

PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION ON REVITALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

AALCO/RES/48/DEC

20 AUGUST 2009

1. We, the Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), have assembled at the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 17-20 August 2009, reaffirm our commitment to the Organization and recognize its significant contribution towards strengthening Asian-African solidarity, particularly in the progressive development and codification of international law.
2. We reaffirm the outcome of the Bandung Conference (1955), that despite the differences in our political, economic, or legal systems, the States of Asian-African region are inextricably linked together as an Asian-African identity.
3. We recognize that in more than five decades the world has changed vastly from the days of the Bandung Conference, yet the principles adopted by the leaders at that Conference remain valid. The ideas, goals and vision articulated then, continue to guide our Organization, in this era that offers great opportunities yet poses challenges for the developing world.
4. We recognize that international law is an indispensable instrument to shape a new world order. We acknowledge that since its establishment in 1956, the AALCO has constructively and consistently contributed in enabling the Asian-African States in developing enlightened international legal policies and positions and should play this due role in shaping a just and equitable world order.
5. We reaffirm the importance of AALCO's role in realizing an effective multilateral system in accordance with rules and principles of international law, in particular sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence.
6. We are determined to act positively and cooperate fully in order to shape our future, advocating a new system of international relations that is both democratic and representative of all – inclusive of developing countries – based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for the sovereign equality of nations.
7. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial

domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

8. We recognize that it is the responsibility of all the Member States of AALCO to work together to alleviate the financial hardship faced by the Organization.

9. We emphasize the importance of fulfilling the statutory and financial obligations by all Member States of AALCO and urge those Member States in arrears to expeditiously clear their arrears.

10. We realize the continued relevance of our Organization in the fast changing world order. We pledge ourselves to provide our Organization with all forms of support as appropriate, in particular financial, to ensure that it is revitalized and strengthened as the main centre for harmonizing the actions of Asian-African States in international legal matters, thereby enabling it to contribute effectively to realize the functions and purposes of our Organization.