



STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR DR KENNEDY GASTORN, SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BE MADE AT THE RECEPTION HOSTED BY HIM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF AALCO, ON 9 DECEMBER 2016.

Excellencies,

Dr. V.D. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and President of AALCO,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honor and privilege to welcome you all on this occasion where we have gathered to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). I am extremely grateful to all of you for having spared your valuable time in order to celebrate this historic moment with us. At the outset, I would particularly like to whole heartedly thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran especially H.E. Amb. Ansari for the financial contribution towards holding this event.

I am extremely thankful to our esteemed Member States for electing me to the prestigious post of Secretary-General and supporting me for the last four months. It means a lot to me personally. This demonstrates the trust that you have reposed both in my Country Tanzania and me to shoulder the responsibility of taking our Organization from strength to strength. I have a vision and mission for AALCO and am really looking forward to taking our Organization to greater heights in the field of international law.

AALCO is a unique Organization that works towards uniting the two largest and most populous continents of the world in the legal field. The Organization, since its foundation in 1956, has been considering various areas of international law that are of common concern for the countries from the Asian-African region. Through its work programme, AALCO aspires to realize the vision of our leaders for Afro-Asian solidarity, particularly in the sphere of the progressive development and codification of international law and its dissemination. AALCO's vision and mission has been to ensure that Afro-Asian values are integrated into the rapidly transforming arena of international law.

We have grown from just seven founding Member States to 46 and I sincerely hope that with our collective efforts we will be able to convince more Member States from Africa and Asia to join us.

With these few words and with a hope that AALCO can translate itself into an **Accommodating, Aspiring, Loving – happy family, which provides Capacity building for its Members on the basis of its Originality**, I now invite our Chief Guest Dr. V.D. Sharma, the President of AALCO to address this august gathering. **THANK YOU.**