

**INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION (ILC),
SIXTIETH SESSION, 31st JULY 2008**

**STATEMENT OF MR. NARINDER SINGH,
PRESIDENT OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (AALCO)**

Excellency, Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreno, Chairman of the International Law Commission, Distinguished Members of the Commission,

1. It is my privilege and honour on behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and in my capacity as President of the Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO to address the Sixtieth Session of the International Law Commission. The ILC and AALCO share a longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship.
2. Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I take this opportunity to convey AALCO's congratulations to the International Law Commission on the commemoration of its Sixtieth Anniversary this year. The AALCO recognizes the great contribution that the ILC has made, in furtherance of its mandate, to the progressive development and codification of international law during this period of sixty years.
3. The AALCO continues to attach great importance to its traditional and longstanding relationship with the Commission. Mr. Chairman, it is the statutory obligation for AALCO to examine those subjects that are under the consideration of the International Law Commission and thereafter to forward the views of the Member States to the Commission. Fulfillment of this mandate over the years has helped to forge closer relationship between the two Organizations. It has also become customary for AALCO to be represented during the ILC's sessions.
4. Generally, in pursuance of this tradition the Secretary-General of the AALCO presents the highlights of the views expressed by Delegations participating in the Annual Session of AALCO. However, very recently, at the last Annual Session held in New Delhi from the 30th June to 4th July 2008, Professor Dr. Rahmat Mohamad of Malaysia was appointed as its new Secretary-General. As he will only assume his responsibilities as the Secretary-General next month, he has requested me, as the current President of AALCO, to place before the Commission the highlights of AALCO's deliberations on ILC matters at its Forty-Seventh Annual Session.
5. Mr. Chairman, please allow me to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the AALCO for the presence of Mr. Rohan Perera, the representative of the ILC at the Forty-Seventh Annual Session of our Organization who reported on the work

of the Commission at its Fifty-Ninth Session and the first part of the Sixtieth Session. In all, four members of the Commission, Mr. Rohan Perera, Amb. Xue Hanqin, Prof. Maurice Kamto and myself, participated at the AALCO Session. Mr. Chairman, the AALCO on its part, appreciates the representation of the Commission at its annual sessions.

6. Mr. Chairman, since July 2007, AALCO had undertaken several activities in the field of international law. However, I would briefly dwell about the Forty-Seventh Annual Session of AALCO. The Forty-Seventh Annual Session of AALCO took place in New Delhi, India – the Headquarters of the Organization, from 30 June to 4 July 2008. I was elected as the President while Mr. Wanjuki Muchemi, Solicitor General of the Republic of Kenya, was elected as the Vice President. Along with deliberations on a number of organizational matters and substantive agenda items, a one day special meeting on “Contemporary Issues in International Humanitarian Law” jointly held by AALCO and ICRC also took place.

7. During the deliberations on the agenda item relating to the work of the International Law Commission, many delegations offered detailed comments on the work of the Commission during its fifty ninth session. In particular, delegations commented on the following topics considered by the ILC.

Shared Natural Resources,
Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties,
Reservations to Treaties,
Responsibility of International Organizations,
Expulsion of Aliens,
Obligation to extradite or prosecute,

In view of the shortage of time, I will not read out the detailed summary which I will submit to the Secretariat.

8. The establishment by the ILC of an open-ended Working Group on the topic of the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) clause to examine the possibility of including the topic in its long term programme of work was also welcomed.

9. The Forty-Seventh Session of AALCO also appreciated the fruitful exchange of views during the joint AALCO-ILC meeting in conjunction with AALCO Legal Advisers’ Meeting, held in New York, on 5 November 2007. The Member States of AALCO have requested that these meetings should continue in future. I look forward to your views and suggestions regarding the topics that may be taken up for discussion in the forthcoming AALCO-ILC joint meeting.

10. Mr. Chairman, while expressing their congratulations on the Commission’s sixtieth anniversary, proposals were made for AALCO to organize a seminar on the work of the ILC, which we propose to do later this year, and hope that some members of the ILC will be able to participate.

11. Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat of the AALCO will continue to prepare notes and comments on the substantive items considered by the Commission to assist the representatives of the Member States of the AALCO to the Sixth Committee in their deliberations on the report of the Commission at its Sixtieth Session. Further the item entitled "Report on Matters Relating to the Work of International Law Commission at its Sixtieth Session" would thereafter be considered at the Forty-Eighth Session of the AALCO.

12. Mr. Chairman, allow me to take this opportunity to extend to you and to your distinguished colleagues, on behalf of the AALCO an invitation to participate at the Forty-Eighth Session of the AALCO. The Secretary-General of AALCO will in due course communicate to you the dates and venue of the Session. Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me express my sincere gratitude to you and to the Commission for allowing me to address on behalf of AALCO this august body.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.