

THE LAW OF THE SEA

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

Considering the Secretariat Document No. AALCO/54/BEIJING /2015/SD/S2,

Noting with appreciation the introductory remarks of the Deputy Secretary-General,

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS)ⁱ, as well as the customary international law relating to the management of the oceans,

Mindful of the historical contribution made by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization in the elaboration of the UNCLOS,

Conscious that the AALCO has been regularly following the implementation of the UNCLOS and its implementing agreements as well as other issues regarding the law of the sea,

Hopeful that in view of the importance of the law of the sea issues, AALCO would maintain its consideration on the agenda item and continue to perform its historical role on the law of the sea matters,

Taking note of the deliberations at the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process established by the United Nations General Assembly to facilitate annual review of the developments in ocean affairs,

Welcoming the active role being played by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in the peaceful settlement of disputes with regard to ocean related matters,

1. **Reaffirms** that in accordance with the UNCLOS, the “Area” and its resources are the common heritage of mankind;
2. **Encourages** AALCO Member States not yet parties to the UNCLOS and its implementing instruments, to consider the possibility to ratify or accede thereto, in compliance with their domestic policies;
3. **Urges** the full and effective participation of its Member States which are Parties to UNCLOS in the work of the International Seabed Authority and other related bodies established by the UNCLOS, and further urges effective contribution of its Member States to the United Nations Informal Consultative Process, so as to ensure and safeguard their legitimate interests;
4. **Directs** the Secretariat to conduct a research study on the topic of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, from the perspective of Asian African States on the subject;

5. **Also directs** the Secretariat to hold Seminars or Workshops, depending on the availability of financial and personnel resources, to discuss the issues and recent developments relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, marine scientific research and exploration of deep sea resources;
6. **Requests** the Secretariat of AALCO to assist the capacity building of Member States within the field of law of the sea through varied ways such as joint training programmes with States and intergovernmental organizations, and calls upon its Member States to offer all possible support and assistance; and
7. **Decides** to place this item on the provisional agenda of the Fifty-Fifth Annual Session.

ⁱ The Republic of Turkey disassociates itself from the references made in this Resolution to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982. Approval of the said Resolution cannot be construed as a change in the legal position of Turkey with regard to the said Convention.