

**(iv) Matter Concerning the Headquarters of the  
AALCC**

The Asian Legal Consultative Committee, as it was originally called, was constituted on 15th November 1956. The Committee was renamed as the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee with effect from 19th April, 1958 to include participation of countries from the African continent. At the Sixth Session of the Committee held in Cairo in 1964, the Committee by its resolution VI(10) adopted a set of articles regarding its privileges and immunities as well as the privileges and immunities of the delegates and observers to its sessions and the officials of the Secretariat. Pursuant to that resolution an Agreement was concluded between the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and the Government of India in September 1966. The Committee was initially constituted for a period of five years and thereafter its term was extended for successive five year periods on four subsequent occasions.

A Special Committee of Liaison Officers in its report in 1980, recommended that the Committee should function on a permanent basis. In order to facilitate its effective functioning, the following steps were identified:

- (i) Review of the Committee's financial structure and the pattern of financing;
- (ii) Complete revision of the Statutes and Statutory Rules in order to bring them in conformity with the present structural position and its activities;
- (iii) Conclusion of a Headquarters Agreement with the host Government;
- (iv) Amendment of the Articles on the Privileges and Immunities of the Committee;
- (v) Acquisition of premises for the Committee's Secretariat and
- (vi) Review of the Staff structure and conditions of the service including retiral benefits for local personnel employed in the Secretariat.

The report of the Special Committee of Liaison Officers was submitted to member Governments in October 1980 for their comments and thereafter



it was taken up at the Committee's Colombo Session held in May 1981. There being no objection by any Member Country it was decided to place the Committee on a permanent footing.

At its Bangkok Session held in January 1987, the Committee adopted the revised statutes. A new Secretary General was elected during the Singapore session held in 1988. At the Nairobi Session (1989) the Committee adopted the revised statutory rules which came into force with effect from 1st May, 1989.

At the Beijing Session (1990) the Committee adopted the Administrative Staff and Financing Regulations which came into force on 17th March 1990.

Since, then the item on 'Headquarters Agreement' has regularly been on the Agenda of the AALCC Annual Sessions. Exhaustive consultations were held between the Secretary General of the AALCC and the Officials of the Government of India. While negotiating the issue of providing premises for the AALCC Secretariat, the Indian Government promised to offer a plot of land for the building, free of cost in the post diplomatic area of New Delhi.

During the thirty first session of the Committee held in Islamabad in 1992, the Heads of Delegations constituted a Working Group comprising of China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Uganda to examine the outstanding issues concerning the proposed Headquarters Agreement between the Government of India and the AALCC. The Secretary General was designated as the convenor.

The Working Group held exhaustive discussion on the matter and examined in detail the possible course of action which the Committee would take to finalise the matter of the Headquarters Agreement including the issue of the premises. The Indian representative confirmed his Government's offer of a plot of land at no cost to the Committee in the prestigious diplomatic area in New Delhi measuring about (0.40) acres. The cost of the land which was yet to be determined, would be set-off against India's contribution to the cost of construction of the building which would have to be borne by all AALCC Member States. The terms and conditions of the offer of the plot were to be specified later and communicated in writing to the Secretary General. In the view of the Indian representative this was the most favourable offer that his Government could make and while they were privileged to have hosted the Committee for the last 35 years, they would not stand in the way of any other member State willing to make a better offer.

At the Thirty-Second Session held in Kampala (1993) an important development took place, concerning the relocation of the Headquarters of

the Committee. The Government of the State of Qatar made a generous offer to host the AALCC Headquarters at Doha on very flexible and attractive terms.

They offered to provide certain facilities such as necessary land for the headquarters building, adequate interest-free loan to finance its construction and full diplomatic privileges and immunities to the Secretary General and other eligible staff in accordance with international law and the Vienna Convention. The Committee in its decision adopted at that Session thanked the Government of Qatar for its generous offer to host the headquarters of the AALCC, and accepted the offer as reflected in the Resolution. Rich tributes were paid to the Government of India for hosting the AALCC for thirty-seven long years and for all the cooperation extended to the Organisation in discharging its functions as an intergovernmental organisation. The Delegate of India reiterated his Government's commitment to host the headquarters of the Committee. In view of the new offer made by the Government of Qatar, the Indian Government would appreciate Qatar's offer in writing to facilitate its full examination and to review its own offer.

After deliberations on the subject during which most delegations expressed their views, on various aspects concerning the relocation of the headquarters and its implications including additional financial obligations of the Member States, the President ruled that the Government of India would be given one month to consider whether they wished to improve upon their offer and communicate the same to the President. If their offer was comparable to that of the Qatar Government's offer then at his discretion, an intersessional meeting would be held at the Ambassadorial level in New Delhi under his chairmanship. Otherwise he would proceed to implement the decision as reflected in the resolution the text of which has been reproduced herewith.

Subsequent to Kampala Session the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India informed the Secretary General in a letter dated 19th February 1993 that the Indian Government had decided to withdraw its offer in support of the proposal made by the Government of Qatar.

**RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE  
HEADQUARTERS OF AALCC FROM INDIA TO QATAR  
ADOPTED AT THE SIXTH PLENARY MEETING HELD ON 4TH  
FEBRUARY, 1993.**

**The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee**

**Recalling its resolution dated 1st February 1992 adopted at the Thirty**



First session in Islamabad, Pakistan regarding Headquarters Agreement;

**Having considered** a report by the Secretary-General contained in document No. AALCC/XXXII/Kampala/93/20;

**Noting** the historic role of the Government of India as one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement;

**Noting** with appreciation the contribution of the Government of India to the spirit and aspirations of the Non-Aligned Movement by hosting AALCC since its foundation;

**Noting** with satisfaction that the unfailing back-up of the Indian Government to the AALCC's activities has helped it to flourish and expand on both regional and international levels, and thus to contribute in sharing International Law developments and its condification;

**Noting** with great Satisfaction the Indian representative's assurance that the Indian Government will continue its full-fledged commitment to AALCC's principles, purposes and activities;

**Decides:**

1. To express its deep appreciation and esteem to the Government of India for the tremendous efforts and sincere support rendered to the AALCC for more than three decades during which the AALCC was based in New Delhi.
2. To express its thanks to the Government of the State of Qatar for its generous offer to host the Headquarters of the AALCC in Doha which it accepts, unless the Indian Government would make a better offer in one month after the conclusion of the Thirty-Second Session of the AALCC, in which case the President would hold an Inter-sessional Meeting at Ambassadorial level in New Delhi.
3. To request the Secretary-General of the AALCC and the President of the Thirty-Second Session to hold consultations with the Government of Qatar to consider and finalise the relevant details as soon as possible.
4. To request the Secretary General to report on this matter, at the earliest possible convenience, to the Liaison Officers in New Delhi.
5. To request the Secretary-General to report also on the financial implications involved in the moving of the Headquarters and the necessary staff from New Delhi to Doha; and
6. To report on the progress in the implementation of this decision to the Thirty-Third Session of the AALCC.

## II. United Nations Decade of International Law

### (i) Introduction

The item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law" was inscribed on the agenda of the Twenty-ninth Session Committee held in Beijing in March 1990 in accordance with Article 4(d) of the Statutes of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee. At that Session the Committee considered a preliminary note submitted by the Secretary-General. The Note *inter alia* pointed out that the U.N. General Assembly at its Forty-fourth Session declared the Decade of the Nineties as the United Nations Decade of International Law and that the main purposes of the Decade should be:

- (i) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;
- (ii) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;
- (iii) To encourage the progressive development and codification of international law;
- (iv) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

In order to gather specific proposals for the programme for the Decade and the appropriate action to be taken the Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested to seek the views of member States, appropriate international bodies and non-governmental organizations and to submit a report thereon to the Forty-fifth Session of the General Assembly. In the light of the proposals received a Working Group of the Sixth Committee in



the course of the Forty-fifth Session of the General Assembly was to be charged with the preparation of a generally agreeable programme for the United Nations Decade of International Law.

As an inter-governmental organization the AALCC had been invited to submit views on the programme for the Decade and an appropriate action to be taken on programme for the Decade including the possibility of holding a third international peace conference or other suitable international peace conference at the end of the Decade. The AALCC whose very *raison d'être* is the progressive development and codification of international law addressed itself to and responded to the substance of the General Assembly Resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989. That Note of Twenty-ninth Session spelt out the role which the AALCC could play during the decennium in respect of the four elements which the General Assembly had identified. The main points of the Note, it had been proposed, could form the basis of the Secretariat's formal reply to the United Nations Secretary-General. The Committee was also requested to consider the preliminary enterprise with a view to mandating the Secretariat with the preparation of a comprehensive brief on the appropriate action to be taken during the United Nations Decade on International Law.

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee (1990) after a preliminary exchange of views, mandated the preparation of a comprehensive study on the UN Decade of International Law. In fulfillment of that mandate the AALCC Secretariat took some initiatives to update the study. It expressed the view that a further exchange of views both in the proposed Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly at its Forty-fifth Session and at the subsequent Session of the AALCC could contribute useful inputs to the Secretariat's study. Subsequently, the Secretariat after the Twenty-ninth Session prepared and forwarded to the office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations its observations and views on the Decade which were reproduced in the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the item "United Nations Decade of International Law" (A/45/430 of 12 September 1990)

During the Forty-fifth Session the Sixth Committee established a Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law to prepare generally acceptable recommendations for the Decade. At that Session the General Assembly while adopting the programme of activities during the first term (1990-1992) of the Decade, requested the Working Group to continue its work at the Forty-Sixth Session in accordance with its mandate and method of work.

Subsequently with a view to inviting further comments and observations

from Member States the Secretariat prepared a paper for the Thirtieth Session of the AALCC held in Cairo (1991) where it furnished an overview of the opinions expressed during the Twenty-ninth Session (1990) and enumerated the initiatives which the Secretariat had undertaken in fulfillment of its mandate on the subject. That paper also included the observations and views which the Secretariat had prepared and forwarded to the Office of the Legal Counsel and the Draft Programme of activities to be commenced during the first term (1990-1992) of the United Nations Decade of International Law as prepared by the Sixth Committee's Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law and submitted to the Forty-fifth Session of the General Assembly.

The AALCC during its Thirtieth Session held in Cairo (1991) decided that the item should be given serious attention, and therefore, placed the item on the agenda of the meeting of the Legal Advisers of Member States of the Committee to be convened at the U.N. Headquarters in New York during the Forty-sixth Session of the General Assembly and on its Thirty-first Session agenda.

In the course of the meeting of the Legal Advisers of Member States of the AALCC a view was expressed that the 'Decade' could greatly contribute to the enhancement of the rule of law in inter-state relations. It was felt that the United Nations Declaration on the Decade of International Law had underscored the fact that the international community had, in recent years, rendered added importance to both international law and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It was emphasized that the international community needed to take necessary steps to strengthen the role of the World Court. Pointing out that discussions on the role of the ICJ generally emphasized only its adjudicative role and overlooked the other roles it could perform, it was stated that the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice were a very significant aspect of the role of the Court.

It was proposed that during the UN Decade of International Law the AALCC and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly could take up progressive development and codification of such aspects of international law as (1) State Responsibility; (2) the Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind; and (3) the Legal Effects of the Resolutions of the General Assembly.

The subject of the 'Decade' was subsequently discussed at the Thirty-first Session of the Committee held in Islamabad (1992). Introducing the item at that Session the Assistant Secretary-General *inter alia* stated that the brief prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee endeavoured to furnish an overview of the numerous activities of the Committee since the



matter was last discussed, at the Committee's Thirtieth Session with a view to preparing comments for transmission to the Office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations. In May 1992 the Secretariat of the Committee transmitted to the Legal Counsel of the United Nations a report on the activities of the Committee relating to the objectives of the Decade and observations on the United Nations Decade of International Law. That report has been reproduced herewith as the "Secretariat Study".

After due deliberations the Committee at its Thirty-first Session resolved that the item should be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Legal Advisers of Member States of the Committee during the Forty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Committee further directed the Secretariat to continue its efforts towards the success of the United Nations Decade of International Law and decided to place this item on the agenda of its Thirty-second Session.

### Thirty-second Session: Discussions

At the Thirty second Session held in Kampala in 1993 the Assistant Secretary-General Prof. Huang Huikang while introducing the item 'UN Decade of International Law' stated that the item had been on the agenda of the Committee since the twenty-ninth session held in Beijing and had been considered at successive Sessions. He stated that the General Assembly Resolution 46/53 had invited all international organisations to provide information on the activities that they had undertaken in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade. The AALCC Secretariat had accordingly furnished to the office of the UN Secretary-General some notes and observations. The documentation prepared by the Secretariat of the AALCC (Doc. No. XXXII/Kampala/93/2 and 2A) reflected the work of the Secretariat since the Islamabad Session (1992).

During the discussions, the *Delegate of the People's Republic of China* stated that his government supported the UN Decade of International Law and had participated in the organisation of the activities of its first term. During the first term programme of activities of the Decade, his government had organised an International Seminar on Developing Countries and International Environmental Law in 1991 and a Symposium on Third World Countries and International Law in 1992. During the same period, the Chinese Society of International Law had organised an International Seminar on the Teaching, Study and Wider Dissemination of International Law. His government shared the desire of the majority of members of the international society to strengthen the role of the ICJ in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The *Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran* expressed the view that the proclamation of the decade of nineties as the UN Decade of International Law was a timely initiative. In the view of his delegation it was imperative that all members of the AALCC upheld the primacy of the rule of law in inter-State relations. He called upon the members of the Committee to endeavour towards the objectives of the Decade so as to facilitate the implementation of the programme of activities.

Referring to the programme of activities, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, for the second biennium of the UN Decade he pointed out that it called upon States to act in accordance with international law and particularly with the charter of the United Nations. He stated that international and regional organisations should be encouraged to promote the acceptance of and respect for principles of international law. Referring to his Government's proposal to the Sixth Committee to convene a week long congress on public international law, he stated that the same had been mooted to seek inputs from external sources. He observed that the proposed congress, if held, would provide a unique opportunity to the AALCC to publicise its activities.

The *Delegate of Japan* stated that the significance of the objectives of the Decade could not be overemphasized. It was essential to observe the principles of international law in order to establish a peaceful international community. He said that his government had undertaken several activities for promotion of the understanding of international law and for developing public acceptance of the UN Charter.

Referring to the means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes enumerated in the programme of the second term of the Decade, he stressed the significance of strengthening the role of the ICJ. His government, he said, encouraged all members States to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the World Court with a view to facilitating the rule of law in international society. His government proposed to contribute an additional sum of US \$25,000 to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes through ICJ.

The *Delegate of the Republic of Korea* said that his government had supported the programme of activities during the first term of the Decade and had undertaken the task of promoting its objectives. His delegations reaffirmed its commitment to the principles and norms of international law which represent central pillars of contemporary international relations. He expressed the hope that the AALCC would continue to make positive contributions to the progressive development and codification of international



law by strengthening bonds with such international legal institutions as the ILC and the Hague Academy of International Law.

The *Delegate of the Arab Republic of Egypt* expressed the view that one of the means of realising the objectives of the Decade was to ensure support for the idea of formulating a Convention on peaceful settlement of Disputes. He pointed out that despite its vital importance for the stability of international relations the issue of peaceful settlement of disputes was treated only as a declaratory legal disposition. In the view of his delegation there was need to negotiate specific legal obligations on peaceful settlement of disputes and to define adequate interim measures for their containment as well as to establish effective mechanisms for the settlement of disputes through negotiations.

The *Delegate of India* stated that his delegation supported the objective of the UN Decade of International Law and would contribute to the activities during its second term. He emphasized the significance of peaceful settlement of disputes in contemporary international relations.

The *Delegate of Libya* was of the view that some of the objectives of the Decade required in-depth consideration by the developing countries — particularly that of observance of international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The *Delegate of Tanzania* addressed himself to the question as to what could be done to promote attainment of the objectives of the Decade by the developing states members of the AALCC. He stated in this regard that during the Decade member states could ratify various International Conventions. Calling for a period of more action rather than rhetoric he said that where national domestic legislation was required to give effect to multilateral instruments, endeavours should be made to enact such legislations.

In his view stock was required to be taken to ensure that human rights are respected. While preparing for the proposed Third Peace Conference, third world countries must avail themselves of the opportunity which they did not have at the second Peace conference. The developing countries had the ability to influence the world order by making tangible contribution to international law principles as they had in the recent times in such cases as treatment of refugees, the law of the sea etc.

The Representative of UNCITRAL stated that the General Assembly in declaring the nineties as the UN Decade of International Law had considered international trade law as an integral part of international law. He said that his organization had made its contribution to strengthen the rule of law in

the international society. The UNCITRAL congress under the theme "International Trade Law in the 21st Century" (New York, 18-22 May 1992), provided a conceptual underpinning for further work in the area of international trade law. The congress placed particular emphasis on the need for the United Nations to provide technical assistance to developing states in implementing modern and harmonized trade laws and to the need for the United Nations to assist developing states in improving the quality of teaching of international trade law. Besides, the UNCITRAL had also organised a number of seminars on international trade law both in Africa and Asia. He proposed that the decision of the Committee on the item should recognise the significance of international trade law.

The *Delegate of Cyprus* said that the proposed draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind should clearly define crimes such as aggression, ethnic cleansing, demographic alteration and illegal transfer of populations. His delegation favoured vesting the proposed International Criminal Court with compulsory jurisdiction. The establishment of an International Criminal Court with compulsory jurisdiction would, in his view, reflect the Will of the community for a uniform application of international law.

The *Delegate of Kenya* while supporting the objectives of the Decade said that some recent events reflected a lack of commitment on the part of certain States to act in accordance with the principles of international law. He said that developing countries were often victims of opportunistic interpretation and application of international law.

The *Delegate of Iraq* said that the issue that required consideration was that of double standards adopted by the Security Council. Referring to violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and Protocol I thereto resulting in acts of aggression and violation of State sovereignty, he said that jurists were obliged to stop the use of force.

The *Delegate of Syria* expressed the hope that during the Decade of International Law the principles and rules relating to international rivers would be progressively developed and codified.

The *Representative of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)* said that during the Decade of International Law developing countries needed to look into the existing principles of law and institutions and consider whether these subserve the common interests of all States.



(ii) **Decision on the United Nations Decade of  
International Law**

Adopted on 5.2.1993

**The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee**

*Having taken note* of the Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of International Law contained in Doc. No. AALCCXXXII/93\2 and *having considered* the Report of the meeting of the Legal Advisers of the Member States on the United Nations Decade of International Law convened during the Forty-sixth Session of the United General Assembly;

*Reaffirms* the importance of strict adherence to the principles of International Law as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

*Reiterates* that many of the political, economic and social problems which riddle the member states of the International Society can be resolved on the basis of the law;

*Welcomes* the various initiatives taken by Member States of the Committee in the implementation and observance of the Decade;

*Requests* Member States to continue to give serious attention to the observance and implementation of the Decade;

*Requests* the Secretary-General to apprise the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the initiatives taken by the Committee in this regard;

*Decides* that the item be given serious attention and steps be taken to place the same on the agenda of the Meeting of the Legal Advisers of Member States of the Committee to be convened at the UN Office in New

York during the Forty-eighth Session of the General Assembly;

*Accepts* the offer of the Government of Qatar to host an International Seminar under the auspices of the AALCC on the implementation of the principles of the new international law within the new international order;

*Directs* the Secretariat to continue its efforts towards the realisation of the objectives of the U.N. Decade of International Law; and

*Decides* to place the item the "U.N. Decade of International Law" on the agenda of its Thirty-third Session.

### **(iii) Secretariat Study: The United Nations Decade of International Law**

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly Resolution 46/53 of 9 January 1992, entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law" whereby the Assembly invited all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to provide, update or supplement information on activities they have undertaken in implementation of the programme to the Secretary General, as well as to submit their views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade.

#### **Role of the AALCC**

Following upon the adoption of the United Nations Decade of International Law the Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee has held consultations with the Legal Advisers of Member States of the Committee at each successive sessions of the General Assembly. The informal exchange of views that the Legal Advisers held coupled with intensive debate on some selected issues has further underscored the unique character of this organization who is constantly working to promote the progressive development and codification of international law.

#### **Promotion of the Acceptance of and Respect for the Principles of International Law**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee has continued to urge Member States which have not already done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to multilateral conventions. The AALCC Secretariat is of the view



that since negotiations in multilateral treaty-making process are a longdrawn affair the instruments emanating from the process which often codify international law ought to be ratified as early as possible to bring law making conventions into force. This would ensure that the time, energy and labour as well as other resources invested in its adoption are not wasted. In this regard one may refer to such conventions as the Law of Sea Convention 1982, adopted by UNCLOS III, and such other treaties and conventions whose draft articles are drawn up by the International Law Commission over a period of years with the collaboration of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The AALCC organised a Workshop jointly with the Office of the UNHCR; to commemorate twenty-five years of AALCC and UNHCR relationship; entitled "International Refugee and Humanitarian Law in the Asian-African Region" in New Delhi in October 1991. The aim of the Workshop was to enhance the awareness of the government authorities in the region concerning the comprehensive character of the international instruments concerning refugees and in particular to promote the ratification of or accession to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees amongst the member States.

It should also be pointed out that in so far as the objective of acceptance of and respect for international law is concerned the AALCC Secretariat was among the first to endorse and urge ratification of or accession to both the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal as well as the Bamako Convention on Ban of Import Into Africa and the Control of Movement of Hazardous Wastes within Africa by its member States.

It should be noted that in many jurisdictions, while a State may have ratified or acceded to a treaty, in the absence of a national, enabling, legislation the provisions of the international instrument can only be cited out but cannot be invoked before the courts of that State. In promoting "acceptance of respect for the principles of international law" efforts have been made to ensure that such principles are effective and legally binding within the Member States. Thus, the Workshop on "International Refugee and Humanitarian Law" organized by the Secretariat of the AALCC and the UNHCR in New Delhi *inter alia* recommended that the Secretariat of the AALCC consider the possibility of preparation of a draft model legislation which could serve as guideline for the enactment of national/municipal laws relating to refugees. The AALCC is currently working on such a draft model legislation on refugee law which will, hopefully, be of use to the member states in formulating their national legislation on the subject in

implementing the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol and other relevant regional instruments on refugees.

### **Promotion of the means and methods for peaceful settlement of Disputes between States including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice**

The AALCC is of the view that peaceful settlement of disputes is one of the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations. This principle has since been reiterated in such instruments as the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1970; the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, 1982; and the Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Principles Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations, 1986. In the changing political climate the World Court has come to assume significance and importance hitherto unwitnessed and the time to come could well witness a universal, virtually unqualified acceptance of the role that the World Court can play in the pacific settlement of disputes.

A meeting of the Legal Advisers of the Member States of the AALCC organized in November 1991 *inter alia* considered the question of peaceful settlement of disputes. The President of the International Court of Justice, Sir Robert Jennings addressed the above meeting. Sir Robert Jennings prefaced his address with the remark that he found the renewed support for the Court in the General Assembly most gratifying and encouraging. He also emphasized the importance of advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice as an instrument of preventive diplomacy.

It may be recalled that a brief on the 'Role of the International Court of Justice' prepared by the Secretariat of the AALCC was circulated as a document of the Fortieth session of the General Assembly (A/40/680 ANNEX). The Secretariat now proposes to undertake a further study of the enhanced Role of the International Court of Justice in matters relating to the protection and preservation of the environment.

The Secretary-General of the AALCC participated in the working group of jurists convened by the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague in May 1991. The members of that Working Group were of the view that the Permanent Court of Arbitration should enter into co-operation agreements with other existing arbitration institutions such as the AALCC whose Arbitration Centres in Kuala Lumpur, Cairo and Lagos, could provide their facilities to the Court if it was decided to hold