

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST
GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 3RD APRIL 2006
AT 3:45 PM**

**H. E. Mr. Vincent Damian Lyimo, Vice
President of the Forty-Fifth Session in the
Chair**

General Statements

1. The Vice-President chaired the First General Meeting. He announced that the meeting was open for the delegations and observers to make the Statements

2. The **Leader of Delegation of the State of Kuwait**¹ at the outset on behalf of the delegation of Kuwait expressed their hearty appreciation to the great people of India, as well as to the Government of India for the friendly reception and hospitality. He also extended their thanks to the Indian government for the financial and moral support to rapidly growing AALCO which resulted in building its permanent headquarters on this beautiful land.

3. He said that in this connection, in the name of the Kuwaiti delegation they congratulated all members for this great accomplishment and they were all, hopeful that the works of AALCO should always turn out well and successfully. He firmly believed that the Organization should continuously serve the interests, security and peace of the whole international community.

4. The Leader of the Delegation proposed that the AALCO Secretariat would draft a letter of thanks to the Indian government in appreciation of its efforts in completing the work of the Permanent Headquarter Building of the Organization. The Leader of the Delegation also proposed to name the main hall after the great Indian

leader, Mahatma Gandhi, as an appreciation by all the Member States of AALCO to such significant efforts and generous donation by the Indian Government.

5. He said that the continuous development of the rules of international law has become a vital necessity in order to bring a balance between the needs of the international community and the provisions of international law, which has become widely adopted by the international community after it has been developed. Human race has started considering the international law as a guard and a protector for its life and existence. He said that the task of developing international law was one of high priority jobs considered by the organization. He emphasized that there were many other matters still waiting to be covered by the provisions of international law.

6. The Leader of Delegation said that the agenda of the meeting confirmed and agenda included many items that have a direct link with development of international law. These items refer to the effort, which should be executed in order to accomplish that goal.

7. He said that all items included in the agenda were of equal importance. He reviewed some of them. One of the important items in the agenda was International Terrorism. Now, international law was one of the tools and instruments, which were used in suppressing terrorism, and related crimes. He said that the issue included the definition of terrorism. Such definition is a difficult task as mentioned in the report of the Forty-Fifth Session. In this connection he drew attention that one should completely keep politics at a distance from this definition. He observed that based upon the definitions, mentioned in the regional conventions and treaties, and juridical opinions one could reach a pure legal definition on terrorism, even if it would not be conclusive. He hoped sooner or later, based upon the developments in the terrorist actions, this definition could be updated. He

¹ Statement delivered in Arabic. The Secretariat acknowledges with gratitude the official translation provided by the Delegation of State of Kuwait.

said that moreover such a definition could be drafted in the light of the resolutions of the UN General Assembly, adopted in this respect, which were related to the legitimate resistance acts, as well as the right to self-determination, mentioned in the two International Covenants on Human Rights since 1966.

8. He opined that while talking about terrorism, one should not omit the state terrorism, carried out flagrantly by Israel against the defenseless people of Palestine. Israel was challenging the international community by mass deportation, demolishing houses and destroying properties. Lately, Israel was punishing the Palestinians by meddling democracy in selecting their representative. He said that all these terrorist acts need to be condemned and denounced by all delegates. The Kuwaiti delegation strongly denounced the violations of the international humanitarian law committed by Israel, particularly violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The Leader of the Delegation called AALCO to continue to place the item, related to this subject on the agenda of every session, as an expression of protest against such acts, which are condemned by the whole international community.

9. The Leader of the Delegation observed that "Human Rights in Islam" was very far reaching subject, even for the specialist scholars. It would be more practical to select an aspect of the rights, covered by the Islamic religion and give a chance to every one to raise his point of view. He suggested choosing "the nature of these rights in Islam". He believed that the nature of these rights in Islam were totally different from equivalent ones in the domestic laws of the other States. He observed that one may study this nature as well in the rules of the international law; one might start with the personality of an individual person, and how he acquired the international character as for these rights; Then it could be dealt with at the regional and universal levels; one might consider the

sources of these rights; Were these rights resulting from an obligation, a grant, a history or struggle? He suggested that all these points deal with one part of the elements of human rights in Islam.

10. He said that it was worth mentioning to recall that the state of Kuwait has observed to take part in this item since it was inserted in the agenda. In the last Session the State of Kuwait had submitted a complete study on "Human Rights in Islam". In the present session the delegation of Kuwait renewed its proposal submitted to the Nairobi session. The Kuwaiti delegation called for consideration of drafting a Convention or a Charter or as a minimum a Declaration for Human Rights by AALCO. In this instrument the Member States should express their true opinion on respect of human rights, ensuring the practice of such rights in accordance with the international criteria and conventions. The concerned international instruments include "Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, African Union Declaration on Human Rights, and the Universal Declaration, and the two international Covenants on Human Rights". In this connection, the delegation of Kuwait expressed its deep sorrow and absolute denunciation to the offensive acts against our great Prophet Mohamed (Peace be upon him) who has a very sublime place in the hearts of all Muslims. These offensive acts were made under the allegation of freedom of expression and respect for human rights. He mentioned that in this respect Islam ordered all followers and believers to believe and respect all other Prophets. Accordingly, Kuwait Delegation appealed to take an appropriate action to reply to such offensive insults against Islam and the Prophet Mohamed. He pointed out that Islam was the faith of hundreds of millions of people in the Member States of AALCO.

11. The **Leader of Delegation of the People's Republic of China** at the outset extended on behalf of the Chinese Delegation his cordial congratulations to the

President on his election as President of the Forty-Fifth Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. He expressed his confidence in the President's wisdom, talent and experience, which would lead this session to a complete success. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Amos Wako, President of the previous session for his excellent work in the past year and his deep gratitude to the Secretary General of AALCO and his colleagues in the Secretariat for their efforts in the preparation of the Session. He also expressed thanks to the Indian Government for her generous support and assistance rendered to AALCO for years.

12. The Leader of the Delegation said that since it was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of AALCO, it was natural for them to remember the renowned Bandung Conference and the Bandung Spirit. He said that the Bandung Conference was the first conference convened independently by Asian and African countries. He firmly believed that for over half a century, the Bandung Spirit, featuring Unity, Friendship and Cooperation initiated by this conference, has always encouraged Asian and African countries to make unremitting efforts towards progress. He opined that in today's world, Asian and African countries had accomplished tremendous achievements in political, economic and social areas and enjoyed a significantly improved status and role in the international arena. He also said that the Asian and African countries have become an important force in promoting world peace and common development.

13. He said that the AALCO was one of the important achievements of the Bandung Conference. He believed that for 50 years, by carrying forward the Bandung Spirit, AALCO has made important contribution in facilitating the participation of Asian and African countries in the progressive development of international law and its codification. He said that as the only intergovernmental legal consultative body across Asian and African region, AALCO

has devoted its research on issues of international law on which its Member States have common concern. AALCO has played a prominent role in providing legal advice to its Member States and strengthening the exchange of views and cooperation among them on legal issues. The Chinese Delegation believed that, as the number of its Member States would increase and its work would expand, the influence of AALCO would be further expanded.

14. The Leader of the Delegation observed that the current international situation was undergoing complicated and profound changes. Economic globalization was making in-depth headways. He identified that all countries became increasingly interdependent and threats and challenges of a global nature emerged from multiple sources. Hence he observed that faced with various new opportunities and challenges, Asian and African countries who endured the hardship of aggression and poverty were, more than ever, eager to safeguard world peace and promote common development. He opined that this has set out new requirements for AALCO to play its role and assume its task in the future.

15. He said that the Chinese Government supported the efforts by AALCO to play a more active and important role in the future. For this purpose, he submitted the following views and proposals: First, the Chinese Government would continue to support AALCO in providing a forum for its Member States to exchange views and consult with each other on major issues of international law so as to achieve common understanding on issues of their common concern. Secondly, the Chinese Delegation hoped that AALCO would continue to follow closely the latest development of international law, with the aim of providing more valuable advice to its Member States on new issues and new trends through submitting research papers and reports. Thirdly, he expressed the

Chinese Government's willingness to support AALCO in strengthening and expanding cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant bodies so as to make its contribution to the enhancement of the role of the U.N. in maintaining world peace and security and in promoting common development. Fourthly, the Chinese Delegation hoped that AALCO would continue to organize seminars or workshops for the training of officials from its Member States. He also said that the Chinese Government encouraged more Asian and African countries to join the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization with a view to broadening the influence of AALCO. He also expressed the Chinese Government appreciation for efforts of the Secretariat to improve its working efficiency and effectiveness.

16. The Leader of the Delegation said that no matter how the international situation changed, the Bandung Spirit would always be the lodestar guiding Asian and African countries forward, as its core principles of Unity, Friendship and Cooperation were the shared aspirations of the people of all the Asian and African countries. The Chinese Government highly appreciated the achievements scored by AALCO, and would continue to support the Organization and participate actively in its activities with the aim of further strengthening the role of AALCO in international affairs.

17. He said that on the grand occasion of celebration of the 50th anniversary of AALCO and the inauguration of the new building of its headquarters, the Chinese Delegation would like to express its warm congratulations for this big event. The Chinese Delegation also extended their thanks to the Indian Government for her generous support rendered in the construction of the new building. To convey their congratulations for the Chinese Delegation announced that the Chinese Government would present AALCO with a beautiful gift. It would be a piece of handmade silk tapestry with 4 meters in

length and 2 meters in width and with the design of the Great Wall on its background. He said that the Secretary-General has decided to display the tapestry in the front hall of the new building of the Headquarters. Since it was in the process of being made the Chinese Delegation has brought with it a replica of the tapestry, which was in half size of the tapestry. The Chinese Delegation hoped that the gift, filled with deep affection and friendship of the Chinese Government and the Chinese People, could add more beauty and brightness to the new building of the Headquarters of AALCO.

The Meeting was thereafter adjourned.