

Keynote Address delivered by H.E. Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol, Secretary-General of AALCO at the 1st Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) Public International Law Conclave

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On behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and on my own behalf, it is a great privilege and honour as the Secretary-General to represent the Organization as a Keynote Speaker at this important event: the 1st Rashtriya Raksha University Public International Law Conclave organized by Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU). This is my first time to represent AALCO in my capacity as the Secretary-General at a public event as I started my term of office on 1 January 2022.

I place on record my sincere appreciation to the RRU and Prof. Dr. Bimal Patel on behalf of AALCO for this kind invitation. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Dr. Bimal Patel for his recent election to the International Law Commission (ILC) and we look forward to engaging with his good self and the RRU on the codification and progressive development of international law.

I also take note of the presence of Dr. Luther Rangreji, Joint Secretary, Legal & Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India who is on this panel. In this context, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Legal & Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for their strong and unhindered support to AALCO. India, as we all know, was one of the founding members of AALCO. The Permanent Headquarters of AALCO is in New Delhi and the Government of India has been very kind in supporting us in every way possible.

The topic for my presentation is "*African-Asian Perspectives and Practices of International Law*". I have structured my presentation along the following major points :

1. Historical Overview of the Afro-Asian Approach or Perspective to International Law

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2. The Creation of AALCO, its Mandate and Key contributions to the progressive development of international law.
3. Finally, since most of the event attendees are students., I will talk about internship opportunities available to law students at the Headquarters of AALCO.

1. Historical Overview of the Asian-African Approach or Perspective to International Law

At the outset, it is important to clarify certain fundamental dimensions concerning our engagement. A question that frequently comes up is the existence of a single, monolithic 'Afro-Asian Approach to International Law'. Is there a unique 'Afro-Asian Approach or Perspective to International Law'? In its most nascent sense, the answer is no. There is no single 'Afro-Asian Approach to International Law'. International law as practiced in Asia and Africa draws from diverse streams and reflects a beautiful confluence of diverse paradigms. From this beautiful mosaic is derived the sources of State Practice and *opinio juris* of international law as practiced in these two great continents.

The historical development of modern international law beginning with the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648, in the light of the concepts and actions taken by European countries in formulations of international law. They also portray the positions of the Asian-African States as regards the development of international law flowing from the Westphalian order and their willingness to accept and recognize it taking into account their interests until the end of First World War and the establishment of the League of Nations. Finally, they go on to ascertain the contribution of the Asian-African countries in the post second world-war era towards the progressive development and codification of international law.

The post- World War II era witnessed several significant milestones: firstly, under the auspices of the United Nations, there was a proliferation of treaties and Conventions that were to be ratified by newly independent States within Asia and Africa regions. Secondly, those newly independent States were given the recognition under international law to decide independently their political destiny backed strongly by the ever powerful doctrine of sovereignty and equality of States.

For the first time in the history of international law, these States were found to be equal to engage and bestowed deep confidence and trust in the progressive development of international law where they felt that they have the future in their hand. The post-World War II era had also established the bi-polar world that had significantly changed the political and legal landscape of the globe. The Asian and African regions once again were also not spared from the then existing international order. Another