# ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (AALCO)





INFORMATION BROCHURE

# Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

#### **Member States**

The membership of AALCO reflects the Organization's unique character as the only intergovernmental forum jointly representing Asia and Africa in the field of international law. Today, AALCO brings together 49 Member States - comprising 32 Asian States and 17 African States - along with 2 Permanent Observers (Australia and New Zealand).

This diverse membership embodies the Bandung Spirit of 1955, rooted in solidarity, equality, and cooperation between the two continents. It ensures that the perspectives of nearly half of humanity are represented in discussions on international law and that the legal concerns of developing countries are articulated at the multilateral level.

Membership of AALCO is open to all Asian and African States that accept its Statutes and Statutory Rules, with applications considered collectively by Member States. The steady growth of membership, including the most recent accessions of Burkina Faso and Djibouti in 2024, demonstrates the Organization's continued relevance as a trusted platform for legal consultation, dialogue, and cooperation.

#### Asia (32 States)

- South Asia: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan
- Southeast Asia: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
- East Asia: China, Japan, DPR Korea, Republic of Korea, Mongolia
- West Asia (Middle East): Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, Yemen
- Others: Cyprus, Palestine

#### Africa (17 States)

- Northern Africa: Egypt, Libya, Sudan
- West Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone
- East Africa: Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda
- Indian Ocean Islands: Mauritius

Permanent Observers: Australia, New Zealand

The steady growth of membership demonstrates the continued relevance of AALCO as the only intergovernmental forum uniting Asia and Africa on matters of international law.

#### **Milestones of AALCO**

**1955**: Bandung Conference- foundation of Asia-Africa legal cooperation.

**1956**: Establishment of the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC).

1957: First Session inaugurated by Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, New Delhi.

1958: Inclusion of Africa; renamed Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC).

**1966**: Adoption of the Bangkok Principles on Refugees.

**1980:** Granted Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations.

**1981**: Granted Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations.

**2000**: Signing of the Headquarters Agreement with the Government of India.

**2001**: Renamed the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

2006: Golden Jubilee and inauguration of the Permanent Headquarters, New Delhi.

**2009:** Putrajaya Declaration- reaffirming solidarity and harmonization of laws and practices.

**2024**: Krungthep Declaration-reaffirming the Bandung Spirit and AALCO's unique role in shaping contemporary international law.

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Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol Secretary-General

# Message

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) stands as a living testament to the enduring spirit of cooperation and legal solidarity that emanated from the historic Bandung Conference of 1955. Born of the vision of Asian and African leaders who charted a path of independence, non-alignment, and mutual cooperation, AALCO represents one of the most significant institutional legacies of that transformative post-colonial moment.

From its modest beginning in 1956 as the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC) - established by seven founding nations including Burma (Myanmar), Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, and the United Arab Republic - the Organization has evolved into a dynamic intergovernmental body that today brings together 49 Member States across Asia and Africa. This expansion reflects not only numerical growth but also the deep recognition of AALCO's unique role as the principal legal advisory forum of the developing world.

The Organization's name change in 1958 to include Africa, and its further transformation in 2001 into the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, symbolize its unwavering commitment to genuine Asia-Africa partnership - representing more than half of humanity. With Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations, AALCO has matured into a respected voice in shaping contemporary international law.

In the 21st century, AALCO continues to provide an indispensable forum for articulating the collective voice of its Member States on matters of international law. Its work spans across diverse areas including: the progressive development and codification of international law, trade and investment, the law of the sea, refugee protection, environmental sustainability, cyber and emerging technologies, and the peaceful settlement of disputes through arbitration and mediation.

Through its Annual Sessions, specialized seminars, capacity-building initiatives, and its Regional Arbitration Centres, AALCO strengthens the rule of law while ensuring that the diverse legal traditions and perspectives of Asia and Africa are effectively represented in the international legal order.

Guided by the enduring Bandung Spirit - friendship, solidarity, mutual respect, and the pursuit of a just and equitable international order - AALCO remains steadfast in its mission. As the Organization approaches its 70th Anniversary in 2026, it stands ready to confront new challenges and seize emerging opportunities, while upholding the founding principles that have sustained it for nearly seven decades.

Thank you!

(Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol)

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Historical Background**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) traces its origins to the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC), constituted on 15 November 1956 as a tangible outcome of the historic Bandung Conference of 1955 in Indonesia. The ALCC was founded by the Governments of Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, and the United Arab Republic (now Egypt).

Advisory in nature, the ALCC brought together legal experts from Member States to deliberate on issues of international law and to facilitate the exchange of views and information on matters of common concern.

In 1958, the Statutes were amended to include African participation, and the Committee was accordingly renamed the Asian–African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC). Initially constituted as a non-permanent body with a five-year mandate, the Committee's term was extended on several occasions until 1981, when, at its Colombo Session, Member States resolved to place it on a permanent footing. This landmark



Bandung Conference in action



Silver Jubilee Celebrations of 1955 Bandung Conference and the 21 session of AALCO (Jakarta, 1980)

decision led to the adoption of revised Statutes (1987) and Statutory Rules (1989).

The Asian–African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) was originally established as a non-permanent body with a mandate of five years. Its term was subsequently renewed on four occasions until, at the Colombo Session in 1981, Member States resolved to place the Committee on a permanent footing. This landmark decision required a comprehensive revision of the foundational instruments, leading to the adoption of the revised Statutes in 1987 and the Statutory Rules in 1989. Reflecting the Committee's growing stature and enhanced role in international law, the Fortieth Session in New Delhi (2001) formally approved the change of name to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

#### **Functions and Purposes**

The functions and purposes of AALCO, as set out in its Statutes, are to:

- Serve as an advisory body to its Member States in the field of international law and as a forum for Asian-African cooperation on legal matters of common concern;
- Deliberate on issues of international law referred by Member States, and make recommendations to governments where appropriate.
- Facilitate the exchange of views, experiences, and information on legal matters of mutual interest, and issue recommendations when deemed necessary
- Communicate the views of the Organization with the consent of Member States to the United Nations, the International Law Commission, and other international or regional bodies.
- Examine subjects under consideration by the International Law Commission (ILC), convey the views of Member States to the ILC, and consider ILC reports with a view to making recommendations to Member States.
- Undertake activities requested by Member States that contribute to the fulfillment of the Organization's mandate, including studies, capacity-building, and cooperative initiatives.

# **Current Work Programme**

Matters are placed on the Work Programme of AALCO in three ways:

- By reference from a Member State;
- Through the suo motu initiative of the Secretary-General; or
- As part of follow-up to the work of the International Law Commission (ILC).

To fulfill its mandate, the Secretariat prepares studies on topics of relevance to Member States, either referred by them or identified as priority issues in the field of international law. These studies often form the background material for deliberations at the Annual Sessions, assisting Member States in addressing pressing international legal challenges.

Following such deliberations, resolutions are adopted by Member States at the Annual Sessions. These resolutions provide policy guidance and direction for the Secretariat in implementing the Work Programme and advancing the objectives of the Organization.

The current work programme of AALCO reflects the priorities of its Member States and addresses pressing issues of contemporary international law. Guided by decisions of the Annual Sessions and the evolving global legal agenda, AALCO's substantive work covers the following topics:

- Work of the International Law Commission
- The Law of the Sea
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection
- The Status and Treatment of Refugee
- Violations of International Law in Palestine and Other Occupied Territories by Israel and Other International Legal Issues related to the Question of Palestine
- Legal Protection of Migrant Workers
- Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties
- Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Legal Aspects)
- Establishing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Women and Children
- The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments
- An Effective International Legal Instrument Against Corruption
- International Law in Cyberspace
- The Work of UNCITRAL and Other International Organizations in the Field of International Trade Law
- The WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for World Trade
- Managing Global Financial Crises: Sharing of Experience
- Human Rights in Islam
- Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
- Asset Recovery Expert Forum
- Legal Issues in Outer Space

# **Membership**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) currently comprises fortynine Member States from Asia and Africa. Membership is open to all Asian and African States wishing to participate in the Organization, in accordance with its Statutes and Statutory Rules.

A State seeking membership must submit a written communication to the Secretary-General, formally expressing its intention to join AALCO and confirming its acceptance of the Statutes and Statutory Rules. The request is then circulated among all Member States for their comments within a six-week period. Unless one-third of the Member States object, the applicant State is duly admitted as a Member of the Organization.

#### **Advantages of AALCO Membership**

# • Forum for Afro-Asian Legal Consultation

AALCO provides a unique platform for coordinating the viewpoints of Asian and African States on important questions of international law. Its deliberations and resolutions enable Member States to present collective perspectives in multilateral fora.

# • Legal Questions of International Law

Under Article I(a) of the Statutes, any Member State may request AALCO to consider a legal question of international law of particular relevance to it. In line with Article I(e), AALCO may also, at the request or with the consent of Member States, undertake activities such as special studies, seminars, training programmes, and regional initiatives to support the fulfillment of its mandate.

# • Engagement with the International Law Commission and the United Nations

AALCO assists Member States in reviewing the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) and other UN bodies, including UNCITRAL and UNCTAD, enabling governments to articulate informed positions on issues of international law.

# Advisory Services of the Secretariat

The Secretariat provides advisory and technical support to Member States by compiling and furnishing relevant data, background materials, and legal analyses to address issues upon request.

#### **Finances**

The finances of AALCO are derived from three main sources:

- (1) Annual budget contributions from all Member States;
- (2) Voluntary contributions, including secondment of officers or provision of equipment; and
- (3) Special budget for specific purposes such as the Arabic Fund.

In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes, all Member States contribute to the annual budget, apportioned through a formula adopted at the 2009 Annual Session. Each State is assigned units based on the United Nations scale of assessed contributions, with new Members aligned to an existing State of comparable United Nations scale.

Additionally, Arabic-speaking Member States contribute to a special Arabic budget, dedicated to translation of official documents and interpretation during Annual Sessions.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

#### **Annual Sessions**

The Annual Session is the plenary organ and supreme decision-making body of AALCO. Resolutions adopted by Member States on organizational and substantive matters steer the Organization's work programme and guide its future activities. The Annual Session is also the forum that elects the Secretary-General of the Organization.



52nd Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) 9°°-13°°, September 2024, Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park, Bangkok (Thailand)

Sessions are usually hosted by a Member State on a rotational basis, with governments represented at a high political and legal level. Observers from non-Member States and international organizations also participate, reflecting the wide recognition of AALCO's role.

It has become a regular practice for members of the International Law Commission (ILC) to attend the Annual Sessions, thereby enriching deliberations with their expertise on the progressive development and codification of international law.

# **Meetings of the Liaison Officers**

Member States designate Liaison Officers, usually diplomats posted at their missions in New Delhi and preferably with legal expertise, to serve as their representatives to AALCO. Liaison Officers play a vital role in maintaining close communication between their governments and the Organization during the period between Annual Sessions.

Meetings of Liaison Officers are generally convened every two months at AALCO



Headquarters in New Delhi. These meetings provide a regular platform for Member States to exchange views, receive updates, and contribute to both the substantive and organizational work of the Organization. They also serve as a forum to follow up on Annual Session decisions, coordinate positions on matters of common interest, and facilitate the timely implementation of AALCO's Work Programme.

#### **Secretariat**

The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of AALCO. Its work includes preparing technical studies and documentation, providing advisory services to Member States, organizing training programmes and seminars, and maintaining cooperation with regional and international organizations.

The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General, elected by the Member States, and assisted by Deputy Secretaries-General seconded by Member Governments. At present, senior officials from Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran, serve in these positions. The Secretariat also comprises legal officers, administrative staff, and supporting personnel.

In addition, AALCO maintains Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations in New York and Vienna, ensuring regular engagement with the United Nations system.

# Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, elected by the Member States on a rotational basis between Asia and Africa for a renewable term of four years, serves as the Chief Executive of AALCO. The Secretary-General leads the Organization in implementing the decisions and programmes adopted at the Annual Sessions, represents the collective views of Member States before the International Law Commission (ILC), and promotes cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental organizations.



Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol

The current Secretary-General is Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol of the Kingdom of Thailand, who assumed office on 1 January 2022 as the seventh Secretary-General of AALCO.

His distinguished predecessors, Mr. B. Sen (India), Mr. Frank X. Njenga (Kenya), Mr. Tang Chengyuan (China), Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil (Egypt), Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad (Malaysia), and Prof. Dr. Kennedy Gastorn (Tanzania), each made invaluable contributions to the growth and development of the Organization.



Late B. Sen (1956-87, **I**ndia)



WafikZ.Kamil (2000-08, Egypt)



Late Frank X. Njenga (1988-94, Kenya)



Rahmat B. Mohamad (2008-16, Malaysia)



Tang Chengyuan (1994-2000,China P.R.)



Kennedy Gastorn (2016-21, Tanzania)

#### **Regional Arbitration Centers**

In the 1960s and 1970s, there were very few permanent arbitral institutions in the Asian–African region. Parties were often compelled to submit disputes to institutions located in Europe or North America, which resulted in excessive litigation expenses, high fees for counsel and experts, and reliance on procedural practices unfamiliar to developing countries. This imbalance underscored the urgent need for regional mechanisms that would be more accessible, cost-effective, and responsive to the particular requirements of Asian and African States.

It was in this context that the Thirteenth Annual Session of AALCO, held in Lagos, Nigeria in 1972, considered for the first time the establishment of Regional Arbitration Centres. The Session requested the Secretariat to conduct independent research on the practical challenges of international commercial arbitration from the perspective of Asia and Africa. This initiative laid the groundwork for AALCO's pioneering role in creating arbitration institutions firmly rooted in the needs and priorities of the region.

Since then, six Regional Arbitration Centres have been established under the auspices of AALCO:

- Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)
- Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
- Lagos (Federal Republic of Nigeria)
- Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Nairobi (Republic of Kenya)
- Hong Kong SAR (People's Republic of China)

The Host Governments accord these Centres independent status, together with privileges and immunities, to safeguard their impartial functioning. Each Centre is headed by a Director, appointed by the Host Government in consultation with the Secretary-General of AALCO. The Directors present their annual reports on the activities of their Centres at the Annual Sessions, ensuring transparency, accountability, and continued guidance from Member States.

Beyond their role in administering arbitration, the Centres also conduct training programmes, seminars, and capacity-building activities, thereby nurturing a stronger arbitration culture across Asia and Africa. Together, they represent AALCO's enduring commitment to advancing fair, efficient, and regionally rooted mechanisms for the settlement of international commercial disputes.





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#### **ACTIVITIES**

# **Annual Sessions**

The Organization meets once every year at its Annual Session, which, to the extent possible, is hosted by a Member State on a geographically rotational basis. These Sessions are attended at the highest governmental and legal levels, including Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Attorneys-General, and Solicitors-General, reflecting the importance Member States attach to AALCO's work. To date, sixty-three Annual Sessions have been convened, serving as the principal forum for deliberation, decision-making, and collective guidance on the Organization's work programme.

ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION					
Years	Sessions	Countries	Years	Sessions	Countries
1957	First	New Delhi (India)	1994	Thirty-Third	Tokyo (Japan)
1958	Second	Cairo (Egypt)	1995	Thirty-Fourth	Doha (Qatar)
1960	Third	Colombo (SriLanka)	1996	Thirty-Fifth	Manila (Philippines)
1961	Fourth	Tokyo (Japan)	1997	Thirty-Sixth	Tehran (Iran)
1962	Fifth	Rangoon (Burma)	1998	Thirty-Seventh	New Delhi (India)
1964	Sixth	Cairo (Egypt)	1999	Thirty-Eighth	Accra (Ghana)
1965	Seventh	Baghdad (Iraq)	2000	Thirty-Ninth	Cairo (Egypt)
1966	Eighth	Bangkok (Thailand)	2001	Fortieth	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1967	Ninth	New Delhi (India)	2002	Forty-First	Abuja (Nigeria)
1969	Tenth	Karachi (Pakistan)	2003	Forty-Second	Seoul (Republic of Korea)
1970	Eleventh	Accra (Ghana)	2004	Forty-Third	Bali (Indonesia)
1971	Twelfth	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	2005	Forty-Fourth	Nairobi (Kenya)
1972	Thirteenth	Lagos (Nigeria)	2006	Forty-Fifth	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1973	Fourteenth	New Delhi (India)	2007	Forty-Sixth	Cape Town (South Africa)
1974	Fifteenth	Tokyo (Japan)	2008	Forty-Seventh	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1975	Sixteenth	Tehran (Iran)	2008	Extraordinary	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1976	Seventeenth	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	2009	Forty-Eighth	Putrajaya (Malaysia)
1977	Eighteenth	Baghdad (Iraq)	2010	Forty-Ninth	Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
1978	Nineteenth	Doha (Qatar)	2011	Fiftieth	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
1979	Twentieth	Seoul (Republic of Korea)	2012	Fifty-First	Abuja (Nigeria)
1980	Twenty-First	Jakarta (Indonesia)	2013	Fifty-Second	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1981	Twenty-Second	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	2014	Fifty-Third	Tehran (Iran)
1983	Twenty-Third	Tokyo (Japan)	2015	Fifty-Fourth	Beijing (China)
1985	Twenty-Fourth	Kathmandu (Nepal)	2016	Fifty-Fifth	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1986	Twenty-Fifth	Arusha (Tanzania)	2017	Fifty-Sixth	Nairobi (Kenya)
1987	Twenty-Sixth	Bangkok (Thailand)	2018	Fifty-Seventh	Tokyo (Japan)
1988	Twenty-Seventh	Singapore	2019	Fifty-Eighth	Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
1989	Twenty-Eighth	Nairobi (Kenya)	2021	Fifty-Ninth	Hong Kong SAR (China)
1990	Twenty-Ninth	Beijing (P R of China)	2022	Sixtieth	New Delhi (HQ, India)
1991	Thirtieth	Cairo (Egypt)	2023	Sixty-First	Bali (Indonesia)
1992	Thirty-First	Islamabad (Pakistan)	2024	Sixty-Second	Bangkok (Thailand)
1993	Thirty-Second	Kampala (Uganda)	2025	Sixty-Third	Kampala (Uganda)

# **Cooperation with the United Nations**

AALCO was granted Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations in 1980. Since then, the Organization has maintained close cooperation with the United Nations, particularly in the field of international law, through the Sixth Committee, the International Law Commission (ILC), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA),



and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

AALCO and the ILC regularly participate in each other's sessions, reflecting their longstanding institutional partnership. In New York, AALCO's Permanent Observer Office to the United Nations actively engages with delegations and organizes side events during the Sixth Committee's International Law Week each year, providing a platform for Asia—Africa perspectives on matters of global concern.

#### **Conferences and Seminars**



In its endeavour to keep Member States informed of contemporary developments in international law, the AALCO Secretariat regularly organizes conferences, seminars, and webinars. These events are often convened in partnership with Member States, international organizations, and leading academic institutions, providing a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building on issues of common concern.

# **Capacity Building Initiatives**

In cooperation with its Member States, the AALCO Secretariat has launched a range of capacity-building programmes designed to strengthen legal expertise and foster cooperation among Member States. Notable initiatives include the China-AALCO Exchange and Research Programme on International Law (CAERP), the Tokyo International Law Seminar, and the AALCO Regional Conference on Preventing and Countering Terrorism: Asian-African Perspectives, organized in partnership with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These initiatives provide valuable platforms for exchange and dialogue, enabling Member States to share good practices, experiences, and knowledge, and to build stronger networks of cooperation in addressing contemporary challenges in international law.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

As a legal research organization, AALCO attaches great importance to its publications, continuously striving to enhance their content and quality. The Secretariat regularly issues two flagship publications: the Yearbook of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and the AALCO Journal of International Law(AJIL).

In addition, the Secretariat prepares the Reports and Verbatim Records of the Annual Sessions, along with Special Studies and Reports on topics of contemporary relevance in international law, including outcomes of webinars and expert dialogues convened under AALCO's auspices.

In addition to its regular reports and publications, AALCO undertakes Special Studies on matters of contemporary relevance in international law. These studies are prepared by the Secretariat at the request of, or in consultation with, Member States, and are intended to provide in-depth legal analysis and practical guidance on emerging issues of common concern.

#### **Special Studies by AALCO include:**

- Legality of Nuclear Tests (1964)
- South West Africa Cases (1967)
- Relief against Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion (1967)
- Legal Guidelines for Privatization Programme (1994)
- Essays in International Law (1976, 1981, 1986, 1996, 2001 and 2007)
- A Study on Special and Differential Treatment under WTO Agreements (2003)
  - Combating Corruption: A Legal Analysis (2005)
  - Rights and Obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption (2006)
- A Preliminary Study on the Concept of International Terrorism (2006)
- Essays on Contemporary Issues in International Law (2009)
- Blockade of Gaza (2010)
- A Study on the Statehood of Palestine under International Law (2013)
- Unilateral Secondary Sanctions: an International Law Perspective (2013)
- Marine Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdictions: An Asian African Perspective (2016)
- The Legality of Israel's Prolonged Occupation of Palestinian Territories and its Colonial Practices Therein (2017)
- The Status of Jerusalem in International Law: A legal Enquiry into the recent attempts to disrupt the status quo (2019)
- Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Unilateral Sanctions against Third Parties (2021)
- International Law and Pandemics (2021)
- Undertanding the UN Cybercrime Convention: A Legal Study for the Benefit of AALCO Member States (2025)
- The Gaza Conflict and International Law: Examining Recent Developments and Legal Analysis (2025)



AALCO Journal of International Law



Report on AALCO Webinar



AALCO Yearbook

The Organization maintains an official website http://www.aalco.int which serves as a platform for the dissemination of information on AALCO's mandate, activities, publications, and events.

#### **Cooperation with other International Organizations**

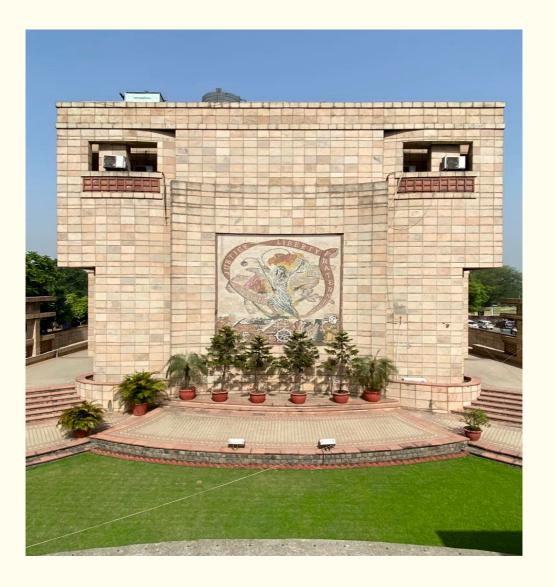
Over the years, the scope of AALCO's activities has broadened in response to the needs of its Member States and the demands of an increasingly globalized world. Its substantive work now spans diverse areas, including international trade and economic law, international humanitarian law, refugee law, and international environmental law. As the only intergovernmental organization of its kind linking the two continents of Asia and Africa, AALCO has also oriented its activities to complement the work of the United Nations in several areas. Reflecting its growing status, the UN General Assembly, at its Thirty-Fifth Session in 1980, granted AALCO Permanent Observer Status.

In addition, AALCO has built close partnerships with UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and leading academic institutions, formalized through more than 35 cooperation agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). These agreements provide for mutual consultation, exchange of documentation, reciprocal representation at meetings, and joint organization of seminars and workshops in areas of common interest.

AALCO also works in close collaboration with a wide range of organizations, thereby reinforcing its role as a bridge between Asia and Africa and as a partner in shaping the development of international law at the global level.

- African Union
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Council of Europe
- China University of Political Science and Law
- International Law Commission
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Criminal Court
- International Maritime Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- Institute of International Law of Wuhan University
- International Council of Environmental Law
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
- League of Arab States
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The Hague Conference on Private International Law
- Allameh Tabataba'l University
- United Nations Environment Programme

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- United Nations University
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- Xiamen Academy of International Law
- African Institute of International Law
- China Law Society
- International Seabed Authority
- Energy Charter Secretariat
- International Development Law Organization
- Doshisha University
- Rashtriya Raksha University
- International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
- India International Arbitration Centre



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