



STATEMENT BY MR. TARIQ ANSWAR, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER
OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 108[B] : COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE
ORGANIZATION AT THE 61ST SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
OCTOBER 20, 2006

Thank You, Madam President,

India, as the President of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation for this year, is happy to introduce the Resolution No. A/61/L.5 on "Cooperation between the United Nations and Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation".

Madam President,

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) celebrated its golden jubilee in April this year at its headquarters in New Delhi. Over the last 50 years, it has acquired a unique stature in promoting legal cooperation among Asian and African States. Its annual conferences are major events. Its New Delhi session in April this year was well attended. The exchange of views that took place on contemporary issues of international law, proved highly beneficial to participants.

Reports of the AALCO and declarations adopted at its annual Sessions have become an important source for the development of international law. AALCO had been identifying the common interests of Africa and Asia on issues before the UN and other world bodies.

Madam President

We would like to encourage the AALCO to expand its activities. This could be done by special training programmes for promoting teaching and expertise in legal advising in international law; establishment of chairs in international law teaching in universities; offer of fellowships to Asian and African students for higher studies in international law; and publication of books devoted to international law, that are of interest to Asia and Africa.

Some of these activities can, however, be pursued only be done if more funds are available. The clearance of arrears in contributions and raising funds through voluntary contributions would help. The shifting of the offices of AALCO and the residence of the Secretary General to their own new building would partially ease the financial situation.

Despite its financial limitations, the work of the AALCO is efficiently organized by a small band of experts working under its most competent Secretary-General. Its excellent library and facilities deserve to be further improved. In due course, AALCO could operate as an international law documentation center for the benefit of the Asian and African States.

Madam President,

We are optimistic that in the years to come AALCO will achieve greater success in promoting the common interests of Asian and African States. We have no doubt that the co-operation between AALCO and the United Nations will continue to grow stronger. We wish AALCO every success in its future work.

Thank You, Madam President

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