanzania for hosting the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. I also wish to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Honourable Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania, for taking time off from his busy schedule to grace this occasion.

The United Republic of Tanzania has been actively participating in AALCO’s programmes and initiatives since its entry into AALCO in 1973. I also note that this is the second time that Tanzania has agreed to become host for the AALCO Annual Session, after the Twenty-Fifth Annual Session of AALCO which was held in Arusha from 3 to 8 February 1986.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen; throughout my tenure as the President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO, I had attempted to do whatever possible, within my capabilities, to steer AALCO into a new dimension. I am pleased to see that AALCO has positively moved forward towards realizing and implementing the Putrajaya Declaration which was adopted at the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO held in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Putrajaya Declaration was drafted with the main aim of revitalizing AALCO. This mammoth but achievable task could only be attained with full determination and equal sharing of responsibility by all of us Member States.

On this issue, I wish to commend the efforts of His Excellency the Secretary-General and the AALCO Secretariat in strengthening AALCO’s financial situation. This is our
Organization. We owe it to our respective nations and continents to ensure the sustainability of AALCO. We must pay our contribution in time. We must support the efforts to collect arrears by encouraging the relevant Member States to continue dialogue with the Secretary-General to solve this problem. I am hopeful that the incoming President of AALCO will prioritize and continue to monitor this gargantuan task.

Upon assuming the presidency in August 2009, I had been in constant contact with His Excellency the Secretary-General of AALCO, Professor Dr Rahmat Mohamad, to provide guidance and direction on the current and future works of AALCO. I had also travelled to the AALCO Secretariat in New Delhi to have a meeting with the Secretary-General of AALCO and all members of the AALCO Secretariat on 21 December 2009.

We would hear in greater detail from the Secretary-General during the deliberation of his report on the work of AALCO for the current session. But at this juncture I wish to congratulate the Secretary-General and the AALCO Secretariat for the excellent efforts made thus far in numerous initiatives. In particular, I noted the active participation of the Secretary-General during his dialogue session with the members of the International Law Commission, the successful organization of the AALCO Lecture Series, the convening of the Round Table Meeting of Legal Experts on the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the collection of arrears and the revamped AALCO website. I was scheduled to meet and to hold dialogue with certain members of the ILC on the sideline of the Sixth Committee meeting during October 2009. However, due to certain circumstances, I regret that I had to cancel my trip to New York at the very last minute.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen; I note with interest that the AALCO Lecture Series is showing promising and favourable development. I was given the honour to deliver its First Inaugural Lecture on the theme “Enhancing Asian-African Solidarity in the Progressive Development and Codification of International Law: A Vision”, on 22 December 2009 at the AALCO Secretariat in New Delhi. At that august event I chose to focus my lecture on the importance of “Reviving AALCO”. As I thought the issues I mentioned are important, allow me to recapitulate the suggestions I made.

AALCO must remain an apolitical intergovernmental consultative organization that provides a platform to discuss issues purely from the legal perspective. To achieve this, I had outlined some proposals as below:

1. Increasing in-depth and open debates in AALCO on the issues of international law
   In recent years, it is noted that there has been a lack of in-depth and open debates on the issues of international law being considered by AALCO. Instead, at the Annual Sessions, Member States merely assert or reassert their position on the issues.

   In this regard, I proposed that the Secretariat takes a more active role in the preparation of papers for consideration by AALCO Member States during the Annual Sessions. AALCO should also consider establishing sub-committees or working groups to discuss
issues in greater detail. AALCO could even consider establishing a permanent body akin to the ILC.

2. **Keeping up with and contributing to the development of international law in the UN and other international organizations**

I observed that part of the main functions of AALCO is to consolidate, where possible, the views of its Member States and present it as one voice at the UN and the ILC with regard to international law topics that are under consideration.

AALCO had not been able to effectively execute this important function. Thus, there is a real need for the Secretariat to take a more active role in coordinating and assisting in the consolidation of views of AALCO Member States and transmitting AALCO’s observations and comments to the relevant UN bodies in time for their consideration.

3. **Expanding the role and influence of AALCO**

It is noted that AALCO has been concentrating on the development of public international law since its inception. However, as the majority of AALCO Member States are developing countries, the importance of keeping abreast in the development of private international law should not be ignored.

In this regard, AALCO should work closely with the legal fraternities and private institutions in its efforts to grasp the problems faced in this area and to develop its ideas and position on private international law. The increased cooperation between AALCO and academic institutions, private institutions as well as legal practitioners is also important in the field of arbitration, in light of AALCO’s Regional Centres for International Commercial Arbitration. This would keep AALCO’s Regional Arbitration Centres abreast with the developments in international arbitration as well as increase the visibility of such centres, thus promoting and consolidating their position as respectable, independent arbitration centres.

4. **Training and Capacity building**

I called upon AALCO Member States to contribute financially to AALCO for training and capacity building. For future purposes, using the expertise of AALCO Member States and in collaboration with other international organizations, AALCO could embark on a progressive mode of generating income for AALCO by conducting a more attractive training programme to attract Member States.

5. **Full utilization of AALCO experts**

AALCO Member States has its own pool of renowned experts on various fields that could be tapped for mutual benefits of AALCO Member States. I had asked the Secretary General to put up a list of experts in various fields to be made available to Member States.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; fresh and innovative ideas should be considered by AALCO particularly on ways to move forward in a coherent and effective manner. One such idea is to revitalize the Arbitration Centres under the auspices
of AALCO. We should consider forming a common system both administratively and financially including on the sharing of resources between the Centres which would enable the creation of a pool of competent arbitrators to facilitate efficient Centres with the capacity to compete with new emerging Arbitration Centres. The effect of such a move would be the internationalizing of the arbitrators and the recognition of a pool of expertise that can be utilized for the benefit of every Centre.

A common standard in the qualification of arbitrators for all the Centres can be discussed and agreed upon for them to be able to practice in all the Centres. To make this a reality the representatives of each of the Arbitration Centres should meet at least one day in every AALCO Annual Session and establish clear lines of communication to enable ideas and deliberations to be exchanged among them. In carrying this out effectively, the Secretary-General could also take the initiative to promote the regional Centres among Member States as well as to establish another Centre in the region such as in South Asia which does not have an arbitration centre which operates under the auspices of AALCO.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; the AALCO Secretariat is an important feature in advising and carrying out the resolutions of AALCO. To that end, continued support should be given to the Secretariat by AALCO Member States. On the appointment of the Deputy Secretaries-General, I hope to see a more equal appointment system which should be based on the expertise and geographical distribution. The AALCO Statutes provides for the flexibility to the AALCO Committee to determine from time to time the number of Deputy Secretaries-General as well as Assistant Secretaries-General to be appointed in the Secretariat. The people appointed to these posts have to have the necessary experience and qualification to carry out the tasks assigned to them during the AALCO Annual Sessions. Member States must recognize and appreciate the need for excellent independent legal opinion which they can depend on and not just mere reports.

Over the years we have seen many items and topics being proposed and taken up by AALCO and these topics remained in the agenda of AALCO Annual Sessions despite its work being completed. This takes up too much time of the AALCO Secretariat as the number of topics keep increasing each year. The AALCO Secretariat should not be over burdened with repetition on topics which have been completed. I would like to propose that once the work on the topic is completed by the AALCO Secretariat, the topic should be taken off from the agenda and only, if need be, further taken up by the initiator of the topic. This would allow room for new topics to be introduced and the focus would be on these new topics rather than on the topics which have been dealt with. After all we lawyers in this organization of legal experts are interested in legal opinions only.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; please allow me to once again on behalf of all to extend to the Government and the people of Tanzania my appreciation for their gracious hospitality. To the Honourable Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, thank you once again for being with us today. I hope we will have a successful and fruitful meeting in the days ahead.
Mungu ibariki Afrika or “God Bless Africa”. Thank You.

3. Welcome Remarks by H. E. Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, Minister for Constitutional Affairs and Justice, United Republic of Tanzania and the incoming President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO

His Excellency, Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania,

His Excellency, Mr. Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, the Attorney-General of Malaysia and the President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO,

His Excellency, Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General, AALCO,

His Excellency Dr. M. Gandhi representing Mr. Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the President of the Forty-Seventh Annual Session of AALCO,

Heads of Delegations, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me, on behalf of the organising committee, to extend to you Mr. President our profound appreciation for accepting to officially inaugurate the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of the AALCO. Your acceptance and attendance is a proof that you value the positive role of AALCO in enhancing cooperation among Member States in legal issues and in contributing valuable proposals for the development of international law.

As you know, the AALCO is an outcome of the Afro-Asian Conference famously known as the Bandung Conference which was held in 1955 and attended by twenty nine newly independent countries from Africa and Asia. The major objectives of the Conference were to oppose colonialism of all kinds and to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Conference, some Asian countries and later in cooperation with some African countries formed the AALCO. The Organisation was formed to serve, among other things, as an advisory board to Member States on international issues with legal dimension. Furthermore, AALCO was meant to play as a forum for Asian and African countries cooperation in legal matters of common concern.

Mr. President, Fifty four years have now elapsed since the formation of the AALCO and indeed the Organisation has not failed us. It has been identified as the only organisation at inter-government level embracing the two continents with the sole purpose of advising its members in legal matters with international dimension. In doing this, the AALCO has managed to fully participate in examination of international law matters such as international economic trade law, law of treaties, law of the sea, international criminal law and diplomatic law.
Due to the participation of AALCO in several matters under consideration of United Nations and other international bodies and its advice to new member states, our countries have managed to hold a common position in various international issues with legal dimension, this has helped our countries in fighting against neo-colonialism and unfavourable trade between continents and western countries.

Mr. President, I was merely highlighting the background of the AALCO; its objectives and success. I must now hasten to do what I have stood here to do which is the simple task of welcoming you Your Excellency to officially inaugurate the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of the AALCO. Karibu Sana.

4. Inaugural Address by H. E. Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office - Policy & Parliamentary Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania, representing His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Honourable Mathias Meinrad Chikawe, Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Justice of the United Republic of Tanzania and the President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO,

Honourable Mr. Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, the Attorney-General of Malaysia and the President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO,

Honourable Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Observers, Invited Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel greatly honoured to participate in this session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. First of all, let me bring to you an apology from His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania who was to inaugurate and participate in this Conference but due to other pressing National Commitments he was unable to do so. However, due to the importance of this meeting he has chosen me to represent him. The President sends greetings to all participants and wishes the meeting a great success.

After those few remarks let me now present the Speech of His Excellency the President to you.

“Distinguished Participants, I am greatly honoured to be invited to grace the opening of this Forty-Ninth Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. It is my honour to welcome you back to Tanzania, after twenty four years, you last came in Tanzania and particularly at Arusha in 1986, when we had such a meeting. I am aware
that you have been around to our neighbours across the border, but not in this country. You are warmly welcome or in Kiswahili, *Karibuni Sana*.

This Conference is taking place at a time when the General election in our country is just around the corner in October. Most of our leaders who are politicians in the mid of this month will be involved in the Campaigns. We believe we will continue to have peaceful, free and fair elections.

Distinguished Participants, it is a great honour to our Country and for the People of Tanzania for hosting this Session. This session marks the fifty five years of the Bandung Conference which brought together Asian Countries at Bandung in Indonesia 1955 and later the African brethren joined the Forum to fortify the voice of new States which had just emerged from imperialism. The Bandung Conference represented a nucleus for the emergence of the Third World non-aligned movement, which resolved to promote political and diplomatic autonomy for less developed countries in the face of the International Cold War Politics. The establishment of this Organization on 15th November 1956, a short while after the Bandung Conference as Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee to be renamed as AALCO as a tangible outcome of that historic Meeting, principally, it added legal expertise in the initial political and diplomatic drive. It has all along played an important role as a springboard for legal thought in the articulation of legal position for the Region in the international fora. It has been, in your own language, acted as a legal counsel to the partner states in their resolve to find themselves a space in the international negotiations, discussions and forums.

Indeed, so many events have taken place through years of AALCC and AALCO. Some of the Members of AALCO have emerged to become formidable tigers economically and politically, others are emerging economies, and those who remain the least developed countries in the world are grappling with all odds to forge economic development. The good news is, despite our different levels of economic development we are still sailing in the same boat. This August Conference still brings together Members of the legal fraternity from Asia and Africa and remains a true reflection of the long bonded relationship among Member States of the two continents in their quest to speed up development among our people. It remains a body that plays a pivotal role in the development of jurisprudence in the two Continents for both social and economic development.

The purposes and objectives of AALCO as stipulated in its Statute is a true reflection of one of the mandate AALCO carries, for the benefits of the Countries in the Asian and African continents. This body which is charged with the duty to pursue legal issues of the development of international law, that reflect the needs and aspirations of Member States, it has always remained steadfast in articulating and addressing the issues that are of importance to the region. The body has played a great deal in ensuring that problems of the region that call for legal solutions are voiced and recognized, and that those issues find their jurisprudence in international law. The common voice of the region has been firmed up by the organization and in so doing, even those of us who could not make a
direct participation in international fora like the United Nations had their voice find their way into international law.

**Achievement made by AALCO:**

Distinguished participants; I am particularly glad to lead a country which has travelled with AALCO for quite a long time since we joined this Organization in 1973. Over the years, we have witnessed commendable success scored by it. The organization has been able to cover diverse matters of interest in international law, from International Economic and Trade Law, Diplomatic Law, Human rights, environmental law to International Criminal Law. The formulation of “Bangkok Principles” in the treatment of refugees in 1966 and the review made to the principles in 2001 form a respectable framework for treatment of refugees. The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea where we were privileged to serve effectively through the hands of our Justice Warioba, the promulgation is an important milestone that had immense contribution of AALCO of important Models in the areas of Extradition of fugitive offenders, Admission and treatment of Aliens and principles relating to elimination or reduction of Multiple Nationality. Others include Optimum utilization of resources of that exclusive economic zone, promotion and protection of investments, United Nations Convention against corruption, matters relating to World Trade Organization, to mention just a few. This is a demonstration of able participation of this Organization in matters of interest in international law. The long list of issues you have been able to address is evidence that this is a serious and committed Organization and needs to be supported and sustained. That is the reason why my country has all along strived to participate in all meetings and to contribute to all annual contributions, against all the odds.

**Challenges:**

Distinguished participants; today demands that are placed on international law are momentus. We are witnessing a development that call loud for a just international legal regime that will ensure a fair apportionment of obligations among the members of international community. For example, today international trade is beleaguered with insecurity in shipping. The Indian ocean is demonized as a home for piracy and insecurity. The perpetrators of these heinous crimes hide on the back of anarchic regimes in the horn of Africa to rip from the ships that sail in this region especially in Indian Ocean at the economic expense in terms of shipping costs and insurance that are hurled to the countries of the region. I hope this Organization will make a timely intervention to ensure that a balanced, fair and effective legal regime is put in place that obliges the international community to apprehend the criminals, investigate the crimes of piracy and punish the proven offenders without laying undue burden to the proximate states that do not benefits at all from the crimes. I believe this can do.

This body can lend an invaluable helping hand in articulating important initiatives in the maintenance of Law and Order, the conduct of good diplomatic relation and enhanced cooperation in our Region on the one hand and Countries and people of our Region with the rest of the World on the other. I have in mind the original values espoused by the
founders of Bandung Conference as our guiding principles. Those forefathers who thought of having you around, of having a body of this type established had a clear vision of ensuring that we as Nations have a strong voice despite our levels of development at the time, we now need to emulate and sustain their aspirations. This august body must continue to play a pivotal role in researching and advising Member States on current global legal issues. Its deliberations will help our Governments to keep abreast with current development around the world and make us react to them with appropriate guidance. Its advice will also help to put in place effective legal regime for the betterment of our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the challenging obligation of this Organization is to remain on course in discharging its fundamental role of exchanging views, experiences and information on matters of common interest, having legal implications over our jurisdictions. That duty is important today as it was at its inception. You have done a lot, yes, however, you must not relent. I challenge you to remain engaged in that Agenda for our common good.

Relationship with the ILC:

Distinguished Participants, another important role of this body is to examine subjects that are under consideration by the ILC. I have taken note that one of your agenda at this session is to ensure you become more engaged to the work of that international body. This is a very valid idea. International Law Commission has played an important role in shaping International Law. That work requires to address the needs and aspirations of our Region as it does to others. Asia and Africa are part of this world and therefore it is important that AALCO takes part effectively, in every debate going on in the ILC. Whereas I commend members of this region for their participation in ILC, let me express my hope that we shall always maintain that relationship and participation for our good.

Ladies and Gentlemen, once again, let me invite you to Tanzania. I believe that for some of you, it is your first time you are visiting Tanzania. The constraints of time have prevented us from showing you our spending wild nature which we are abundantly endowed. What you will be shown on your last day is, but a tip of iceberg. I request and encourage you to spend some time after the conference, to visit our beautiful places, national parks, historical sites and museums. I would extend this invitation even to those who have visited Tanzania in the past. You will enjoy the diversified culture among our people and I have no doubt that you will enjoy their warmth and hospitality.

Mr. President, at this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you fruitful deliberations and without any further action, let me now take this opportune moment to declare this Forty-Ninth Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization open. Thank you for the attention.
5. Vote of Thanks by Dr. M. Gandhi, Director, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India representing H. E. Mr. Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the President of the Forty-Seventh Annual Session of AALCO

Excellencies,

His Excellency Mr. Phillip S. Marmo, Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania,

His Excellency Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail; President of the Forty-Eighth Session of AALCO,

His Excellency Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, Minister for Constitutional Affairs and Justice, United Republic of Tanzania and the incoming President of the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO,

His Excellency Professor Dr Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO;

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

The Annual Session of AALCO marks the manifestation of mutual cooperation and support extended by Member States of the Asian and African countries. The vision and trajectory envisaged by the founding members still stands fresh in our institutional history. For the past five decades and above, the Organization’s efforts in bringing together nations from the two continents, in order to address international legal matters which has serious implications in international relations stream also is remarkable. The common platform that AALCO provides in these matters would add to the formation of a just and equitable world order.

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates, in an interdependent world, cooperation in terms of sharing experiences and pooling in resources during and for emergencies would be the mantra for the coming years. The international legal matters like human rights, human security, environmental law including climate change, managing financial crisis and framing effective remedies for prevention, corruption, refugee and migration problem, trafficking in human beings and so on, requires to be addressed from our perspective too. An approach that accommodates both domestic demands and international obligations is a necessary one for the achievement of all our objectives. We are required as governments of individual states, to bring about programs that must be moreresponsive to the current challenges that the world is facing today. As the President of the Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO, I wish to take this opportunity to register on behalf of the Government of India and its people, our gratitude to this Organization for having given us an opportunity to hold this position in the years 2006 and 2008.
In this regard, we wish to thank the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the mega event and through them to express our gratitude to the people of this country for extending warm hospitality. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Attorney-General of Malaysia and the President of the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO for his able leadership and guidance. Under his Presidency, AALCO strived to achieve greater heights in the international legal fraternity. I would like to extend our whole-hearted support and cooperation to the current President His Excellency Mr. Mathias M. M. Chikawe, Minister for Constitutional Affairs and Justice, United Republic of Tanzania and the Organizing Committee for all their efforts in conducting the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO in a smooth manner.

The office of the Secretary-General of AALCO is a pivotal one. I am sure that all the AALCO Member States realize the significant role that our Secretary-General His Excellency Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohamad has played in leaving no stone unturned to revitalize this Organization. We trust that under your stewardship this institution will attain many more glories.

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates, I would like to thank in advance the Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates and observers for their active participation and hope that this week’s deliberations will be robust and assist us in producing tangible outcomes. Thank you.

The Meeting was thereafter adjourned.