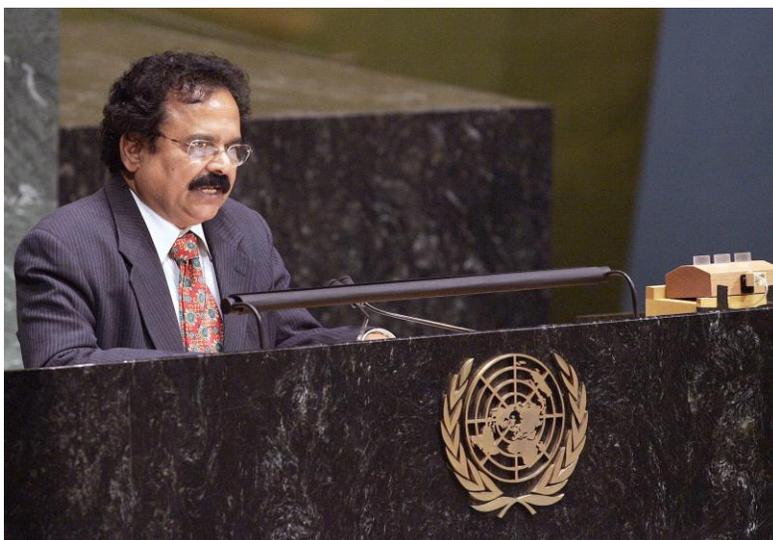




STATEMENT BY DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 114[B] –
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ASIAN-AFRICAN
LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION AT THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 03, 2008



Thank You, Mr President,

India, as the President of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation [AALCO] for this year, is privileged to introduce Resolution No. A/63/L.7 on "Cooperation between the United Nations and Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation" on behalf of its 29 cosponsors.

The draft Resolution inter-alia notes the progress achieved towards enhancing cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies and other international organizations and AALCO. It expresses appreciation for the work of AALCO in respect of issues such as combating corruption, international terrorism and trafficking in women and children as well as human rights issues. It also recommends that consideration of this item be scheduled to coincide with the

deliberations of the Sixth Committee on the work of the International Law Commission with a view to promoting close interaction between the AALCO and the Sixth Committee.

It may be recalled that the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee, as it was then known, was established to provide expertise in international law to the Asian and African States and specific assistance and advice, upon request, on any topic of international law. Such advice could be rendered in developing a suitable legal framework or legislation for implementation of international treaties; for providing a model agreement to establish joint co-operative arrangements; or as an opinion on a given subject to one or more Member States.

Mr. President,

Over the last 50 years, AALCO has acquired a unique stature in promoting legal cooperation among Asian and African States in the field of international law. The annual conferences of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation are major events in international law and the New Delhi session in April this year was well attended by Ministers and senior officers of member States, besides several observer delegations and representatives of international organizations. The exchange of views that took place on contemporary issues of international law, including subjects being studied by the International Law Commission and those arising in connection with the implementation of the world trade regime, proved highly beneficial to participants.

Reports of the AALCO and other declarations adopted at its annual Sessions have become an important source for the development of international law and are an expression of the views and interests of Asian and African States. AALCO had been dedicating its efforts to identifying the common interests of Africa and Asia on a variety of contemporary issues before the UN and other world bodies, thus helping the evolution of a fair, just, equitable, universal legal order. These views were duly communicated by the Secretary-General of AALCO to the United Nations, at which it has the distinction of being an observer, and to the International Law Commission, whose sessions its Secretary General regularly attends.

Mr. President

We would like to encourage AALCO to expand its activities by progressing its several forward looking plans for the benefit of its Member States. In this regard, mention could be made of special training programmes for promoting teaching and expertise in legal advising in international law; establishment of special chairs in international law teaching in universities of Member States; offer

of fellowships to Asian and African students to pursue higher studies in international law; and encouragement of publication of books and periodicals devoted to the cause of international law that are of special interest to Asia and Africa.

Some of these activities can, however, be pursued only if more funds are available. The clearance of arrears in contributions and raising funds through voluntary contributions would help.

I am pleased to inform that the Secretariat of the AALCO has shifted to its new Headquarters building provided by the Government of India. The new building is fully equipped to meet the needs of an inter-governmental organization. We hope its modern conference facilities would motivate AALCO to organise more programmes for the benefit of its members. The shifting of the offices of AALCO and the residence of the Secretary General to their own new building would also partially ease the financial situation.

However, it is a matter of great satisfaction that, despite its financial limitations, the work of the Committee is efficiently organized by a small but dedicated band of international law experts working under the guidance of an international diplomatic staff, including 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 Asian and African States.

Mr. President,

We are optimistic that in the years to come AALCO will achieve greater success in clarifying and consolidating the common interests of Asian and African States. It will also surely enhance its activities in training and dissemination of international law expertise amongst them. We have no doubt that the co-operation between AALCO and the United Nations will continue to grow stronger. We wish AALCO and its Members every success in its future endeavours.

Thank You, Mr. President

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