



**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON AALCO'S 63<sup>RD</sup>  
CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS ON FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER  
2019**

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- **Excellency Amb. Baraka Luvanda, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Tanzania to India - representing the President of AALCO H.E. Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania**
- **Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors present**
- **Ms. Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**
- **Liaison Officers to AALCO of the Members States**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I welcome you to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of AALCO. I heartily welcome you all to this evening of celebrations and recollections!

It was on 15 November, 1956 that the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC) was constituted as a tangible outcome of the historic Bandung Conference, held in Indonesia, in April 1955.

Today, AALCO as an Organization reflects the collective aspirations of three-fourths of humanity, inhabiting its 48 Member States, in a rapidly changing world order that calls for

the formulation of sustainable and multilateral solutions to the challenges posed by globalization.

Ever since its inception, the purpose of AALCO has remain unchanged: to serve as an Advisory Body to Member States in the field of international law and as a Forum for Asian-African cooperation in legal matters of common concern.

It is in this context that AALCO has offered much valuable contribution to the progressive development of international law in its 63 years of existence.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Constitution Day undeniably presents the most appropriate opportunity to reminisce those contributions and appreciate the institutional legacy, whilst being cognisant of the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead.

Allow me, on this august day, to express my profound gratitude to the Member States and Observers of AALCO for the support and the commendable contributions to AALCO's activities over the years.

I also thank the host government, the Government of India, for their unwavering support to the Secretariat. This support has played a pivotal role in furthering the objectives of the Organization.

Perceiving the recent trends of engagement of AALCO's Member States with the domain of international law, I dare say that our numbers and solidarity would ensure that the Asian-African voices and concerns assume prominence in the international for a.

*Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,*

In the recently concluded 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of AALCO, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 21-25 October 2019, such trends were perceived especially regarding certain topics of nascent pertinence in international law.

Those topics pertain to some of the substantive agenda items in the work programme of AALCO, namely, International Law in Cyberspace, Biological Diversity in Areas beyond

National Jurisdiction under the Law of the Sea, WTO and Investment Disputes Mechanisms Reforms, Investment Mediation, and the Peaceful Settlement of International Environmental Disputes.

Japan, pursuant to its proposal at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Session last year, has launched a new programme to support capacity building of AALCO Member States in the area of International Law scheduled to be held from 8-15 December 2019 in Kyoto and Tokyo.

Japan's initiative would be a welcome addition to the China-AALCO Exchange and Research Programme on International Law, which is in its fifth year presently.

I thank the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Japan for these initiatives.

*Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,*

Through its work programme, the Organization aspires to realize the vision of our leaders for Afro-Asian solidarity, especially to further the progressive development and codification of international law and its dissemination.

With these words, on behalf of AALCO Secretariat, I invite all of you to join us in the celebrations.

Thank you!