



**AALCO/ RES/52/S 2
12 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**THE LAW OF THE SEA
(Deliberated)**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization at its Fifty-Second Session,

Considering the Secretariat Document No.AALCO/52/HEADQUARTERS (NEW DELHI) / 2011/S 2;

Noting with appreciation the introductory remarks of the Deputy Secretary-General;

Recognizing the universal character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) and the customary international law relating to the management of the oceans;

Noting with appreciation the world wide celebration to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the UNCLOS in 2012 and the important initiatives adopted thereafter, including UNGA Resolutions 66/288 entitled “The Future We Want” and 67/78 entitled “Ocean and Law of the Sea”, and the Oceans Compact initiative of the UN Secretary General, as noted in the UN GA Resolution 67/78.

Also noting with appreciation the convening and outcome of the successful “Legal Experts Meeting to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of UNCLOS” jointly organized by the AALCO Secretariat and the Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, held at the AALCO Headquarters on 5th March 2013;

Mindful of the historical contribution made by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization in the elaboration of the UNCLOS;

Conscious that the AALCO has been regularly following the implementation of the UNCLOS and its implementing agreements;

Hopeful that in view of the importance of the law of the sea issues, AALCO would maintain its consideration on the agenda item and continue to perform its historical role on the law of the sea matters;

Reiterating the importance of the need to combat piracy at the regional and international level taking into consideration AALCO Resolution AALCO/RES/51/SP 2 of 22 June 2012

Taking note of the deliberations at the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process established by the United Nations General Assembly to facilitate annual review of the developments in ocean affairs;

Welcoming the active role being played by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in the peaceful settlement of disputes with regard to ocean related matters:

1. **Reaffirms** that in accordance with the UNCLOS, the “Area” and its resources are the common heritage of mankind.
2. **Requests** AALCO Member States not yet parties to the UNCLOS and its implementing instruments to consider the possibility of ratifying or acceding thereto as early as possible giving due respect to their national interests and positions. .
3. **Urges** the full and effective participation of its Member States, which are parties to the UNCLOS, in the work of the International Seabed Authority, and other related bodies established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as in the United Nations Informal Consultative Process and also through effective contribution to the work of the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf, so as to ensure and safeguard their legitimate interests.
4. **Requests** the Secretariat of AALCO to assist the capacity building of Member States within the field of law of the sea through varied ways such as joint training programmes with States and inter-governmental organizations, and calls upon its Member States to offer all possible support and assistance.
5. **Decides** to place this item on the provisional agenda of the Fifty-Third Annual Session.

To the above Resolution, the delegation of The Republic of Turkey made the following Reservation:

"The Republic of Turkey dissociates itself from the references made in this Resolution to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982. Approval of this Resolution cannot be construed as a change in the legal position of Turkey with respect to the said Convention."