

PREFACE

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in its fifty-first years of existence has emerged as a leading inter-governmental organization, that renders consultative and advisory services in the field of International Law to its Member States. During this period, I can confidently assert that, AALCO has been progressively worked towards realizing the objectives laid down by the founding fathers of the Organization.

AALCO's Annual Session is the most important forum where productive discussions and deliberations takes place on issues of contemporary relevance in international law of interests and concerns to countries of the Asian-African regions and in turn contributes towards progressive development and codification of international law. The Annual Session is widely recognized in the International Law circles, world wide for the topics of contemporary concern on its agenda and for the scholarly deliberations.

The Forty-Sixth Annual Session was held in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, from 2-6 July 2007. Delegations from thirty Member States, seven non-Member States and representatives of six international organizations attended and contributed to fruitful deliberations in the Session. This amply demonstrates the ever growing enthusiasm and interest of the international legal community in the work of AALCO. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the Session in the beautiful city of Cape Town. I also extend my deep felt gratitude for the excellent arrangements made by the Host Government which immensely contributed to a highly successful Session and also for extending their warm hospitality towards each and every delegate at the Session.

In conjunction with its Annual Session, two half-day Special Meetings on "International Investment, Trade and Development" and "International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism" were also organized. This was done in collaboration with the Republic of South Africa and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), respectively. In this context, I would express my deep appreciation to the host government and the UNODC for their long-term support and interest in the work of AALCO.

I have immense pleasure to place before our Member States, the Verbatim Record of Discussions of the Forty-Sixth Annual Session for their consideration. I hope that this publication would be of a beneficial document of Reference. The Verbatim Record of Discussions aims to provide to the greatest extent a detailed reflection of deliberations that took place during the Session by the delegations of the Member States and Observers. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to the delegations participating in the Annual Session for providing it with electronic copies of their statements. This kind gesture by delegations enables the Secretariat to prepare the Verbatim Record of Discussions with higher accuracy. The Secretariat welcomes any valuable suggestions/comments from its Member States for further improvement of the quality and structure of the publications brought out by it.

Before concluding, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Secretaries-General, Dr. Xu Jie and Amb. S. R. Tabatabaei Shafiei, for their devotion and outstanding contribution in the organization of the Session and for the successful preparation of the Verbatim Record. I also express my appreciation to the eminent Legal Staff of the Secretariat, which includes: Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Mr. Shikhar Ranjan, Mr. R. Rajesh Babu, Mr. Mohammed Hussain, Mr. Senthil Kumar, Ms. Shannu Narayan, Mr. Leeladhar Bhandary and Mr. S. Pandiaraj for their immense efforts exerted in bringing out this voluminous publication.

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Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil
Secretary-General