

**MESSAGE OF H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. WAFIK ZAHER KAMIL,
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE
ORGANISATION (AALCO) FOR THE NAM MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY, TEHRAN, 3-4 SEPTEMBER
2007**

I am extremely happy that the Islamic Republic of Iran is hosting the Ministerial meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran in September 2007. I am highly appreciative of the Islamic Republic's proposal at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana (Cuba) in September 2006, for holding Ministerial meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, which was adopted, by Member states. I also express my sincere gratitude for extending me an invitation to participate in the Ministerial Meeting.

It is heartening to know that the objective of the NAM Ministerial meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity is to bring about further promotion of solidarity among member states, promotion of NAM role in international interaction especially with respect to the human rights and cultural diversity and to consider as a complement to the member states' activities in other developing countries related international efforts.

I totally agree with the proposition that "Cultural diversity is widely interrelated to a number of fundamental concepts including the right to self determination, respect for all, tolerance, intercultural dialogue and enrichment of universality of the human rights. Such key elements are deeply enriching and interdependent on each other". I also take this opportunity to state with great pride that AALCO is one of the tangible outcomes of the 1955 Bandung Asian-African Conference, which is a significant milestone in the development of the Non-aligned movement.

This Ministerial Meeting is of great interest of AALCO. Firstly, the host of the Conference, Islamic Republic of Iran is an important Member State of AALCO. Secondly, Many of the Members of the NAM are also Member States of AALCO. Thirdly, the topic of the Meeting "Human Rights and Cultural diversity" is of great significance for AALCO. Many of the topics related to human rights and cultural diversity finds place in the AALCO's agenda.

I am sure Meeting will result in much fruitful discussion and debate. On this happy occasion, I send my best wishes for the success of the Ministerial meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity.

Thank you.