

4. SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE DELEGATIONS OF AALCO MEMBER STATES HELD DURING THE SESSION

(i) THE FIRST MEETING

Hon'ble Maher Abdel Wahed, Attorney General (on behalf of the President of the 39th Session) in the Chair

1. **The President** referred to Rule 11(3) of the AALCC's Statutory Rules and proposed the adoption of the Provisional agenda as finalised in consultation with the Liaison Officers.

2. There being no comments and observations the Meeting adopted the agenda of the 40th Session.

3. **The President** invited comments from the delegations on the Provisional Schedule placed before the Meeting.

4. There being no comments, the Meeting adopted the schedule of meetings.

5. The **President** then took up the item relating to the Admission of observers. He drew attention to para 18(1) of the Statutory Rules of the Committee, which states that:

“The Committee may at its discretion admit to its annual session observers from non-participating states, regional, inter-regional and international organisations and specialized agencies and the national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations.”

6. There being no comments, the participation of observers was approved by the Meeting.

7. The **President** referred to the item concerning the election of the President and Vice President for the current Session. He gave the floor to the Secretary General for his comments.

8. The **Secretary General** stated that this was the first session of the AALCC to be held in the permanent Headquarters of the Committee situated in New Delhi, after the signing of the Headquarters Agreement, by his predecessor H.E.Mr.Tang Chengyuan with the Government of India on 26 April 2000. Prior to the signing of the Headquarters Agreement, it was the practice that if a Member State offered to host the annual session and was unable to host that session because of the unforeseen circumstances, it would be deferred until the next year. In that eventuality, the current President continued to hold the office till the next session took place. Accordingly if this practice were to be followed, Egypt, the current President, will continue till it hands over Presidency to the next host country.

9. **The President** stated that he was very appreciative of the fact that India agreed to shoulder the responsibility of hosting the Fortieth session, which was scheduled to be held in Indonesia and had to be cancelled due to certain unforeseen circumstances. He was hopeful that

Indonesia would be able to host a session of the AALCC in the near future. He recognized the strong ties between the Arab Republic of Egypt and India and as a gesture of goodwill and friendship, he requested the head of delegation of India to assume the Presidency of the Fortieth session of the AALCC.

10. **The Leader of the Delegation of India**, Dr. P.S.Rao, thanked the President for inviting him to take over the Presidency of the Fortieth session. He said that he accepted the responsibility, entrusted to him, with pleasure and expressed gratitude for the same.

(H.E. Dr. P.S. Rao, President of the Fortieth Session in the Chair).

11. **The President** referred to the item relating to the election of the Vice President and invited nominations for the same.

12. **The Leader of delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** proposed that Hon'ble Chief Bola Ige (SAN), Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria be elected as the Vice-President of the Fortieth session. He said that the Attorney General had a vast experience in legal matters both at the national as well as international levels and was confident that he would ably steer the work of the Committee until the 41st Session.

13. **The Leaders of the delegations of Ghana, Senegal, Pakistan, Tanzania and Bangladesh** seconded the proposal of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the nomination of the Hon'ble Attorney General, Minister of Justice of Nigeria as Vice-President of the Fortieth session and were sure that with his vast experience he would be able to provide impetus to the work of the Committee and team-up very well with the President elect Dr. P.S.Rao.

14. **Hon'ble Chief Bola Ige (SAN)**, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria was elected as Vice-President.

15. The **President** congratulated the Vice-President on his election and looked forward to his wise guidance.

16. The Meeting then took up four agenda items for consideration. These items were: Report of the Secretary General on the work of AALCC, AALCC's Budget for the year 2001, proposal to change the name of the 'Asian African Legal Consultative Committee' to 'Asian African Legal Consultative Organization', and report of the Data Collection Unit.

17. The **President** invited the Secretary General to present his Report on the work of the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee.

18. **The Secretary General** referred to the Document No.AALCC/XL/HQ New Delhi/2001/ORG.1 which contained the Report of the Secretary General on the work of the AALCC since its Cairo Session.

19. At the outset, he reiterated his gratitude to all the Member Governments for electing him unanimously as the Secretary General at the Cairo Session last year. He said that it was the first time, he was addressing this august Meeting as the Secretary General.

20. Part I of the document, he said, contained a detailed report on the AALCC's activities since the Cairo Session. An important Meeting organised under the AALCC's auspices was the Legal Advisers Meeting held in New York on 26 October 2000. The Legal Advisers of as many as 42 AALCC Member States attended that Meeting. The other two important events, he wished to mention, were the signing of Co-operation Agreements with WIPO and the International Organisation for Migration. An immediate outcome of the conclusion of the Agreement with IOM was the convening of Special Meeting on Migration during the Fortieth session.

21. He then highlighted the main theme of the Report which dealt with AALCC's role and future activities in the coming years. Part II set out suggestions concerning the AALCC's work programme during the year 2001 and had been placed for approval of the Member States at this Session. He drew attention to the proposals to organize two or three meetings during the inter-session period. He was of the view that the next WTO Ministerial Meeting which would be held in Doha (Qatar) in November this year would be crucial. The AALCC could organize a meeting prior to the Ministerial meeting with a view to arrive at a common position on issues, which were of concern to AALCC Member States. He suggested that the AALCC's Legal Advisers Meeting to be held in New York this year could focus on these issues.

22. He invited the attention of the Delegations to the proposals concerning organization of a training course in Nuclear Law in co-operation with the IAEA and two workshops on dispute settlement in co-operation with the UNCTAD and the AALCC's Regional Arbitration Centres in Cairo and Kuala Lumpur.

23. Further, he said that Part III was a projection of AALCC's short term and long-term programmes. The AALCC, over the years, had tried to meet the expectations of its Member States. He recalled that last year at the AALCC's Legal Advisers' Meeting he had submitted a proposal on the Rationalization of the Work-Programme of the Committee. He asked the Member States to give their frank suggestions to improve the functioning of the AALCC and its future activities. His own conviction was that the AALCC had a great potential which needed to be realized and utilized in concert and co-operation with the Member States. The AALCC, being a legal organization, it was imperative that legal activities should be the core of its functions. And to achieve that objective, he had taken new initiatives. He felt that such a momentum might not last long if there was a lack of critical assessment, valuable suggestions and above all enthusiasm to support these initiatives and proposals.

24. He stated that his proposal concerning rationalization of the work programme of the AALCC had wider implications for the future of the AALCC and its activities. Some suggestions had been made to make the agenda of AALCC's annual Sessions manageable by deferring considerations of certain items for future Sessions and to hold in-depth discussions on certain items. At the same time, the need for inclusion of new items related to issues of current relevance could hardly be over-emphasised. He stressed that the AALCC's annual Sessions should be vibrant and productive so that when the participants go back to the capitals of their

countries, they should go with a sense of satisfaction that their sojourn and participation was useful. He sincerely hoped that the Member States would seriously consider this matter and this Session would provide an opportunity to exchange views and arrive at some concrete conclusions in this regard.

25. He drew attention to his initiative to involve the Member States' experts more and more in the activities of the AALCC. In that context preparation of a 'roster' of experts in various domains of international law was an important step. Such a list of experts, a kind of 'who is who' would be useful in inviting the experts from Asian and African regions in the meetings, workshops and seminars held under the AALCC's auspices. So far, the Secretariat had received responses from 18 Member States. He urged those Member States, which had not yet sent their list of experts, to do so as soon as possible.

26. He said that another area, where the Secretariat desired to reactivate its programme was the organisation of training courses for the benefit of the officials of the AALCC Member States. In order to keep abreast with the new developments in international law, it was important that the officials working in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice of Member States should be aware of those developments. The AALCC Secretariat was ready to provide such assistance to Member States by way of organizing training courses or attachment with the Secretariat for a specific period.

27. He recalled that the Millennium Declaration adopted at the Millennium Summit organized under the United Nations auspices last September envisaged strengthening of co-operation between the United Nations and the regional organisations. The AALCC had established close co-operation and signed formal co-operation agreements with the United Nations and its Agencies and several inter-government organizations. He felt that such co-operation could be further strengthened. He urged the Member States to identify areas where such co-operation would be beneficial so that concrete follow-up work could be undertaken.

28. He said that, since Mr. Ryo Takagi, Deputy Secretary-General would deal with the budget and financial matters, he would not go into details. He however expressed his concern that implementation of any good programme could be impeded if there was no adequate financial support. The arrears of Member States had gone beyond US \$ 1 million. How this problem could be solved, was a matter for serious consideration.

29. He said that good progress had been made in opening the AALCC to the world. Now the AALCC documents and reports were available on its web-site. Mr. M.R. DABIRI, Deputy Secretary General, in his report, would give more details concerning the activities of the Data Collection Unit.

30. Turning to the matters concerning the AALCC's Headquarters, he said that on 26 April 2000, his predecessor H.E. Mr. Tang Chengyuan signed the Headquarters Agreement between the AALCC and the Government of India. That Agreement came into force on the date of signing. In that context, he drew attention to the footnote to Article 6 of the AALCC's Statutes, which stipulated that "This article will become operative upon the conclusion of the

Headquarters Agreement with the Government of India”. He proposed that as a consequence of the conclusion of the Headquarters Agreement with the Government of India, this footnote he considered as having become redundant and should be deleted.

31. As regards the matters concerning the construction of the Headquarters building, he informed the Meeting that he had been following very closely with the concerned authorities and the Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs headed by Dr.P.S.Rao. He hoped that, after seeking necessary clearances from the local authorities in New Delhi, the construction work may begin in September this year.

32. He concluded his statement by urging the Member States to take a serious look at his Report. He was confident that the AALCC could and should orient its activities to meet the aspirations of its Member States and the challenges posed to it.

33. The **President** thanked the Secretary General for his precise report on the activities of the AALCC and called upon the delegations to focus their comments on the ideas presented therein.

34. The **President** then invited Mr. Ryo Takagi, Deputy Secretary-General to present the AALCC’s budget for the year 2001.

35. Mr. Ryo Takagi, Deputy Secretary General presented the AALCC’s budget for the year 2001 which was adopted at the 271st Meeting of Liaison Officers held on 14 February this year and now it was placed before the Member States/Delegates for final approval, following Rule 24 of AALCC’s Statutory Rules.

36. He drew attention of the Delegates to Document No. AALCC/ XL/HQ New Delhi /2001/ORG.2 which set out the AALCC budgetary proposals for the year 2001. He said that the budgetary structure for the year 2001 followed the same pattern as that of 2000. Total budgetary figure had been raised by US\$ 2800 from 398,465 to US\$ 401,265 in the year 2001, due to increase under certain budgetary heads. However, like past years, there was no increase in the assessed annual contributions of the Member States. The expenditures under each budget head and sub heads remained almost the same as for the year 2000, with a few adjustments, which had been made to meet the increase in cost under certain heads.

37. As for the expenses in connection with the Committee’s Session (Item No. IV, (A) the amount of US\$ 23,000 was earmarked on the assumption that it would be held in Jakarta. However, the Secretariat was confident that all the expenses for this Session in New Delhi could be managed within the same amount. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for its contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs to share the cost of the New Delhi Session.

38. Elaborating details concerning the implementation of the budget for the year 2000, he said that the Secretariat received total amount of US\$ 319,938.93 against the expenditure of US\$ 396,435.75 as shown on page 32. It had to withdraw US\$ 76,496.82 from its Reserve Fund to meet this deficit. As a result, the amount of Reserve Fund as of 31 December 2000 came down to US\$ 262,118.04 as shown on page 32.

39. This, he considered, was not a sound management practice of the financial system of an inter-governmental organization. In spite of the AALCC's modest budget, the annual budget target was not achieved for the past several years.

40. He drew attention to Rule 25(2) of the AALCC's Statutory Rules, pursuant to which the Secretary General had to bring to the notice of the Committee for due consideration the fact that 13 States out of 45 Member States were in arrears for more than 3 years and the amount of their arrears had reached US\$ 984,987 which represented 89% of total arrears.

41. He added that, during his tenure in the Secretariat for the past four years, accumulated arrears which had been increasing year by year till 1997, reduced a little bit because of the payment of arrears by some Member States. However, the arrears were still at the level of US\$ 1.1 million. He sought the co-operation of Member States to settle this long-standing issue.

42. He recalled that the Committee at its Cairo Session, in its Resolution No. 39/org.2, urged those Member States who were in arrears of contributions, to take earnest steps to expeditiously clear the same and to fulfil their financial obligations in order to enable the Committee to overcome its difficulties. Moreover, in the same resolution, the Committee requested Member States, who were facing financial difficulties in defraying their annual contributions beyond their control, to furnish to the Secretary General detailed information on those financial difficulties by the end of the year in which the payment of contribution was due. He regretted to inform the Delegates that no other Member State in arrears, except Iraq, had communicated such information to the Secretariat, in spite of the fact that Secretariat had sent reminder letters for that purpose from time to time.

43. Lastly, he expressed his sincere appreciation to those Member States who had been paying their contributions regularly in time and urged those Member States, who were facing financial difficulties in defraying their contributions, to strictly observe aforementioned Resolution.

44. The **President** thanked the Deputy Secretary General for his concise statement on the budget and requested the delegations to consider approving the budget for the year 2001.

45. The **Leader of delegation of Senegal**, while reacting on the Report of the Secretary General, wanted to know when the French speaking countries would get documents in French.

46. **The Secretary General** informed the Delegates that currently the Committee had only three French speaking countries as its Members i.e. Senegal, Arab Republic of Egypt and Lebanon. He was optimistic that soon Tunisia would become a Member. However, he added that when there were enough French speaking Members, and consequently enough budgetary provisions, only then would translations as well as documentation, in French be possible.

47. The **President** was optimistic that the Secretary General would soon find a solution to the dilemma of either having more French speaking Members and then more budget or first having French documents to attract more Members. However, he suggested that in the mean-time

countries, which could afford, could make some voluntary contributions for establishing a French unit in the Secretariat.

48. The **Leader of the delegation of Uganda** suggested that, till an alternative was found, a certain percentage of the current budget could be kept aside for the translation of documents into French as was being done in the past. In his view, in the absence of French documentation, it would be difficult to attract more Members from French speaking countries to join the AALCC.

49. The **President**, while agreeing with the views expressed by the delegation of Uganda, stated that the matters relating to the budget for French unit could be considered in the future. However, to begin with the Report of the Thirty-ninth as well as the Fortieth Sessions could be translated into French.

50. The **Delegate of Ghana**, while supporting the proposal of the Delegate of Senegal relating to the French documentation, felt that like the Arabic unit in the Secretariat, a French unit could be established.

51. He said that this matter could be discussed at an appropriate time and first task was the adoption of the budget for the year 2001 as approved by the Liaison Officers at the 271st meeting. He proposed a motion to this effect.

52. Responding to the point, raised by the Delegate of Ghana, the **Secretary General** stated that the Arabic unit had been established 20 years ago by the Arab Ministers of Justice and it was running on a budget provided exclusively by the Arab Member States. Similarly, when the Committee got enough French speaking Asian and African countries as its Members, a French unit could also be established in the Secretariat. However, he assured the delegations that he would undertake the task of translating into French the Reports of the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Sessions. He further stated that the Statutes and Statutory Rules of the Committee had already been translated into French, and this would provide information to the countries desirous of joining the Committee.

53. The **Delegate of Egypt** thanked the Secretary General for explaining the background of the establishment of the Arabic unit and appreciated his efforts to attract more francophone countries to join AALCC as Members. Nevertheless, he associated himself with other delegations, which had requested for the establishment of the French unit in the Secretariat.

54. The **Leader of the delegation of Nigeria**, the Vice President, informed the Delegates that a proposal to organize a workshop on dispute settlement on commercial matters in September 2001 in co-operation with UNCTAD was under consideration of his Government. However it might be postponed for one or two months. As regards the arrears of contribution of Nigeria, as indicated in the AALCC's budget document on page 24, he assured that he would find about this. Perhaps the amount, remitted to the Secretariat, had not yet reached it.

55. As there were no further comments, the **President** declared that the budget for the year 2001 was approved by the Delegates.

56. The Delegates then took up the item concerning the **“Proposal to change the name of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee” to Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization**, contained in Document No. AALCC/HQ(New Delhi)/2001/ORG.1A.

57. **The Secretary General** introduced the Document AALCC/XL/HQ New Delhi/2001/ORG.1-A which, besides giving a background, underlined the reasons behind this proposal. He said that, when the AALCC was established in 1956 by seven participating States, it was initially a temporary organization with a term of 5 years. Thereafter, its term was extended on four occasions and in 1981 it was decided to place it on a permanent footing.

58. Since then there had been significant increase in its Membership and in its activities and functions. It had been accorded Permanent Observer status with the United Nations and had established close relationship with the United Nations, its Agencies and Inter-governmental Organisations. It now represents 45 sovereign Member States.

59. It has been realized that the word “Committee” now was not appropriate. It had been suggested that it may be replaced by the word “Organisations”. Consequently, the proposed new name could be “Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization” (AALCO)

60. He suggested that if this proposal met the approval of Member States, it could be effected by a resolution to be adopted by the delegations of Member States at this Session. Such a change in the name would reflect its independent status as a regional organization and enhance its image within the family of international Organizations.

61. **The Delegate of India** supported the proposal. She was of the view that this change in name would befit the composition of the organization and would not require any other amendment to the Statutes.

62. **The Leader of the Delegation of Sudan** felt that, the reasons outlined by the Secretary General in his statement for the change of name, were very logical. Furthermore, the large Membership of the Committee represented its stature as an international organization, and would help to further strengthen it. His delegation lent full support to the proposal.

63. **The Leader of the Delegation of Ghana** said that this was the first time she was attending the Session of the AALCC. When she received the documentation for the Session she initially thought the AALCC was a Committee of the United Nations. She felt that in view of the stature, which the AALCC enjoyed in the community of international organisations, the proposal to change its name was timely.

64. **The Leader of the Delegation of Uganda** was not opposed to the proposal of changing the name of AALCC to AALCO. However, in his view, the word “Consultative” deserved a lot more consideration. He gave the example of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which was a very vibrant legal organization. He suggested that consideration might be given also to delete the word “Consultative” and, thus, change the name of “AALCC” to “AALO”.

65. The **Delegate of Jordan** fully supported the change from Committee to Organization, as it would become more simplified.

66. The **Delegate of Nigeria** supported the suggestion of the delegation of Uganda to remove both the words 'Consultative' as well as 'Committee', as they no longer matched the tasks being undertaken by the AALCC as was evident from the Report of the Secretary General. However, he drew attention to point out that para 40 on page 14 required that any amendment should be preceded by an amendment of the Statutes and, therefore, it would be appropriate to first amend Article 9 of the Statutes and then change the name of the AALCC.

67. The **Leader of the delegation of Pakistan** while agreeing with the views expressed by the Delegate of India to change the name, observed that such a change should not entail any substantive amendment to AALCC's Statutes. He did not agree with the suggestion, put forward by the delegations of Uganda and Nigeria that the word "Consultative" should also be dropped. According to him it would involve substantive changes as it was not a simple procedural matter. It should be deferred for future consideration.

68. The **Leader of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt** supported the proposal to change the name of AALCC to AALCO. As far as dropping the word "Consultative" was concerned, he felt that it would require further study, and time available at this Session was not sufficient to go into details, hence it could be considered at the next Session.

69. The **Leader of the delegation of Japan** while respecting the views expressed by various delegations stated that the AALCC had been in existence since 1956 by Asian countries, and due to his long association with the Committee, he personally felt attached to it. He did not have any objection in replacing the word "Committee" with "Organization" but reminded the delegations that initially the Committee was assigned the task of performing a consultative function for Asian African States. Therefore, the word 'Consultative' should not be dropped hastily.

70. The **President** thanked the leader of the delegation of Japan for his statement and fully agreed with him that, while there was a consensus on changing AALCC to AALCO, there was no such consensus on dropping the word "Consultative", and in this regard, no decision should be taken immediately.

71. The **Secretary General** thanked all the delegations for supporting the proposal to change the name of Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee to Asian African Legal Consultative Organization. He also agreed that any proposal to change the basic character of the organization would raise procedural and substantial issues, which needed further study. However, there was consensus, that such a proposal could be placed on the agenda of the next Session, according to the Statutory Rules.

72. The **President** wished to place on record his thanks to all Member States for electing him as President to chair the Fortieth Session. He appreciated the extraordinary services rendered by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, particularly Hon'ble Farouk El Nasser, Minister of Law and Justice and the President of the Thirty-ninth Session. He also thanked Hon'ble Maher Abdel Wahed for passing on the Presidency to him. He appreciated the excellent manner

in which the proceedings of the Thirty-ninth session were conducted by H.E. Iskandar Ghattas, Assistant Minister of Justice, Arab Republic of Egypt. Last, but not the least, he thanked the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for giving to the AALCO a dynamic and excellent Secretary General.

73. There being no other business to transact the meeting was adjourned for a tea break.
Continuation of First Meeting of Delegations of AALCC Member States at 2.45 p.m.

The President Dr. P.S.Rao, in the Chair

1. The **President** resumed the meeting and stated that in continuation of the appreciation of the President of the Thirty-ninth Session, he also appreciated the excellent services rendered by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh, who was the Vice-President last year.

2. On the item relating to the proposal to change the name of the AALCC to AALCO, the President stated that there was consensus only to a change nomenclature and not a structural change.

3. The next item on the agenda for consideration was the **“Report on the Data Collection Unit”**

4. **Mr. Mohammed Reza DABIRI**, Deputy Secretary-General drew attention of the Delegates to the document AALCC/XL/NEW DELHI/2001/ORG.4 that dealt with the functioning of the Data Collection Unit. He recalled that the Unit was a first step towards establishing a centre for research and development, on the basis of a proposal made by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 1989. Data Collection Unit was established, as an integral part of the Secretariat. An Advisory Panel, comprising Liaison Officers of the Arab Republic of Egypt, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines was established to advise on technical and general policy matters concerning the functioning of the Unit.

5. Initially the function of the Unit was to collect and collate information on international economic instruments and legislations from Member States. However, a need was felt for improving the compilation and storage facilities and undertaking an overall modernisation of the Secretariat. To keep pace with the fast changing technological developments, the Committee, while considering the reports on the work of the Unit, adopted resolutions at its Accra (1999) and Cairo (2000) Sessions, which called for the establishment of AALCC's website. The Secretariat in fulfilment of that mandate established a website with the address <http://www.aalcc.org> and an e-mail address aalcc@vsnl.com.

6. The Secretariat as a follow-up, had undertaken serious efforts towards improving the AALCC website. All the documents for the New Delhi Session 2001, the previous Session held in Cairo last year and some other basic information about the AALCC had been provided on the website. As the Secretariat continued to improve and update the website, it welcomed suggestions from Member States.

7. Issues concerning elaborating the functions of the Data Collection Unit, leading towards the establishment of a center for research and development, were discussed at length at the first meeting of the Working Group of Liaison Officers to the Data Collection Unit, held last year. Some of the functions that could be undertaken by the proposed centre might include training of legal officers or personnel from Member States, convening of seminars and workshops on international law and, if possible, offer short-term courses on various aspects of international law for the benefit of legal staff/personnel from Member States. He, however, emphasized that such an ambitious plan would require financial and material support of all Member States.

8. He requested Member States, desirous of linking up the e-mail address of their embassies and missions with the AALCC web-site, to get in touch with the Secretariat. Since collecting information on trade law and regulations of Member States was the primary objective of the Unit, economic and trade related institutes in Member States and Observer States and their respective websites could be linked up with the AALCC web-site.

9. He said that the Secretariat took the initiative of suggesting three names for changing the name of Data Collection Unit: (a) Centre for Research and Training; (b) Centre for Research and Development, and (c) Centre for Research and Information.

10. The **Leader of the delegation of Pakistan** thanked the Deputy Secretary General for his elaborate introduction of the Unit. In relation to the change of the name of the Data Collection Unit, he said that, if this change entailed any financial increase, it would not be appropriate to further burden the Member States. He felt that the Secretariat should look into the matter in more detail. Three new names had been proposed by the Secretariat i.e. (i) Centre for Research and Development, (ii) Centre for Research and Training, and (iii) Centre for Research and Information. In his view, the first one might not suit with the activities of the AALCC, the second one would be more akin to the new name of AALCO, but training of personnel would involve substantial financial involvement, which would also require more financial contribution, and the third one would be appropriate as financial involvement would be much less than the above stated two names.

11. The **Deputy Secretary General** thanked the Delegate of Pakistan for his statement and assured him that any suggestions, made by the Secretariat, would not involve any further financial commitment from Member States, whatever the increase, would be met from the regular budget.

12. The **Delegate of the Republic of Korea** appreciated the role, which the Data Collection Unit had performed in the past and hoped that it would perform in future as well. He reiterated the view expressed by the Liaison Officer of the Republic of Korea that the time was ripe to reshape the functions of the unit and tune it to changing times in the field of technology. Therefore, he was desirous that Member States undertook a more serious discussion on this topic, the role and functions that the Unit would perform in future.

13. The **Leader of the delegation of Indonesia** extended to the President, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, his sincere appreciation for hosting and making excellent

arrangements for the Fortieth Session, at the Committee's Headquarters situated in New Delhi. He congratulated the President and Vice President on their respective elections.

14. He continued and stated that, due to difficult circumstances in his country, he apologized to the President as well as the Secretary General, on behalf of his Government, for being unable to host this important Session in Jakarta. However, he appreciated the Secretariat for having co-operated with his Government for the arrangement, which had been made in Jakarta as well. He assured that the Indonesian Government would be able to host a Session in the future. He reiterated the fact that the AALCC had been established in 1956 as a result of the common vision of Asian African countries at the Conference held in Bandung. It had been and was also being able to face the challenges posed in the wake of globalization and consequential changes in international economic relations and issues arising out of globalization. His delegation agreed that it was the appropriate time for the AALCC to take concrete initiatives by way of holding meetings and seminars, to discuss these issues. Turning to the Report of the Secretary General, he appreciated the Secretary-General's efforts towards rationalization of the work programme of the Committee. On the topic of establishing cooperation against trafficking in women and children, proposed by his country, he felt that no single country could deal with this problem alone. His delegation was also deeply concerned with issues related to migration and he appreciated the timely effort of the AALCC to organize a special meeting in co-operation with the IOM, during the current Session.

15. The **President** commending the gesture of the leader of delegation of Indonesia stated that the circumstances prevailing in their country were very well understood by everyone and there was absolutely no need for an apology. He added that Indonesia was one of the founding Members of the Committee and was, thus, very closely associated with its work. He hoped that normalization would fast return to Indonesia.