

## PREFACE

The Year 2006 marks a milestone in the long journey of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), which was established in 1956. Since its inception the AALCO has emerged as a leading Organization of its kind to render consultative and advisory services in the field of International Law, to its Member States. To celebrate this solemn event, the AALCO held its Forty-Fifth Golden Jubilee Headquarters Session, in New Delhi, India (3-8 April 2006) in conjunction with the inauguration of the Headquarters Building, which has been generously offered by the Government of India.

The Annual Session of AALCO provides an appropriate forum for the Member States to consider and deliberate on issues related to international law with contemporary relevance and exchange views on matters of common concern having legal implication. The Golden Jubilee Session has recorded the highest number of participation by the Member States and international institutions, which shows the ever-growing enthusiasm of and interests in the work of AALCO. Thirty-nine Member States, one Permanent Observer, i.e. New Zealand, fourteen Non-member States and representatives of ten international organizations attended and contributed to fruitful deliberations in the Session.

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee year many International Organizations expressed their willingness to celebrate this event by holding in conjunction with AALCO seminars on issues of international law with contemporary relevance. In response to the friendly gesture and as past practice, three half day Special Meetings were organized in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in conjunction with the Annual Session, focusing on the following topics; “Legal Identity and Statelessness”, “International Migration Law”, and “Universal Jurisdiction and its Role in the Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law”, respectively. These meetings have greatly facilitated the deliberations on the relevant topics on the Agenda of AALCO. In this context, I would express my deep appreciation to the aforesaid Organizations concerned for their long-term support and interest in the work of AALCO.

Based upon the policy of rationalization of the work programme, nine items on the Agenda were intensively deliberated at the Session. Nevertheless, the Secretariat had prepared brief reports on all the sixteen items. The Session on the concluding day adopted the Summary Report, the Resolutions on Substantive and Organizational matters and the Message of gratitude to the President of India submitted by the Drafting Committee. The Provisional Summary Records of the Inaugural Session, two Meetings of Delegations of AALCO Member States, as well as five General Meetings were prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to all delegations on the concluding day. The Member States were requested to review the document and send in their suggestions/corrections within a period of six weeks. After the Session, the Summary Records of the Third Meeting of Delegations, and the Sixth General Meeting (Concluding Session) were sent to the Member States on 19 April 2006. As on date, the Secretariat has received several responses from Member States, all of which have been duly reflected in this report.

The Report of the Forty-Fifth Session contains mainly the text of statements of the Inaugural Session, Meetings of Delegations and all the General Meetings; the Resolutions adopted by the Session, and the Summary Report of the Session.

Before concluding, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my friends and colleagues Mr. Motokastu Watanabe and Dr. Li Zhenhua, the Deputy Secretaries-General, for their devotion and outstanding contribution in the organization of the Session.

I also wish to express my appreciation to Assistant Principal Legal Officer Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Senior Legal Officers Dr. Burra Srinivas , Mr. Shikhar Ranjan, and Mr. R. Rajesh Babu, Legal Officers Mr Mohammed Hussain, Mr. Leeladhar Bhandary, Mr. Senthil Kumar and Ms. Shannu Narayan, Legal Interns, Mr. S. Pandiaraj and Ms. K.C. Sowmya, and to the Librarian Mrs. Neelam V. Mathur and other Secretariat staff for their immense efforts exerted to help me in fulfilling my mandate and for their professionalism, sense of responsibility in an inspiring team work which greatly contributed in making the Session a success and in bringing out all the Documents referred to in this preface, in time.

7 June 2006

Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil  
Secretary-General