



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL  
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION**

**This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded**

**Between**

**The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
P.O. Box 30552  
Nairobi, Kenya**

**and**

**The Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)  
E-66 Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar (New Delhi) – India**

**WHEREAS** the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNEP") was established by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 2997 (XXVII) of December 1972.

**WHEREAS** the mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations;

**WHEREAS** the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (hereinafter referred to as AALCO) is an institution that serves as an advisory body to its member Governments in the field of international law and provides a forum for cooperation in legal matters of common concern.

**WHEREAS** one of the purposes of AALCO is to establish cooperative arrangements with the United Nations, its agencies and other intergovernmental organizations with a view to promote such co-operation in the field of international law, including wider acceptance of international law conventions among the states in the Asian and African regions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, UNEP and AALCO** (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties") have agreed as follows:-



**Article 1**  
**Objective of the Memorandum of Understanding**

- 1.1. The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum") is to establish a renewed framework for collaboration between UNEP and AALCO in the area of promoting the development and implementation of international environmental law. This memorandum hereby provides a new framework of co-operation, to this end the 1992 UNEP/AALCO agreement is hereby terminated and replaced by this Agreement.

**Article 2**  
**Areas of Co-operation**

- 2.1 This Agreement is intended to provide the Parties with an enabling framework, and to serve as a guiding tool in identifying and carrying out specific collaborative activities. The co-operation between UNEP and AALCO will specifically support their common objectives and enhance the impact of their respective activities in the field of protection of the environment and sustainable development, in particular the activities will focus on the following areas:-
- a) Encouraging wider ratification of international environmental conventions and their respective protocols;
  - b) Cooperate in increasing awareness in the Asian-African regions regarding international environmental legal instruments;
  - c) Cooperate in the compilation of compendiums of national jurisprudence of the Asian and African States in the area of protection of the environment and sustainable development;
  - d) Preparation and dissemination of booklets and guidance material to assist Governments implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the national level;
  - e) Undertaking joint training programs to build capacity of various legal stakeholders in Asia and Africa to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements; and
  - f) Undertaking joint studies on various themes relating to environmental law for the progressive development of international environmental law.
- 2.2 Where new areas are identified in future they will be included by mutual agreement among the two institutions as Annexes to this Memorandum signed by the Parties/ either/or by exchange of letters between the two Parties.



**Article 3**  
**Scope of Co-operation**

- 3.1 The scope and content of co-operation between UNEP and AALCO in regard to any of the areas set out in Article 2 shall be mutually agreed upon through consultations between the Parties.
- 3.2 The scope and modalities of cooperation shall be governed by the relevant legislative authorities of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP, and other relevant instruments, and the mandate of AALCO.
- 3.3 Nothing in this Memorandum shall oblige either party to select the other preferentially, for any activities.

**Article 4**  
**The Institutional Framework for Cooperation**

- 4.1 The Parties shall establish a Steering Committee (SC), consisting of officials designated by the Heads of both Organizations and before each meeting of the SC, that will serve to define, monitor and operationalize all activities carried out pursuant to this Memorandum.
- 4.2 For UNEP, the head of the UNEP law programme will represent UNEP in all substantive matters of this Memorandum, and invite other experts depending on the agenda of the meeting. AALCO will designate representatives to attend the Steering Committee.
- 4.3 Each Meeting of the Steering Committee shall be attended by at least two Members from each Party. Officials of the two parties may participate in meetings of the Steering Committee as Observers.
- 4.4 All decisions of the Steering Committee shall be taken by consensus among the Members participating.
- 4.5 The Steering Committee shall meet to the extent possible by rotation, once a year, in Nairobi or New Delhi, according to the availability of funds of each Party. They may however, by mutual agreement, decide upon the frequency of these meetings, or upon the requirements of the needed business and its urgency, or conduct their business through virtual meetings as required to deal with issues in a timely manner.

**Article 5**  
**Participation in Meetings**

- 5.1 UNEP and AALCO would extend invitation to each others' meetings where matters of mutual interest are to be examined. AALCO would on its part extend an invitation for its Annual Session to UNEP.



**Article 6**  
**Exchange of Publications**

- 6.1 Taking into account the confidentiality applicable to information at each other's Organization, the Parties would encourage regular and free exchange of information, publications and reports of mutual interest.

**Article 7**  
**Financial Matters**

- 7.1 Nothing herein imposes a financial obligation upon either Party. If Parties mutually agree to allocate specific funds to facilitate an activity undertaken pursuant to the Memorandum, such an agreement will be reflected in an Annex to this Memorandum and signed by both Parties.

**Article 8**  
**Dispute Resolution**

- 8.1 Any claim arising out of, or in accordance with, this Memorandum or breach thereof, shall, be settled amicably by negotiation between the Parties. Should the Parties be unable to negotiate an amicable settlement, the dispute shall be submitted to arbitration following procedures to be agreed upon by both Parties.

**Article 9**  
**Final Provisions**

- 9.1 This Memorandum shall be effective for a period of five years and renewed automatically unless decided otherwise by one of the Parties six months before the said period ends.
- 9.2 This Memorandum would enter into force upon the date of signature by both the Parties.
- 9.3 This Memorandum may be terminated by either of the Parties before the expiry date of the Memorandum by giving a three months notice in writing to the other Party.
- 9.4 No change in, or modification, of this Memorandum shall be made, except by prior written agreement between UNEP and AALCO. AALCO shall not assign, transfer, pledge, sub-contract or make other disposition of this Memorandum or any part thereof, or of any of the AALCO's rights, claims or obligations under this Memorandum except with the prior written consent of UNEP or vice-versa.



Signed on behalf of AALCO

Ambassador Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil  
Secretary-General, the Asian African Legal  
Consultative Organization

Signed on behalf of  
UNEP/UNON

Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel  
Deputy Executive Director,  
United Nations Environment  
Programme

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005