



**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Prepared by

**The AALCO Secretariat
29 C, Rizal Marg,
Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi – 110 021
(INDIA)**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE
ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION**

CONTENTS

	PAGES
I. INTRODUCTION	1-2
II. CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAMME OF AALCO AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO	2-4
III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO	4-7
A. Address of the Secretary-General at the “AALCO Legal Advisers Meetings” held on the sidelines of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the UNGA, the UN Headquarters, 24 and 28 October 2014	
B. Special Lecture by the Secretary-General on “Contemporary International Law and Challenges to the Afro-Asian Countries” to commemorate the 58 th Constitution Day of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), AALCO Headquarters, 27 November 2014	
C. Presentation by the Secretary-General of AALCO on “The Asian-African Perspectives on the International Criminal Court”, Seminar on Historical Origins of International Criminal Law, 29 November 2014	
D. Mr. Mohsen Baharvand, Deputy Secretary-General’s participation in the “3 rd African Union Commission on International Law”, Addis Ababa, 11 – 12 December 2014	
E. Secretary-General’s participation in the “World Congress on International Law”, New Delhi, 9 – 11 January 2015	
F. Training Programme on the Working of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, AALCO Headquarters, 3 February 2015	
G. The Visit of H.E. Mehdi Danesh Yazdi, President of AALCO, AALCO Headquarters, 9 February 2015	
H. Secretary-General’s participation in the Conference on “Responsibility to Protect at 10: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia-Pacific”, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 26 February 2015	
I. Secretary-General’s participation in “International Humanitarian Law in East and Southeast Asia: Regional Conference on Strengthening IHL”, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25-27 March 2015	

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT	7-10
A. The Secretariat	
B. Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at the United Nations Offices	
C. Centre for Research and Training	
V. AALCO'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2016	10-11
VI. STEPS TAKEN TO REVITALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION	11-14
A. Strengthening the Human Resources in the AALCO Secretariat	
B. Membership	
C. Measures to Improve the Financial Situation of AALCO	
D. Requests received from the State of Palestine and Republic of Yemen regarding their arrears	
VII. FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION	14-19
A. Organizational and Substantive Projects for AALCO and its Financial Implications Commencing 2014-2016	
B. Establishing Collaboration with Educational Institutions/Universities	
C. Expanding Internship Projects in AALCO	
D. Convening of Young Jurist Conference	
E. Improving the website of AALCO	
F. Preparation of the Studies on the Items on the Agenda of AALCO	
G. Preparation of Studies on Selected Items on the Agenda of the Seventieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly	
H. Participation in International Meetings	
I. Capacity Building Programmes	
J. Strengthening the Library	
K. Publications	
VIII. STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	19-21
A. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization	
B. Strengthening the Cooperation with Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations	

IX. CONCLUDING REMARKS

20-21

X. ANNEX I. Request from Palestine

ANNEX II. Request from Yemen

**ANNEX III. Projects Proposed to be Implemented from
2015 to 2016**

ANNEX IV. Resolutions

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It is a matter of great privilege and honour for Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, the Secretary-General to present this report to the Member States on the administrative, organizational and substantive matters in accordance with Rule 20 (7) of the Statutory Rules of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). This Report covers activities since the conclusion of the Fifty-Third Annual Session until the end of March 2015.

2. At the outset, the Secretary-General expresses his sincere gratitude to the current President of AALCO, His Excellency Dr. Mehdi Danesh Yazdi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran, for his guidance and support to the AALCO Secretariat in all its activities. The Secretary-General also expresses profound thanks to Her Excellency Mrs. Agimba Anyango, Vice-President of the Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO and Deputy Solicitor General of Kenya.

3. The Secretary-General is immensely grateful to the Ambassadors/High Commissioners and the Liaison Officers, for their valuable inputs in dealing with the substantive and organizational matters and for the valuable support rendered to him, which helped him in discharging his duties and functions in a smooth and effective manner. Special thanks are also due to all the Member States for paying their annual contributions and to those Member States who have started partial payment of their arrears. He would like to reiterate that a robust fiscal situation would facilitate the Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the Member States.

4. Last year the Organization witnessed yet another successful Annual Session, the Fifty-Third Session, held in Tehran, wherein, in addition to the existing agenda items, new areas such as cyberspace in international law and legal aspects of violent extremism and terrorism were deliberated as per the mandate received from the Member States. In addition, the outcome of the Eminent Persons Group meetings was placed for consideration of the Member States, which *inter alia* paved the ground rules and measures that the Organization would take for building upon its present acclaimed edifice, in the field of rendering valuable advisory services to its Member States, in the field of international law, on some of the most important and pressing common concerns.

5. AALCO is one of the most significant tangible outcomes of the 1955 Bandung Conference. The year 2015 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Bandung Conference. Given this historical significance, the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session is an important occasion to reflect upon the past achievements, for example the steering role that the Organization played during the negotiations on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and also the present day challenges in international law. It would also provide an opportunity to carve out the path for the next phase of development for the Organization.

6. The current Secretary-General was elected for a four year term on 4 July 2008 and reappointed for a second and final term in 2012. As the tenure of the current Secretary-General is due to end in 2016, the Member States from Africa are requested to actively consider nominating their candidate/s at the earliest so that their resumes can be circulated amongst the Member States for their perusal leading to the election of the new Secretary-General in 2016.¹ African Member States may begin the process at the earliest, as this issue also has budgetary implications. It may be recalled that according to the resolution adopted during the Forty-Seventh Annual Session (RES/47/ORG 5, adopted on 4 July 2008) the Fifty-Fifth Annual Session should ideally be held before the term of the current Secretary-General ends in August 2016.²

7. The present Report is divided into seven sections; apart from a brief introduction and concluding remarks, it contains: (1) Consideration of Work Programme of AALCO at the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of AALCO; (2) Activities undertaken since the Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO; (3) Overview of the Secretariat (4) Financial situation of AALCO and 2016 Draft Budget; (5) Steps taken to Revitalize and Strengthen the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization; (6) Future Plan of Action; and (7) Strengthening the Cooperation with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations.

II. CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAMME OF AALCO AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO

8. The Work Programme of AALCO comprised: (i) follow-up of the work of the International Law Commission; (ii) topics that have been placed on the agenda on reference by a Member State; and (iii) topics placed on the *suo moto* initiative of the Secretary-General. Currently, there are 16 items on the work programme of AALCO namely:

- Report on Matters Relating to the Work of the International Law Commission
- Law of the Sea
- The Status and Treatment of Refugees
- Deportation of Palestinians and Other Israeli Practices among them the Massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in All Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949
- Legal Protection of Migrant Workers
- Extraterritorial Application of National Legislation: Sanctions Imposed Against Third Parties
- Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Legal Aspects)³

¹ Article 3 of the Statutes of AALCO read along with Rule 20 of the Statutory Rules stipulate the terms of election of SG.

² The relevant paragraph of RES/47/ORG 5 reads as follows: “*Emphasizing that the Annual Session of AALCO which has on its agenda the election of the Secretary-General has to be held in advance of the end of the tenure of the outgoing Secretary-General.*”

³The item entitled “International Terrorism” was placed on the agenda of the AALCO’s Fortieth Session held in New Delhi from 2001, upon a reference made by the Government of India. It was felt that consideration of this item at AALCO would be useful and relevant in the context of the ongoing negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee

- Establishing Cooperation against Trafficking in Women and Children
- The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Challenges in Combating Corruption: The Role of United Nations Convention against Corruption
- Report on the Work of UNCITRAL and Other International Organizations in the Field of International Trade Law
- WTO as a Framework Agreement and Code of Conduct for World Trade
- Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection
- Managing Global Financial Crisis: Sharing of Experiences
- International Law in Cyberspace

9. It may be recalled that since the Forty-Second Annual Session (Seoul, 2003), the Organization, has adopted a policy of rationalization of agenda items. Adhering to this policy, from among the aforementioned 16 items, a few, depending upon the current relevance of the topic are placed on the agenda of the Annual Session. Topics shortlisted for the Fifty-Fourth Session are:

- The Law of the Sea;
- Deportation of Palestinians and Other Israeli Practices among them the Massive Immigration and Settlement of Jews in All Occupied Territories in Violation of International Law particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949
- Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Legal Aspects)
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Report on the Work of the UNCITRAL and Other International Organizations in the Field of International Trade Law

10. In addition, two half-day special meetings on agenda items pertaining to: “Selected Items on the Agenda of the International Law Commission”; and “International Law in Cyberspace” are also being convened in conjunction with the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session. Further, a special event commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the Bandung Conference will also be organized. Parallel to the Annual Session, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the Chinese Society of International Law will co-host a colloquium on the “UN Charter and the Post-War International Order.”

11. Since the Forty-Ninth Annual Session (Dar es Salaam, 2010), the non-deliberated agenda items were being brought out in a single volume and the same were also placed for

of the United Nations on elaboration of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The recent escalations in acts of violent extremism committed by non-state actors are closely intertwined with transnational terrorism. It is in furtherance of this realization that the Member States agreed to deliberate on the legal implications of violent extremism and its manifestations in the Fifty-Third Annual Session held in Tehran in 2014.

consideration of the Member States. During the past several years Member States have been insisting upon austerity measures to be adopted by the Organization, including cutting down costs on its publications. In compliance with this observation, since the last Annual Session the Secretariat is not publishing the report on the non-deliberated agenda items. Consequently, draft resolutions on the non-deliberated agenda items would also not be discussed. However, in the future, as and when an item is taken up as deliberated, the needful would be done.

III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF AALCO

A. Address of the Secretary-General at the “AALCO Legal Advisers Meetings” held on the sidelines of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the UNGA, the UN Headquarters, 24 and 28 October 2014

12. In his address, the Secretary-General shared some of his thoughts on the importance of the topics that were discussed in the AALCO Legal Advisers Meeting. This include: (1) Developing Countries and International Law: Herein, he stressed on the need to identify the role of international human rights law in assessing government conduct and investor conduct in the investor-state arbitrations; (2) Promoting and Observing International Law: The intrinsic relationship between the rule of law and international peace and security was highlighted here; (3) A Legal Analysis of the Immunity Provision in the AU Amendment Protocol: amendment to Article 46A *bis* of the Protocol on the Statute of the ICC which imparts immunity against criminal charges for acting heads of state or government and other senior state officials was discussed in this part of the speech; (4) Fragmentation of international law: The problem that it poses can be summarized thus: what are the institutions and methods by which international law attempts to reconcile necessary functional differentiation with unity and coherence?; and finally (5) Cyber Security and International Law: herein, he highlighted the issue of transnational cyber crimes and militarization of cyberspace.

B. Special Lecture by the Secretary-General on “Contemporary International Law and Challenges to the Afro-Asian Countries” to commemorate the 58th Constitution Day of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), AALCO Headquarters, 27 November 2014

13. A special lecture on the contemporary challenges in international law relevant to Afro-Asian region was organized to commemorate the 58th Constitution Day of AALCO. In this lecture, he highlighted four issues: (1) Violent extremism and the novel challenges it brings out for international law; (2) Application of traditional rules of International law in cyberspace and its effectiveness in addressing legal questions posed by ever-increasing state and non-state activities in the so called “fifth domain”; (3) Legal challenges that emanates from the forced displacement of people triggered by armed conflicts; and (4) The Violence in Gaza/ Palestine wherein he highlighted that the Member States of AALCO had strongly condemned the actions of Israel and stated that it should act in conformity with its obligations under the applicable principles of international law.

C. Presentation by the Secretary-General of AALCO on “The Asian-African Perspectives on the International Criminal Court”, Seminar on Historical Origins of International Criminal Law, 29 November 2014.

14. In this presentation, the Secretary-General focused on the role of Asian-African States in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. Further, he dealt with the oft-repeated criticism on the singular focus of the Court on African States. There are some grave violations in other territories which the ICC chooses to remain silent. He opined that sustainable efforts should be taken on the part of international community to iron out the differences, misconceptions revolving around the Rome Statute of the ICC and thereby accommodate the viewpoints of the non-States parties.

D. Mr. Mohsen Baharvand, Deputy Secretary-General’s participation in the “3rd African Union Commission on International Law”, Addis Ababa, 11 – 12 December 2014.

15. Mr. Baharvand attended the third forum of AUCIL held on 11 and 12 of December 2014 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) at headquarters of the African Union. The theme of this forum was “Codification of international law at the regional level in Africa”. Apart from the Members of the African Union Commission on International Law, the representatives of other regional organization such as European Union, Commonwealth Secretariat, and Arab League were present in the meeting. In addition, members of the diplomatic corps based in Addis Ababa, academicians, some members of international court of justice and International Law Commission also attended the meeting.

16. At that forum, he presented a paper entitled “Contribution of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to the Codification and Progressive Development of International Law”. In the presentation he elaborated the contribution of AALCO in various subjects of international law such as refugee law, law of treaties and law of the sea. He also explained how AALCO increased its activities on the international law as a consultative body to its Member States as well as the relationships it developed with other international and regional organizations.

17. After the presentations made by the guests and experts, some discussions and Q&A was also conducted during the sessions. The main focus of the discussions was on the issue of the relevance of codification of international law at the regional level against the same at the international level.

18. The Deputy Secretary-General reported that after the interventions, he received enquiries from many diplomatic delegations on the procedure of membership to AALCO. There was also an expression of interest among the members of the African Union Commission on International Law to enhance the relationship between the Commission and AALCO.

E. Secretary-General’s participation in the “World Congress on International Law”, New Delhi, 9 – 11 January 2015.

19. The Secretary-General presented a paper on the “National Implementation of International Law”, in Third Plenary Session of the World Congress on International Law, organized by the Indian Society of International Law, on 9 January 2015. It was a very prestigious event as it was graced by legal stalwarts and was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India. Many judges of the International Court of Justice including the President of the ICJ, Judge Peter Tomka and Justice Dalveer Bhandari presented their views at the World Congress. Some of the members of the ILC including Mr. Hussain Haussana (AR Egypt), Mr. Narinder Singh (India) and Mr. Amos Wako (Nigeria) also made presentations thereat. AALCO was also represented at the event. On the second day, Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Principal Legal Officer chaired a session in the Young Jurists Congress while Mr. Pandiaraj, Senior legal Officer also made a presentation.

F. Training Programme on the Working of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, AALCO Headquarters, 3 February 2015

20. On 3 February 2015, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) conducted a training program on the working of the Organization for diplomats and legal officers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The training programme was held at the AALCO Headquarters in New Delhi, India. The delegation led by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India, His Excellency Ambassador Maan Al Hafiz comprised officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Royal Court of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with Mr. Ioannis Konstantinidis representing international law firm, Volterra Fietta.

21. His Excellency Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of AALCO, in his welcome speech, thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their continued interest in and support to the activities of AALCO. His Excellency Ambassador Maan Al Hafiz thanked the Secretariat of AALCO for their effort in conducting a training programme exclusively dedicated to the officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The first part of the programme was a brief presentation of the contemporary issues in international law from the Asian-African perspective by Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad. He highlighted the four major challenges of the international law that the Asian-African region are grappling with— violent extremism and terrorism, international law in cyberspace, armed conflict and refugee flows and the violence in Gaza. The session is then followed by a question and answer (Q&A) session.

22. The following session was conducted by Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, Principal Legal Officer and Mr. Pandiaraj, Senior Legal Officer, touching on the historical background to the establishment of the AALCO and its functioning. Mrs. Bakshi provided the participants with a comprehensive background of the Organization. Mr. Pandiaraj then shared with the participants the previous activities and contributions of the Organization besides AALCO links with other global and interregional organizations. The publications of AALCO were also introduced to the delegates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

23. After lunch, Mr. Feng Qinghu, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO, took the floor for discussing the rule of law through the domestic and international perspectives and its

manifestation in the UN system. The next speaker for the evening was Mr. Moshen Baharvand, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO, discussing on the matter of the relationship between AALCO and the ILC. The participants enthusiastically participated in the discussion followed.

G. The Visit of H.E. Mehdi Danesh Yazdi, President of AALCO, AALCO Headquarters, 9 February 2015

24. His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Danesh Yazdi, the President of AALCO, visited AALCO Headquarters on 9 February 2015. He addressed a select gathering of H.E. Ambassadors/High Commissioners, Liaison Officers and academics and delivered a lecture on “New Challenges in International Law and the Role of AALCO in Enhancing Asian-African Solidarity”. After given a short report on the deliberations at the Fifty-Third Session of the AALCO held in Tehran in September 2014, he spoke about the diverse challenges Asian-African States face owing to ever-changing global political equations and advancement in technology. He emphasized on the need to reinforce solidarity among the Asian and African States to effectively address these concerns.

H. Secretary-General’s participation in the Conference on “Responsibility to Protect at 10: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia-Pacific”, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 26 February 2015

25. The Secretary-General participated in this conference and presented a paper on the Asian-African perspective on the implementation of R2P at Plenary Session 1 titled “Assisting States to fulfil their Responsibility to Protect”.

I. Secretary-General’s participation in “International Humanitarian Law in East and Southeast Asia: Regional Conference on Strengthening IHL”, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25-27 March 2015

26. The Secretary-General participated in this conference and delivered his Keynote address on “Regional Perspectives on the future of IHL” on 25 February 2015. After briefly dealing with the significance of regional mechanisms in the enforcement of IHL, his speech focused on (1) the proliferation of non-state actors and how their presence and actions pose new challenges to IHL; (2) cyber warfare and the role of IHL in regulating the conduct of state and non-state actors in such engagements; (3) the relevance of Arms Trade Treaty in ensuring greater respect for IHL; and (4) the ICRC-Swiss initiative to ensure compliance with IHL and their engagements with AALCO in this regard. Deputy Secretaries General, Mr. Feng Quinghu and Mr. Mohsen Baharvand attended the conference.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT

A. Secretariat

27. Apart from the Secretary-General (Malaysia), three Member Governments, namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan and People’s Republic of China, have offered assistance to AALCO by deputing their senior officials to the Secretariat on secondment. Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Feng Quinghu (People’s Republic of China), Ms. Yukiko Harimoto (Japan) and Mr. Mohsen Baharvand (Islamic Republic of Iran) have been rendering exemplary services to the

Secretariat. The Secretary-General wishes to place on record his gratitude to these Member Governments for rendering such valuable assistance, and also wishes to express deep appreciation for the dedicated services of these officials deputed to the AALCO.

28. The number of the locally recruited staff (permanent category) in the Secretariat as of 15 March 2015 is 11. The Legal Staff comprises of one Principal Legal Officer, Mrs. Anuradha Bakshi, and one Senior Legal Officer Mr. S. Pandiaraj. Mr. Kiran Mohan has been recently recruited as a Legal Officer (on contractual basis), while Mr. Rahul Srivastava is a Legal Officer on part time basis. The remaining staffs are in the administrative and supporting category. Besides, some staff members have also been employed on temporary basis. Two legal officers resigned last year for personal reasons and the Secretariat wishes to place on record its appreciation to Ms. Shannu Narayan and Mr. Parthan Vishwanathan for their valuable services.

B. Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at the United Nations Offices

29. It may be recalled that vide AALCO/RES/48/ORG. 1, dated 20 August 2009, adopted at the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of AALCO had endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals pertaining to the "Strengthening of Permanent Observer Missions of AALCO at the United Nations Offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna".

30. As an established practice, the annual AALCO Legal Advisers Meeting held in New York is a very important part of the AALCO activities. It gives the Legal Advisers, who are attending the Sixth Committee Meetings as well as ILC meetings a good opportunity to interact with the Secretary-General and each other and discuss important and contemporary legal matters of concern to the Member States. Exchange of views also takes place on the current and future work of AALCO. Besides this, the meetings also serve as a unique forum to introduce AALCO to a wider audience.

31. In this regard the Permanent Observer of AALCO to the UN plays a very significant role. Dr. Roy Lee, appointed in 2009 and stationed in New York is the one who makes all the arrangements for this meeting in consultation with the AALCO Secretariat and then invites important legal personalities to share their views with the Legal Advisers. I am pleased to inform you that H.E. Dr. Medi Danesh Yadzi, the current President of AALCO and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, attended and chaired these meetings. In 2014, two meetings would be held in New York on 24th and 28th of October. On the first day, opening remarks were made by H.E. Mr. Danesh Yazdi. Later, the following speeches were delivered by the experts:

- "Developing Countries and International Law": Ambassador Tuvako Manongi, Chairman of the Sixth Committee;
- "Promoting and Observing International Law": Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, UN Legal Counsel;
- "Immunity of A Seating Head of State": Mr. Vincent Nmehielle, Legal Counsel of the African Union (AU);

- “New Development in International Law: Theory and Practice”: Professor Lori Damrosch, President of the American Society of International Law (ASIL);
- “Cyber security and International Law”: Professor Kriangsak Kittichaisaree, Member of the International Law Commission from Thailand.

On the second day, the following presentations were delivered:

- “Personal Reflections as President of the International Court of Justice”: Judge Peter Tomka;
- “Personal Reflections as President of the International Criminal Court (ICC): Judge Sang-Hyun Song; and
- Comments and Observations: Professor James Crawford.

32. The Legal Advisers meetings held in New York on the aforementioned issues pertaining to the current challenges in International Law were very productive and successful on account of the attendance of approximately 110 Legal Advisers from Member and Non-Member States, as well as because of the legal luminaries invited to those meetings who shared very insightful personal and professional experiences on the issues discussed.

33. Concerning the Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at Offices in Vienna and UNIDO and UNODC, Mrs. Christine J. Nemoto has been continuing her work effectively. In future, the possibility of establishing a Permanent Observer Mission of AALCO at the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Nairobi can also be explored.

34. The Secretary-General has been striving to ensure a close working relationship between the AALCO Secretariat and these Permanent Observer Missions at various UN Offices. In this regard, subject to availability of financial resources, he also propose deputing Legal Officers from the AALCO Secretariat to these Missions, particularly during the Annual Session of International Law Commission at Geneva to render assistance to Asian-African Members of the Commission, as well as during the Annual Session of UN General Assembly in New York.

C. Centre for Research and Training

35. The “Data Collection Unit”, which had been set up in the Secretariat in 1992, was renamed as the “Centre for Research and Training (CRT)” following a decision taken at AALCO’s Fortieth Annual Session in 2001. The Centre has been engaged in activities to strengthen its research programme and disseminate information on AALCO, inter alia, by organizing training programmes/seminars for Member States officials, bringing out special studies on the issues of international law of common concern, strengthening its website and electronic communication facilities. AALCO’s website is being constantly updated. Besides this the CRT conducts the various seminars and workshops, in collaboration with the other international organizations, Universities or other relevant partners. In addition it also plays a proactive role in providing valuable training to law students from within and outside India, by way of its Internship programmes.

36. The activities of the CRT need to be further strengthened and in this regard, The Secretary-General requests that Member States may consider providing voluntary contributions, in addition to their regular annual contribution for steering its activities. Such contributions would be earmarked in a separate fund and utilized only for the work of CRT.

V. AALCO'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2016

37. In response to AALCO/RES/53/ORG 2, in the period between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014, 23 Member States have paid their annual contribution for the year 2014. The following 17 Member States paid the annual contributions for 2014: (i) Arab Republic of Egypt (ii) Botswana; (iii) Brunei Darussalam; (iv) People's Republic of China; (v) Cyprus; (vi) Democratic People's Republic of Korea; (vii) India; (viii) Indonesia; (ix) Japan; (x) Kenya; (xi) Malaysia; (xii) Mauritius; (xiii) Myanmar; (xiv) Sultanate of Oman; (xv) Republic of Korea; (xvi) Saudi Arabia; (xvii) Singapore; (xviii) South Africa; (xix) Sri Lanka; (xx) State of Qatar (xxi) Thailand; (xxii) Turkey; and (xxiii) United Arab Emirates. In addition, as on 3 March 2015, Republic of Iraq and State of Kuwait paid their annual contribution for 2014.

38. The following Member States paid their arrears during the same period: (i) Arab Republic of Egypt; (ii) Bangladesh; (iii) Cameroon; (iv) Cyprus; (v) Indonesia; (vi) Islamic Republic of Iran; (vii) Pakistan; and (viii) United Arab Emirates. The Secretary-General expresses his profound gratitude to these Member States for complying with their financial obligations.

39. As regards the Member States which are yet to pay their annual contributions and/or arrears, the Secretariat is, on a regular basis, informs them through their Diplomatic Missions and Liaison Officers in New Delhi, the importance of fulfilling their statutory and financial obligations to the Organization. The Secretary-General hopes that these efforts would yield results and by the end of this year, the annual contributions from these States would also be received.

40. In accordance with Rule 24(4) of the AALCO Statutory Rules the budgetary papers setting out the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred under appropriate budget heads and sub-heads for the year 2016 was placed at the 327th meeting of Liaison Officers held on 3rd December 2014. Further, the Draft Budget was discussed at the 328th and 329th Liaison Officers Meetings held on 28th January and 31st March 2015 respectively, subject to the approval of the Member States at the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of AALCO. It is noted that a robust financial situation is a prerequisite for any Organization to effectively fulfill its mandate, as well as its long term sustenance. Therefore, Member States are requested to duly consider the request for increase in the budgetary allocation for the year 2016.

41. The Draft Budget for the year 2016 has been prepared on the budgetary estimate for the year 2016 which would be US\$ 637,175, based on the expenses likely to be incurred during that year. The increase in the budget reflects additional expenses which are mainly owed to the departure and arrival of new Secretary-General.

42. Further, AALCO's response to an outcome of 7th Pay Commission of the Indian Government which will likely take effect from January 2016 requires detailed financial implications on the budget as such a thorough report is needed to be presented before the Liaison Officers Meeting after which a mandate from the Member States will be required to implement the new salary scheme for the local staff. The details of the financial situation in 2014 and the Budget for the Year 2016 can be found in document AALCO/54/BEIJING/2015/ORG 2.

VI. STEPS TAKEN TO REVITALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

43. In partial fulfilment of the mandate given by Putrajaya Declaration in 2009, a range of programmes have been initiated on a regular basis, to make AALCO a centre for harmonizing the action of Asian-African States in international legal matters. These include: Capacity Building Programmes; initiation of AALCO Lecture Series, and AALCO-Eminent Persons Group (EPG).⁴

A. Strengthening the Human Resources in the AALCO Secretariat

44. The Secretariat plays a crucial role in strengthening the work of the Organization. Presently, the Secretariat functions under constraints of human and financial resources. Yet the final products bear no signs to these insufficiencies and measure up to the quality and quantity of any important international conference and their output held anywhere in the world. In view of the decrease in legal staff strength and the increasing activities being undertaken by the Organization, AALCO has recently recruited two legal officers, one full-time and another, part-time. However, to effectively fulfil its mandate and meaningfully expand its activities, AALCO needs to further strengthen the present infrastructure and other facilities offered to the Secretariat staff.

45. In the International Category, presently, all officials are from the Asian States. In order to ensure adequate representation of Africa, the Secretary-General requests the African States to second at least one senior official to the Secretariat as Deputy/Assistant Secretary-General. Likewise, he also requests the Arab Member States to consider deputing one senior official to the Secretariat for managing the affairs of the Arabic Section.

46. Furthermore, to give an international character to the Professional Category of the Secretariat Staff, it is felt that there is a need to ensure that the Secretariat should be in a position to attract and retain the best talent from the two regions. This entails offering remuneration and other terms and conditions of services at par with the other intergovernmental organizations. Towards realizing this goal Member States are requested to nominate legal

⁴ An overview of these measures will be given in the subsequent part of this report. Some of the details were also provided in the Secretary-General's Report of 2011 (AALCO/50/COLOMBO/2011/ORG 1) and (AALCO/51/ABUJA/2012/ORG 1)

officers on deputation from their Legal Ministries to enhance the legal research undertaken at AALCO. However, the remuneration for these officials would be borne by the sponsoring State.

47. To encourage the assimilation of academic inputs into the work of AALCO, the Secretary-General proposes a Visiting Fellowship Programme for senior academics and a Research Assistantship Programme for postgraduate students from AALCO Member States.

B. Membership

48. 47 States from Asia and Africa are presently Members of AALCO. As regards, increasing the membership base of AALCO, the Secretary-General would like to express his gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Danesh Yazdi, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO for his efforts in requesting his counterparts in the Governments within the region for becoming Members of AALCO. Within the Secretariat the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretaries-General are also making earnest efforts to enhance the membership of the Organization. In this regard, concentrated efforts to solicit membership from the Central Asian countries, Vietnam and Cambodia are ongoing.

C. Measures to Improve the Financial Situation of AALCO

49. It may be recalled that to improve the financial situation of AALCO, at the Forty-Eight Session held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in 2009, a proposal was placed for consideration of the Heads of Delegations, it was in the form of a comprehensive approach that included the following four measures: (i) Revision of Assessed Scale of Contributions; (ii) Action Plan to Collect Arrears; (iii) Voluntary Contributions; and (iv) Replenishment of Reserve Fund. An update is presented below.

(i) Collecting Arrears

50. As per the Action Plan⁵ approved, the Member States in arrears have been divided under two heads: first, Member States which are in arrears for less than ten years; second, Member States in arrears for more than ten years. The Secretary-General was requested to take necessary follow-up action with these States. It may be recalled that AALCO had urged those Member States in arrears to expeditiously clear their arrears. Furthermore, vide resolution AALCO/RES/48/ORG 1 adopted on 20 August 2009, the Secretary-General was requested to implement this Action Plan, the same was also reiterated during the Forty-Ninth Annual Session.

51. Accordingly, the Secretary-General placed this responsibility on the Deputy Secretary-General from Japan, who has been regularly meeting the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and

⁵It may be recalled that the Extraordinary Session held at the Headquarters on 1 December 2008, to explore ways to tide over the precarious financial situation of AALCO had approved an “Action Plan, AALCO/ES (NEW DELHI)/2008/ORG. 1, from page numbers 7-9.

Liaison Officers of these Member States in New Delhi, for materialising the action plan to collect arrears.

52. The Secretariat is pleased to inform the Member States that since the Fifty-Third Annual Session, Republic of Iraq has partially repaid its accumulated arrears.

53. Efforts are continuing with the following Member States in arrears for more than ten years: i.e., Sierra Leone, Gambia, Mongolia, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, Lebanon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Yemen.

(ii) Voluntary Contributions

54. The Secretary-General gratefully recalls the voluntary contributions of the Governments of Member States of the Sultanate of Oman, Malaysia (before Forty-Ninth Annual Session) and Turkey (after Forty-Ninth Annual Session). Given the current budgetary constraints, the Secretary-General urges Member States, which are in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the Organization.

(iii) Replenishment of Reserve Fund

55. Rule 27 (3) of the Statutory Rules of the Organization authorizes the Secretary-General to maintain a reserve fund. To strengthen and firmly place the Organization, on a firm financial footing, it is essential that an adequate Reserve Fund is maintained by the Organization. The amount kept in Reserve Fund should at least be enough so that it could meet the expenses of the Organization for at least a period of six months.

(iv) Increasing the Membership of AALCO

56. As mentioned above, 47 States are currently Member States of AALCO. 32 of these are Asian States and 15 are African States. In the informal regional grouping system that exists in the United Nations, both Asia and Africa account for 53 countries each. Therefore, both within the Asian and African continent, immense scope for widening the membership base of the AALCO exist. Building upon the efforts of the distinguished predecessors, the current President of AALCO, as well as the Deputy Secretaries-General and the Secretary-General have approached the Heads of Diplomatic Missions of several of these countries in New Delhi. The Secretariat has received some positive responses from some of these States and the matter of their joining AALCO is under the active consideration of their respective Governments. In case these States become Member States of AALCO their prospective contributions would strengthen the financial stability of AALCO.

57. Last but not the least, the Secretary-General would like to inform the Member States that continuous efforts are being made on optimizing the use of both the human and material resources available within the Secretariat. All efforts to minimize and curtail the operational costs are also being made.

D. Requests received from the State of Palestine and Republic of Yemen regarding their arrears.

58. On the one hand it has been very encouraging to see that after the consistent efforts on the part of the Secretariat some of the Member States who were in arrears have started paying their arrears. On the other hand The Embassy of The State of Palestine, in New Delhi, has once again⁶ requested to be exempted from paying its arrears (ESP 29/01/15/841, dated 29 January 2015), owing to its deteriorating financial condition due to continued occupation. (**Annex I**)

59. Similarly, The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in New Delhi, vide its Note Verbal No. EMB/50/2015/AALCO requested once again⁷ to be exempted from arrears. (**Annex II**)

60. The Secretary-General in all the above two cases informed the authorities that he would place their respective requests for consideration of the Heads of Delegations and would act according to the decision taken at the Annual Session.

VII. FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION

61. The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to reiterate his gratitude to the Member States for the whole hearted support and confidence that they have reposed in him. He would like to reassure the Member States that he would continue to do his best to keep alive the Bandung spirit of friendship, cooperation and solidarity amongst Asian-African States. As a strong votary for enhancing the participation of Afro-Asian countries in the progressive development and codification of international law, he would persistently work to increase the influence of Asian-African States in the international legislative process.

62. The task entrusted upon the Secretary-General is a challenging one. It would be his constant endeavour to meet the growing expectations of the Member States and re-orient AALCO's activities in such a way so that it could provide more beneficial and useful services to them. Some of the steps proposed to be undertaken in the coming year include:

A. Organizational and Substantive Projects for AALCO and its Financial Implications Commencing 2015-2016

63. The Organization was mandated to undertake many substantive projects. However, owing to severe budgetary constraints, the Secretariat is not in a position to effectively carry them out.⁸

⁶ The initial request was received in 2011; vide its Note Verbal No. ESP/A/10/10/11/13/765 dated 10 October 2011.

⁷ The initial request was received in 2012, vide Note Verbal No/EMB/303/2012/AALCO dated 28 June 2012.

⁸ In this context, it is pertinent to reiterate that as mandated by the 2009 Putrajaya Declaration on Revitalization of AALCO, the Secretariat is required to present its blueprint on how to strengthen AALCO's organizational and substantive matters. It is recalled that the 2009 Putrajaya Declaration summoned all Member States to renew their commitment in ensuring the relevance and significance of AALCO as the only legal body embracing two continents. The Secretary General of AALCO presented the long, medium and short terms projects for AALCO in the Colombo Session in 2011.

64. It may be recalled that a Sub-Committee on the AALCO Secretariat's Human Resources and Financial Matters (Hereinafter Sub-Committee) to look into the Administrative and Financial matters of AALCO was established in 2010.⁹ Considering the fact that over ten Member States were not regularly paying their annual contributions and that the AALCO budget planned on the assumption that all Member States would pay their annual contributions in full had actually always been in shortfall, the Sub-Committee suggested that the administrative budget which would be covered by the actual regular income should be separated from the project budget which would be implemented only if the Secretariat would receive contributions over the administrative portion.

65. The Secretariat of AALCO proposes that projects would be classified into four categories; i.e., Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States, Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the International Law Commission (ILC) at AALCO, Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO, and In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff.

66. First, under the Capacity Building Programs for AALCO, the Secretariat would implement projects providing practical and important knowledge and administrative skills related to international law to the officials of Member States. The Secretariat has been implementing WTO Training Program since 2010. The Secretariat is of the view, and also based on the resolution adopted at the 51st Annual Session meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2012 as contained in the document RES/51/S1, that this project could provide up-to-date information relating to the fast changing trade rules and trends, and that it should continue for 2015– 2016. Other projects derived from the past mandates from Member States may also be implemented if the Secretariat could receive enough contribution from Member States.

67. Second, under Research Intensification Projects on the Work of the International Law Commission (ILC) at AALCO, the Secretariat would implement research projects on current ILC issues for the purpose of forming useful inputs to ILC, mostly by employing academicians and experts from Member States for the publication of a book on the issue. It should be noted that the professional staff of the Secretariat has substantial knowledge and skill and is regularly working on these issues; therefore, the proposed projects are planned to provide information and insights which would require expertise outside of AALCO. All proposed projects are based on the past mandates given from the Member States.

⁹ The Sub-Committee on the AALCO Secretariat's Human Resources and Financial Matters was established at the Resumed 308th Meeting of Liaison Officers of AALCO Member States which was convened at the Headquarters of AALCO, on Wednesday, 1st December 2010. At the Fifty-First Annual Session of AALCO held in Abjua, Nigeria in June 2012, Member States took note of the reports from the Secretariat and unanimously adopted the Resolution *AALCO/RES/51/ORG2* in which they mandated the AALCO Secretariat to look into all possibilities while framing the 2014 budget to achieve sustainable, balanced and stringent budget which would enable and satisfy the needs of Member States. In response to the request from the 319th Liaison Officers meeting and also based on the past mandates received from the Member States as stated above, the Secretariat herewith submits detailed breakdown of planned projects to be implemented from 2014 to 2016.

68. Third, under Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO, the Secretariat would implement projects which AALCO Member States hold deep interests in engaging AALCO. A number of possible areas of researches have been identified at the past AALCO meetings which include, climate change, piracy, corruption, human trafficking, terrorism, ICC, UNCLOS, cyber space, etc. Some projects related to these issues are proposed to be implemented for 2015- 2016.

69. Forth, under In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff, the Secretariat would implement capacity building projects for professional staff of AALCO. Professional staff of AALCO is crucially important doing day to day activities of AALCO, and the Secretariat needs to reinforce their capabilities relating to international law. Particularly, the Secretariat would like to train the staff for the better cooperation between AALCO Headquarters and our Regional Arbitration Centres. Relatively small amount of budget is planned under this category by mobilizing mostly the resources in India. The detailed breakdown of the envisaged projects in each category is submitted for the perusal of the Member States (**Annex III**).

B. Establishing Collaboration with Educational Institutions/Universities

70. With the aim of further expanding the research activities in AALCO, it is envisaged that collaboration with Educational Institutions/Universities within and outside India is further enhanced. In furtherance of this proposal, within India, four institutes with whom plans are currently underway on research projects are the South Asian University, New Delhi; Delhi University; the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Moreover, with the same objective Deans/Directors of various law schools in Malaysia have also been approached.

C. Expanding Internship Projects in AALCO

71. It is well-known that AALCO has been doing research in cutting-edge legal issues affecting the international community in general and Asian-African States in particular. One of the Secretariat's activities is to encourage the young students of law from AALCO Member States, who are interested in learning more about the various branches of international law, to get familiarized with the workings of inter-governmental Organization and international law. The internship is a practical educational experience whereby interns principally assist the Legal Staffs of the Organization in discharging their duties. During the intervening period between the 2014 and 2015 Annual Sessions, ten students, including one student from Malaysia, have successfully completed/ are doing their internship programme at the Secretariat.

72. During the internship, the internees were assigned a number of tasks which included: i) preparation of a short report on the history, functions and objectives of the AALCO; ii) compilation of legislation of Member States on a number of international legal issues with the objective of creating a database of national legislation; iii) assisting the legal staffs in the preparation of briefs; and iv) visit to intergovernmental Organizations such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC) and institution such as Indian Society of International Law (ISIL). After their successful completion of the internship, a Certificate was awarded by the Secretary-General of AALCO to all of them.

73. As the internship programme is available throughout the year in the AALCO Secretariat, the Member States are requested to make use of this opportunity and thereby encourage the law students to undertake such internship programme with AALCO in New Delhi.

D. Convening of Young Jurist Conference

74. It is also essential to encourage and develop young scholarship in International law in the Asian-African countries. To realize this objective, on earlier occasions the Secretary-General had proposed that a “Young Jurist Conference” may be convened on the sidelines of the Annual Session. This would render an opportunity to these scholars, particularly from that country and the region, in which the Annual Session takes place to interact with the legal luminaries attending the Session and benefit from their experience and scholarship. The Secretary-General would like to make this proposal operationally viable at the earliest opportunity.

E. Improving the website of AALCO

75. AALCO’s website (www.aalco.int) is regularly updated and reviewed to match the standards of other international organizations. Towards this end, all the recent activities and programmes undertaken within AALCO and related documents are uploaded on the website. To facilitate the Arabic speaking Member States of AALCO and utilising the Arabic Fund, an Arabic interpreter/translator has been appointed to update the website in Arabic language.

F. Preparation of the Studies on the Items on the Agenda of AALCO

76. As regards, the preparation of the Studies on the Items on the Agenda of AALCO, the preparation of these would be in accordance with the mandate received from the Fifty-Third Annual Session of AALCO.

G. Preparation of Studies on Selected Items on the Agenda of the Seventieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly

77. Following the established practice, with a view to assisting Member States in their participation at the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly (15-28 September 2015), in particular the Sixth Committee, the Secretariat would prepare studies on selected items on the agenda of the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly.

H. Participation in International Meetings

78. Representation of AALCO and ILC at each other's Annual Session has now become a customary practice. Following that the Secretary-General would be attending the Sixty-seventh Session of the International Law Commission and would present an overview of the discussions held at the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of AALCO. In addition, he would also represent the Organization at the Seventieth Session of the UN General Assembly. Another meeting, which would be convened in New York, is the AALCO's Legal Advisers' and AALCO-ILC joint meeting on the sidelines of the Seventieth Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Subject to availability of funds AALCO might be represented at one or two other international meetings where its participation would be useful.

I. Capacity Building Programmes

79. Over the years, AALCO has been organizing many capacity building programmes for the Member States in association with organizations like the WTO, ICRC. Member States may note that the Training Programme for Legal Officers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been institutionalized with support from Saudi Arabia and the most recent Programme was held in January 2105.

J. Strengthening the Library

80. Library is the backbone for research activities of any Organization. Fortunately, in the new Headquarters building one full floor has been devoted to the Library. It is equipped with adequate stacks and cupboards and work is in progress to scientifically organize, catalogue and place properly all the available resources. Subject to the availability of funds, online legal database, such as *Lexis Nexis*, *Westlaw* or *Hein Online* could be subscribed. Plans are also afoot to make a digital library.

K. Publications

81. In order to ensure wider and periodic dissemination about the various activities of AALCO, the Organization has re-oriented its existing publications and provided them a new and made it more reader friendly, apart from enhancing the quality and content of the publication. In consonance with international practices, that most of the Secretariat publications are brought out in electronic format. This has resulted in sending lesser number of hard copies to the Member States, which in turn saves some financial resources of the Organization. This year apart from the regular publications including AALCO Journal of International Law and the Yearbook, AALCO will publish a handbook on the law of the sea titled "Secretary-General's handbook on Basic Entitlement and Obligations Under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea". The current issue of AALCO Journal of International Law is a special issue themed on international law and cyber warfare and is jointly brought out by AALCO and ICRC. The Secretary-General hopes to bring out more such publications in the future.

VIII. STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

82. It may be recalled that, vide its Resolution 35/2 of 13 October 1980, the United Nations General Assembly had granted observer status to AALCO and requested the AALCO to participate in its sessions and work. Since then AALCO has been actively participating in the work of the UN General Assembly. Following the establishment of new pattern by the General Assembly, the item pertaining to the Cooperation between the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and the United Nations is considered on a biennial basis. Dr. Roy S. Lee, Permanent Observer of AALCO to the United Nations Offices in New York has represented the Organization in many sessions of the United Nations and updated the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly on AALCO's activities and work progress.

83. It also decided to place the item for the consideration of its seventieth Session in 2015. Accordingly, the item would be considered at the forthcoming Annual Session of the UN General Assembly. The AALCO would be represented during the consideration of the item and Member States are urged to participate during the deliberations on this item in the UN General Assembly.

B. Strengthening the Cooperation with Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations

84. Since its inception, it has been a privilege for AALCO to work in cooperation with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other International Organizations. As envisaged in its Statutes, such co-operation began with the International Law Commission. Subsequently, on matters concerning Status and Treatment of Refugees, AALCO and UNHCR established close relations. With its involvement in International Trade Law matters, AALCO initiated its cooperative arrangements with UNCITRAL, UNCTAD, UNIDO and other Inter-governmental Organizations, such as the UNIDROIT and the Hague Conference on Private International Law. However, a great impetus was given to such cooperative arrangements with the according of Permanent Observer Status to AALCO by the United Nations in 1980. As a follow-up, Agreements were concluded with the United Nations, IMO, IAEA, UNIDO, UNEP, and UNITAR. AALCO also concluded similar co-operation agreements with International Organizations, which include, Council of Europe, Commonwealth Secretariat, League of Arab States and the African Union (formerly Organization of African Unity).

85. In August 2000, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between AALCO and WIPO. In 2001, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations University (UNU). In 2002, similar MoUs were concluded with the UNHCR and ICRC. The Cooperation Agreement with the ICRC entered into force in July 2003. Since then, many special meetings, training programmes and workshops were jointly

organized by AALCO and ICRC. The success of such joint efforts prompted both organizations to expand their areas of cooperation and hold similar deliberations on substantive aspects of areas of mutual interest in the future.

86. In September 2004, administrative arrangements for cooperation between the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and AALCO were formalized. At the Nairobi Session (2005), a revised and revitalized Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was signed. In February 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding between the AALCO and the International Criminal Court (ICC) was concluded.

87. In October 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between the Secretariat of AALCO and the Institute of International Law of Wuhan University of the People's Republic of China. During the Forty-Ninth Annual Session of AALCO at Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania in 2010, a MoU was concluded with the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL).

88. Other Organizations with whom process may be initiated include the World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the African Union and other regional groupings of North and Latin American countries.

89. It needs to be emphasized that these cooperation agreements provide very useful basis for organizing joint meetings and seminars on topics of mutual interest with these Organizations. These Organizations provide funds for the participation of resource persons and experts, which enrich the deliberations in the AALCO meetings. AALCO's financial commitments are minimum. This is a very practical way to enhance AALCO's activities and broaden its base of research activities.

IX. CONCLUDING REMARKS

90. Prof. Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, since his assuming the office in 2008, has been striving to fulfil the mandate entrusted to him by the Member States and enhancing the stature of the Organization among the international fraternity. He would like to assure the Member States that novel initiatives will be undertaken for furthering the common cause of Asian and African States in the international law arena once the financial status of the Organization is improved with the continued encouragement and support of the Member States.

91. AALCO's contribution towards progressive development and codification of international law and rule of law in international affairs till date has been very significant. Given that AALCO is one of the tangible outcomes of Bandung Conference, the 60th anniversary of which is celebrated this year, this provides the right occasion to revive the Bandung spirit of solidarity amongst the Asian-African States and work towards the betterment of peoples of the two regions and at larger level to contribute to the well-being of humanity and humankind

92. It has been 59 years since the establishment of AALCO. Its journey has not been smooth, but for the immense support by its Member States, the Organization has had tremendous progress in its activities. This in itself is demonstrative of the continued ideological relevance of the Organization. The voice of the people of the Afro-Asian region which is host to the largest part of the humanity needs to be heard and heeded to in various international fora. To further this cause, the Secretary-General is convinced that Member States of AALCO would encourage and contribute towards its future activities, besides promising to place AALCO on a sound financial footing.

ANNEXURE I(Palestine)

Annex I

Embassy of the State of Palestine
India



سفارة دولة فلسطين
الهند

No: ESP 29/01/15/841

الرقم:

Date: 29th January, 2015

التاريخ:

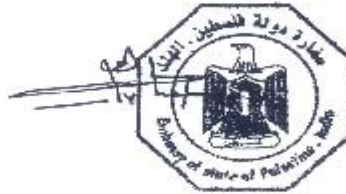
The Embassy of the State of Palestine- New Delhi, presents its compliment to the Asian- African Legal Consultative organization (AALCO), New Delhi. The Embassy takes this opportunity to pass on the request from the State of Palestine to the Secretary General of the esteemed organization, for exempting the overdue amount on Palestine for AALCO membership in the upcoming 54th Annual Session of the organization.

We therefore request all the members' state of AALCO to consider our grave situation due to the Israeli occupation and the above mentioned appeal that arouse out of it. We hope that the members' state will be considerate enough to keep up our present situation in mind and will take the decision accordingly.

The Embassy of the State of Palestine- New Delhi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the AALCO in New Delhi the assurance of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the State of Palestine

New Delhi



ANNEXURE II (Yemen)

Annex II

**Embassy of the
Republic of Yemen
New Delhi**



سفارة الجمهورية اليمنية
نيودلهي

REF NO : FMB/ 50 /2015/AALCO
DATE : 10/02/2016

The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen presents its compliments to the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization, New Delhi.

The Embassy would like to bring your kind notice that Yemen is passing through Political and Economical Crises in the last few Years and the situation in the Republic of Yemen is getting worse. Thus, the Embassy takes this opportunity to pass the request of Republic of Yemen to the Secretary General of the esteemed organization for exempting the arrears due to AALCO and to put our request on the table of discussion at the upcoming 54th Annual Session of the organization to be held in Beijing, China.

The Embassy request all the Members States of AALCO to consider our crises and to take the decision accordingly.

The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization the assurance of its highest consideration.



Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)
20- C Rize Marg, Diplomatic Enclave
Chanakypuri- 110021
New Delhi

ANNEXURE III

Projects Proposed to be Implemented from 2015 to 2016

Projects for 2015

Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States

- 1) WTO Training Program (RES/51/S13)): USD 12,620

Honorarium for 5 Lectures: $100*5=500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*3=4500$

Accommodation: $250*3*6=4500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*6$ days = 840

Printing training materials:

Program: $2*100=200$

Lecture Proceedings (book form): $5*100=500$

Invitation: $1*100=100$

Stationary: $5*100=500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day *6 days =300

Refreshment: $100*5=500$

Miscellaneous: 180

- 2) Law of the Sea Workshop (RES/51/SP2)(tentative): USD 10,160

Honorarium for 4 International Participants: $100*4=400$

Airfare & Lodging for 4 International Participants:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*4=6000$

Accommodation: $250*4*2=2000$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280

Printing materials:

Working group Proceedings (book form): $5*20=100$

Stationary: $5*20=100$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day *2 days =100

Refreshment: $100*2=200$

Welcome Dinner: $40*20=800$

Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Project on the Work of the ILC

- 3) Research on The Identification of Customary International Law (RES/51/S1) : USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850*3=5550$
Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10*500=5000$

4) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500*3=1500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*3=4500$

Accommodation: $250*3*2=1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Program: $2*100=200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5*100=500$

Invitation: $1*100=100$

Stationary: $5*100=500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40*100=4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO

5) Investment Law: USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850*3=5550$

Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10*500=5000$

6) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500*3=1500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Vienna: $1500*3=4500$

Accommodation: $250*3*2=1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

Program: $2*100=200$

Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5*100=500$

Invitation: $1*100=100$

Stationary: $5*100=500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40*100=4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff

7) Management and Governance of Intergovernmental Organizations (tentative): USD 1,131

Honorarium for 4 Local Lectures: $200*4=800$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280

Miscellaneous: 51

Total: USD 79,831

◆ Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary-General also proposes to conduct training programs on drafting and negotiation.

Projects for 2016

Capacity Building Programs for AALCO Member States

1) WTO Training Program (RES/51/S13): USD 12,620

Honorarium for 5 Lectures: $100*5=500$

Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*3=4500$

Accommodation: $250*3*6=4500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*6$ days = 840

Printing training materials:

Programme: $2*100=200$

Lecture Proceedings (book form): $5*100=500$

Invitation: $1*100=100$

Stationary: $5*100=500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day *6 days =300

Refreshment: $100*5=500$

Miscellaneous: 180

2) Expert Group Meeting on the Law of the Sea (RES/51/S3)(tentative): USD 10,160

Honorarium for 4 International Participants: $100*4=400$

Airfare & Lodging for 4 International Participants:

Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*4=6000$

Accommodation: $250*4*2=2000$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280

Printing materials:

Working group Proceedings (book form): $5*20=100$

Stationary: $5*20=100$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)
Photocopier Rental: 50 per day *2 days =100
Refreshment: $100*2=200$
Welcome Dinner: $40*20=800$
Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Project on the Work of the ILC

- 3) Research on Legal Framework on Violent Extremism and Terrorism (RES/51/S1) :
USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850*3=5550$
Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10*500=5000$

- 4) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500*3=1500$
Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*3=4500$
Accommodation: $250*3*2=1500$
Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280
Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000
Printing Seminar materials:
Programme: $2*100=200$
Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5*100=500$
Invitation: $1*100=100$
Stationary: $5*100=500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)
Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50
Refreshment: 100
Reception Food & Drink: $40*100=4000$
Venue for Reception: 3000
Miscellaneous: 180

Research Intensification Projects on the Work of AALCO

- 5) Research on Cyberspace and International Law (RES/51/S8) : USD 10,550

Honorarium for 3 International researchers: $1850*3=5550$
Publication of the research outcome (book form): $10*500=5000$

- 6) Seminar to introduce the outcome of the research: USD 17,410

Honorarium for 3 researchers: $500*3=1500$
Airfare & Lodging for 3 International Lectures:
Round Trip between Delhi and Geneva: $1500*3=4500$
Accommodation: $250*3*2=1500$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis) : $70*2*2$ days = 280

Distribution of the publication (postage): 1000

Printing Seminar materials:

 Programme: $2*100=200$

 Seminar Proceedings (book form): $5*100=500$

 Invitation: $1*100=100$

Stationary: $5*100=500$ (Folders, Pens, Note Pads, Printer Cartridges, Paper, etc)

Photocopier Rental: 50 per day=50

Refreshment: 100

Reception Food & Drink: $40*100=4000$

Venue for Reception: 3000

Miscellaneous: 180

In House Training Program for AALCO Professional Staff

7) Treaty making and negotiations (tentative): USD 1,131

Honorarium for 4 Local Lectures: $200*4=800$

Local Transportations for Lectures (2 taxis): $70*2*2$ days = 280

Miscellaneous: 51

Total: USD 79,831

ANNEX IV

**SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT
AALCO/RES/DFT/54/ORG 1
17 APRIL 2013**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ORGANIZATIONAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization at its Fifty-Fourth Session,

Recalling the functions and purposes of the Organization as stipulated in Article 1 of the Statutes of AALCO,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Organizational, Administrative and Financial Matters pursuant to Rule 20 (7) of Statutory Rules as contained in Document No.AALCO/54/BEIJING/2015/ORG 1,

Having heard with appreciation the introductory statement of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Secretary-General on organizational, administrative and financial matters,

Also having heard with keen interest and appreciation the statements of the Heads of Delegations of AALCO Member States on the Report of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing the significance of the 60th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference which *inter alia* resulted in the establishment of AALCO,

Also recognizing the need to take forward the spirit of Bandung Conference in the current era which has witnessed many international legal challenges for the developing States of Asia and Africa,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the activities of the Organization and to implement its work programme as approved at its Fifty-Third Annual Session held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 15-18 September 2014,

Also appreciating the continued practice towards the rationalization of its work programme, including consideration of the agenda items during its annual sessions,

Reiterating the mandate of the Putrajaya Declaration on Revitalizing and Strengthening the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization; and the Action Plan as explained in Document No. AALCO/ES (NEW DELHI)/2008/ORG.1 adopted by the Extraordinary Session of AALCO Member States held on 1 December 2008, in New Delhi (Headquarters), India,

Welcoming the efforts by the Secretary-General for Revitalizing and Strengthening the AALCO,

Noting with satisfaction the increased co-operation between the Organization and the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, other international organizations and academic institutions,

1. **Approves** the work programme of the Organization as set out in the Report of the Secretary-General and urges Member States to extend their full support to the implementation of that programme;
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts and explore the ways and means to enlarge the Membership of the Organization in Asia and Africa, in particular, to increase the representation from the African States and Central Asian States;
3. **Encourages** Member States to make voluntary contributions to support the capacity building activities under the approved work programme of the Organization; and
4. **Further requests** the Secretary-General to report on the activities of the Organization at its Fifty-Fifth Annual Session.