



WELCOME REMARKS DELIVERED BY PROF. DR. KENNEDY GASTORN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF AALCO ON THE OCCASION OF THE 61ST CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (AALCO) HELD ON FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2017 AT ITC MAURYA HOTEL, NEW DELHI.

- Excellencies, High Commissioners and Ambassadors,
- Dr. V.D. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,
- Liaison Officers from AALCO Member States,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed my great pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to this important occasion marking and celebrating the Sixty-First (61st) anniversary day of AALCO.

I sincerely thank all of you for sparing your valuable time to be able to be with us to celebrate this historic moment with us.

The very presence of so many distinguished guests mostly from Member States of AALCO but also otherwise, clearly points to the seriousness with which AALCO is taken even after six glorious decades of its existence.

AALCO, since its foundation in 1956, has been a platform for legal consultation on various areas of international law that are of common concern and interests for the countries from the Afro-Asian region.

AALCO is a unique Organization that brings together the two largest Continents of the world, namely Africa and Asia, in the field of international law.

AALCO aspires to realize the vision of our leaders for Afro-Asian solidarity, particularly in the sphere of progressive development and dissemination of international law.

No wonder, AALCO has grown from the 7 founding Member States to the current 47 Member States. I believe with your support, our Member States, more Countries will be encouraged to join AALCO family.

As we all know, international law is an indispensable instrument in shaping a new world order. And indeed, Asian and African countries are key players in matters of international law, and they are becoming an important pole in the process of moving towards global multi-polarity.

Therefore, international law, cannot acquire the sanctity and universality that are fundamental to its wider acceptance without adequately accommodating and reflecting the needs and aspirations of the Asian African States.

In view of this, AALCO, through the growing support and cooperation from its member states, has increased capacity building programmes to legal officials from our Member States as well as some of our observers for them to effectively contribute to the growing norms of international law.

We also continue supporting the work of our Regional Arbitration Centres. We are proud to have recently celebrated the establishment of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration in Nairobi as the fifth regional arbitration centre under the auspices of AALCO.

Other Regional Arbitration Centres are located includes the Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Tehran (Iran), Cairo (Egypt) and Lagos (Nigeria). I believe that many more arbitration centres under AALCO are coming!

Let me close my welcoming remarks by thanking you, AALCO Member States, for the continued support and cooperation to the AALCO Secretariat.

I also wish to record my appreciation to the partner organizations that are cooperating with AALCO in our of activities.

Finally, and more importantly, I need to thank the government of India as our host. The continued support and cooperation from the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India is very instrumental in enabling us, the Secretariat, to effectively discharge our duties.