

VI. SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SIXTH GENERAL MEETING (CONCLUDING SESSION) HELD ON 20TH JUNE 2003

The President H. E. Amb. Young-jin Choi, in the Chair.

1. **The President** thereafter proceeded to the Sixth General Meeting (concluding session) of the AALCO's 42nd Session. He firstly invited the Secretary-General Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil to deliver the proposed **Message of Thanks** to the President of the Republic of Korea.

(a) **Message of Thanks to the President of the Republic of Korea, proposed by the Secretary-General Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil on behalf of the Participants of the AALCO Session.**

“Excellency,

On behalf of the Member States and Observers to the AALCO attending the 42nd Session, I would like to deliver the following message:

“We, the participants in the 42nd Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, wish to convey our profound gratitude and appreciation to Your Excellency and through you to your esteemed Government and the people of the Republic of Korea for hosting the 42nd Annual Session of AALCO in this beautiful city of Seoul.

Excellency, the serene atmosphere, and the conducive ambience of the beautiful city of Seoul offered the congenial setting for our Meetings. Your Excellency would be pleased to hear that this Session was marked by a spirit of constructive co-operation amongst attending delegations, thus enabling us to take important decisions on substantive and organizational matters.

Apart from the task accomplished on substantive matters, the Session provided an opportunity for participants from far-flung places of Asia and Africa to acquaint themselves and partake of the rich cultural heritage of Korea. We also had a glimpse of the commendable economic and infra-structural development being ushered in Korea under your able leadership and guidance.

The rigours of hard work that attended the week-long Sessions were considerably mitigated by the excellent administrative arrangements and warm and generous hospitality extended to all of us. For this gesture, we profoundly thank Your Excellency, your esteemed Government and all the committed officials for their willing and ever available co-operation. The traditional hospitality and the natural warmth and cheerfulness of the Korean people have left an indelible impression on every one of us.

Excellency, we reiterate our thanks to you and we carry with us very fond and cherished memories of our stay in this wonderful and charming city of Seoul and we sincerely wish Korea's success in all its endeavors and its development, overcoming any

obstacle that it may confront in the achievement of its national goals. May God bless you, the Government and the People of Korea.”

That is the end of the message. On behalf of all of you, I will sign it and send it to His Excellency the President.

Thank you.”

2. **The President** thanked the Secretary-General for his gracious Message of Thanks. He then formally released the Report of the 41st session of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization’s i.e., the Report and Selected documents of the 41st Session held in Abuja (Nigeria) in July 2002.

3. **The President** then proceeded to the concluding session of the AALCO’s 42nd Session. He invited the Representative of Malaysia to deliver the vote of thanks on behalf of Asian States.

(b) Statement by the Leader of Delegation of Malaysia, Hon’ble Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, the Attorney-General of Malaysia on behalf of the Asian Member States

Mr. President, Madam Vice-President, the Hon’ble Secretary-General, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be accorded this honour to propose a vote of thanks on behalf of the Asian Countries of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization who had gathered here together with our African brothers and sisters to discuss and exchange views on matters which are of utmost importance to us.

It is indeed a special honour for my delegation and this is the first time I am personally attending this session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization in my capacity as the Attorney General of Malaysia. I believe that this important forum would enhance better cooperation between the Asian and African countries.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Asian countries, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for the generosity and warm hospitality extended to us throughout this 42nd session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. Our congratulations for the well-organized preparation of this meeting.

Mr. President, I would also like to extend our congratulations to you and the Honourable Janat B. Mukwya on being elected as the President and Vice-President respectively. Your ability in chairing the meeting speaks well of your experience and knowledge.

To H. E. Ambassador Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil we congratulate you on your re-election as Secretary-General for another term. It is an expression of great faith in your credibility and ability to steer the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to greater heights. To the Deputy Secretaries General and their staff we also applaud them for their hard work and diligence.

Mr. President, the 42nd Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization would not have been meaningful without the participation of the international organizations who through their representatives has enriched us with their experience and presentations. Lastly, I bid adieu to all delegates until we meet again in Bali, Indonesia.

Thank you.

4. **The President** then invited the Representative of Tanzania to deliver the vote of thanks on behalf of African States.

(c) Statement by the Leader of Delegation of Tanzania, Mr. Johnson P. Mwanyika on behalf of the African Members States

Your Excellency Mr. Choi Young Jin, the President of the 42nd Session of AALCO, Hon'ble Madame Janat B. Mukwaya, the Vice-President of the 42nd Session of AALCO, Amb. Dr. Wafik Z. Kamil, Secretary General to AALCO, Hon'ble Ministers, Attornies- General – Excellencies – Members of Diplomatic Corps present at this 42nd Session of AALCO, Leaders of Delegations present, Members of Delegations, Observers and other invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to address this august meeting on behalf of the African region at the close of the 42nd Session of AALCO.

We have just witnessed one of the most successful of the Organization's meetings. The session has been organized with precision, care, seriousness and hospitality of the highest standards for which no amount of literature is able to describe and no amount of thanks may sufficiently correspond to those efforts.

Mr. President, the Republic of Korea geographically is situated at the very far end of the region. Still, many people were able to attend. This is in response to the legacy of hospitality of the people of the Republic of Korea. Indeed, each one of us, members from Africa, have been elated by the every kind assistance and reception we received. At home, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea worked very close with us in order to ensure that no hitch could stand on our way to Seoul. For some of us who required visas were gratuitously issued in time together with necessary information to enable us to come to Seoul. As it were, the smooth arrangement at the airport and transit to our hotels enabled us interact with the people of South Korea to taste and experience their charming hospitality and very cordial and friendly wide open welcoming arms. May I take this opportunity to candidly request you Mr. President to extend our greetings and sincere

thanks of appreciation to all the people of the Republic of Korea. We also pay special tribute to the Task Force under the able chairmanship of Mr. Kwon Gye Hun, Director, Treaties Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for their tireless efforts to accomplish arrangements for this meeting. We also wish to recognize Ms. Seryong Ahn for her prompt responses and the AALCO Secretariat for their assistance.

The arrangements for the meeting of course demonstrated the advanced level of technology in South Korea, which we all admire. The communication system in the Conference room and that accorded to the delegates, for example, the internet facility availed to the delegates as hospitality as well as the fax communication made all of us feel at home, here at Seoul and that way it made us forget the long distances back home. You be assured that this meeting will remain to be an eye-opener to a good number of our delegations. It has thus triggered far-reaching relationship beyond AALCO. What is even more important, our special regards should go to you Mr. President for your individual discipline and of course that of your Vice-President Hon'ble Madame Janat Mukwaya, Minister for Law from the Republic of Uganda for your excellent command of discipline and ability to steer this meeting to absolute success. We salute you all. Let me record that this Meeting has in those rare occasions witnessed a lady Vice President being elected to assist the Chair. This time indeed it has proved to be immensely useful. No one of us will forget the motherly guidance Madame Vice Chair rendered yesterday, when she refused to accept the Secretary General's paternal dictatorship who wanted the delegates to walk to dinner. Worried that her delegates might get lost she directed that they should board a bus. Long live our Mothers, this Organization should live to see more of them rising to the Chair. This has not been a common phenomenon in the recent past.

The decision to restructure the running of the meetings by introducing a procedure to have a Drafting Committee, the drafting of summary of records in addition to verbatim records and to invest more time and transparency in the drafting of resolutions has greatly evolutionalised the work of the organization. It is now clear that the Organization is striving at its best to surmount its teething problems. It is envisaged that the work style of this Organization will be streamlined even further to enable it to be more focused on professional and technical matters and to be able to translate political and policy issues to legal realities. As we conclude this Forty-second Session, let us celebrate the 47th year of AALCO remembering that it is now an old organization. In Africa, at the age of 47, one is entitled and obliged to have grand children, hence this Organization can now be a grand parent. It must therefore prepare itself to excel corresponding wisdom.

Mr. President, this meeting has taken very wise decision to unanimously re-appoint Ambassador Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil Secretary-General of the Organization. The election of Ambassador Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil has brought back in office an intelligent wise, visioned and hardworking diplomat at the steering wheel of AALCO. It is our hope that Ambassador Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil will maximize his attribute and abilities to discharge his functions and steer the organization to fruition.

Mr. President, as we leave Seoul for our respective capitals, as we carry with us memories of the success of this session we have to re-enforce our sense of responsibility

to this body. We must all work together to look at Bali with a better sense of satisfaction. That will only be possible if we shall accord to the Organization the much needed unqualified support, by meeting our financial obligations, attending Organization's inter-session meetings and respond to the requests of the Secretary-General on the various matters in the resolutions of AALCO. We all appreciate that the sustenance of this Organization remains to be the sole and collective responsibility of us members.

In conclusion, let me pay tribute to the various experts who have contributed to making this meeting a success, including those who enlightened us on the various topics of Humanitarian law, which was the topic for this year's special meeting.

While we bid farewell to one another and the good memories of Seoul and the people of the Republic of Korea, let us remind ourselves that the end of this meeting is the beginning of the next one. We wish the Government and the people of Indonesia all the best in their endeavors to prepare the next 43rd session next year.

Thank you Mr. President and all for listening.

5. **The President** then called upon the Observer from Tunisia to deliver the vote of thanks on behalf of Non-Member States participating in the AALCO's 42nd Session.

(d) **Statement of H. E. Amb. Mr. Othman Jernadi Observer from Tunisia on behalf of the Non-Member States***

On behalf of the Observer States the Ambassador of Tunisia commended the generosity of the Republic of Korea and observed that this Session would remain a landmark in the history of AALCO and also it would be a source of inspiration. He congratulated the Secretary-General on his reappointment and further thanked him, the AALCO Secretariat, host country and interpreters for their excellent work.

6. **The President** then called upon the Amb. Chesuei Yamada, Observer from United Nation University (UNU), to deliver the vote of thanks on behalf of International Organizations participating in the AALCO's 42nd Session.

(e) **Statement of H. E. Amb. Mr. Chesuei Yamada Observer from United Nations University, on behalf of participating International Organizations**

Mr. President, the Hon'ble Secretary General, Hon'ble Leaders of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of ten Organizations, attending the 42nd AALCO Seoul as Observers.

It was indeed a great pleasure for us to observe the proceedings of the Annual session of the AALCO. We are deeply impressed with the excellent preparation by the AALCO Secretariat and with the serious debate and considerations by the delegation on

* Statement delivered in French. Unofficial translation from the Interpreters version.

the priority legal problems facing the Asian and African States. We highly commend you Mr. President for the significant achievement of the 42nd session, which is so well organized by the host Government.

The organizations represented here will continue to provide the AALCO with their assistance and contribution.

Mr. President, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude to you, Sir, and, through you, to the Government of the Republic of Korea, for very warm welcome and hospitality extended to us.

We will cherish the pleasant memory of our stay here, your beautiful country, rich in old and modern culture and above all of the kind and friendly people of Korea.

Thank you Mr. President.

7. **The President** then called upon the Leader of the Delegation of Kuwait to give his vote of thanks.

(e) **Statement of Thanks by H. E. Mr. Ali Musaed Ali Al Dhabibi, the Leader of Delegation of Kuwait***

The **Leader Delegation of Kuwait** while thanking the President, Vice President, Secretary-General, Secretariat of AALCO as well as the interpreters stated that each one had played their role exceptionally well and that the 42nd Session would go down in the history of AALCO as an unprecedented one. On behalf of the Kuwaiti Delegation he presented a bouquet of flowers to the Korean Task Force as an appreciation for their work.

8. **The President** after thanking Amb. C. Yamada, thanked the Kingdom of Kuwait for presenting bouquet to the Korean Task Force. He then invited Hon'ble Janat B. Mukwaya, Minister of Law of Uganda and Vice-President of the 42nd session for her concluding remarks.

(f) **Closing Statement by Hon'ble Ms. Janat B. Mukwaya, Vice-President of the 42nd Session**

Mr. President, the Hon'ble Secretary-General, Deputy Secretaries-General, Hon'ble Leaders of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to start by thanking once again the participants to this important meeting and for the honour and privilege given to Uganda my country and to me as a person for chairing the two afternoon sessions on Tuesday and Thursday and I want to thank the chair for having shared this role with me. Thank you Mr. President.

* Statement delivered in Arabic. Unofficial translation from the Interpreters version.

Thank you to the delegates. Thank you very much for the co-operation and your sense of time management, which enabled me to conduct the sessions effectively. On my part, I was really impressed about the high level of debate of the topics. I realized that many delegations came prepared to make contributions, which made the meeting very inter-active. Congratulations to the presenters of the papers and all the Member States who took the floor to make contributions.

In my view, I hope that you will all agree with me that this was possible because of four things:

- (i) the high level of attendance of delegations;
- (ii) the level of organization by the host country through their national task force;
- (iii) the effective preparation of papers by the Secretariat of AALCO; and
- (iv) the Host Government Task Force.

Mr. President, I think our work and the delegations work will not have been fruitful if the level of organization was not really this good and we must commend you for that. On behalf of the Chair I take this opportunity to thank the host country and the Secretariat for this contribution.

Lastly, my sincere appreciation go to the Korean Government who proposed the establishment of Drafting Committee which has enabled Member States to go home with organized documents which will make our reporting mechanism easy. On behalf of my delegation I want to encourage, the Secretariat to continue with these two innovations introduced in Seoul (i) a minimum agenda and (ii) the Drafting Committee to be permanent features of AALCO meetings.

Finally, I didn't know that my neighbor Tanzania in the east African co-operation had read my speech by distance reading. I was told yesterday that in the last 41 years this organization had never seen a female co-chair the meeting. So I want to commend the environment in Seoul which enabled a woman to serve as the Vice-President of this meeting and to encourage our meeting to be so in future, but this can only be possible if our States can promote more women to lead the delegations. Thank you very much.

9. **The President** invited the representative of Indonesia, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Yusril Ihza Mahendra, Minister for Justice and Human Rights to say a few words of welcome as the host for the 43rd Session of AALCO in 2004.

(g) **Statement by Honb'le Prof. Dr. Yusril Ihza Mahendra, Minister for Justice and Human Rights, Indonesia, welcoming the Delegations for the 43rd Session to be held in Bali, Indonesia in 2004**

Mr. President, Madam Vice-President, the Hon'ble Secretary-General, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Republic of Indonesia, I should like to express our profound appreciation for endorsing the offer of Indonesia to host the 43rd Session of AALCO in 2004. Allow me to express a word of thanks to all delegations for their support rendered to our offer. It is indeed a tribute to the stature of Indonesia that it has been entrusted with the task of hosting the forthcoming annual session. As a token of our strong commitment to the Organization, Indonesia will do its utmost to facilitate the work of the forthcoming Session particularly for the achievement of the purposes for which this Organization has been formed. May I take this opportunity to invite all of you with the great hope that all of the Member States and Observers could participate in the next annual session in Bali, not in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude this statement, allow me to extend to our gracious host of the 42nd session, Republic of Korea, our gratitude for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for our deliberations. Our special thanks indeed go to members of the Bureau especially the President of the Session Amb. Choi Young-Jin and Vice President Madam Janat B. Mukwaya. Their able stewardship and wise guidance, which has embraced the proceedings of the conference, has been applauded highly by Member States. I would also like to thank Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil, Secretary-General of the AALCO for his leadership and wisdom in ensuring the success of the session. Last but not the least I would also like to thank all the staff members of the Secretariat and the Task Force for the excellent work to make out deliberations successful.

Thank you very much Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen.

10. **The President** thanked the Minister for welcoming all the Member States to Bali for the 43rd Session in 2004 and then proceeded with his closing remarks of the 42nd Session.

(h) Concluding Statement by H. E. Amb. Young-jin Choi, President of the Forty-Second Session

We started last Sunday with dinner for Ministers and Leaders of Delegations and proceeded to discuss nine items selected for the 42nd Session from International Law Commission to Environment and Sustainable Development. We all agree that how substantive and interactive those discussions were. My Vice-President was very pleased to witness the high level of discussion and I can only agree with her. I was deeply impressed and I feel quite honoured and privileged to serve as President to such a high level intellectual interactive session. Then we also introduced for the first time three-reform measures in this Session. The Drafting Committee worked early in the morning and late in the night to save us from hard work. We thank again the Drafting Committee Chairman and all the members. We also introduced for the first time Summary Report which we all adopted just a while ago and we also decided to rationalize our agenda for

the first time. We deliberated only nine items leaving six for the Secretary General to include in his report, which was a great success, and I hope these measures will be carried on by next host Indonesia.

Now it is time to thank. First, we have to thank the Secretary-General Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil and his members of the Secretariat for their flawless planning and executing of this session and I take this occasion to congratulate Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil for his re-appointment as Secretary General for next three years. Then we have to thank the interpreters – English, Arabic and French, especially French because for the first time beginning 42nd Session we introduced French interpretation and Secretary-General Amb. Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil vouched for the excellent quality. I hope also we can continue on this new measures next time.

Now we thank the host country task force. Director-General Shin is the real leader of the whole planning and we thank his colleagues and interns, conference assistants who worked all the time, who were there whenever we wanted them and we were impressed by their discipline, which you all know that Koreans are famous for their discipline but this time we found them very enthusiastic and devoted. We thank all of you.

Then I have to thank my partner Vice-President. She thanked me for sharing the chair, but I have to thank her for sharing the chair with me which lessened my burden a great deal and as an able chair-woman person I agree with her that from next year we must have more women in our delegation, beginning with, I hope, Korean delegation. So, once again, I feel greatly honoured and privileged to serve as President and at the same time I took great pleasure to work with you. Thank you very much. It was a great pleasure.

Now, it is time to say good-bye. See you again in Bali next year, 'il ilaka'. This was to make you laugh. 'Il lalika', in Arabic that means 'see you again' and French of course 'au revoir'. I wish you well on your long journey home. See you again in Bali next year. Thank you very much.

We have to say the meeting is closed. The meeting is adjourned for good. Thank you.