



# INDIA भारत

Statement by  
Legal Adviser M. Koteswara Rao

Agenda Item No. 126 ( C )

On

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian African Legal  
Consultative Organizations

21 November, 2016

Mr. President,

I would like to refer to the Secretary-General's report on Agenda Item 126 (c) regarding Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (A/71/160/Add-1).

2. The Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was established in 1956. Its inception was a tangible outcome of the historic Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung in 1955. AALCO is now comprised of 47 Member States from Africa and Asia with several States from other regions of the world participating in its activities as Observers.

3. AALCO is the only inter-regional organization combining the interests of two major continents for focused and serious discussions on matters of international law. It was one of the first organizations that the General Assembly granted Permanent Observer status (in 1980).

4. Pursuant to its main objective, that is, promotion and dissemination of international law, AALCO follows closely the work of the Sixth (legal) Committee of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission and of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

5. As to the contribution of the AALCO to the discipline of international law, the noteworthy is in the development of the concept of the Exclusive Economic Zone, an important element in the field of the Law of the Sea. Similarly, its member States used as guidance the "Bangkok Principles on the Status and Treatment of Refugees" adopted by AALCO. The work of AALCO, which is of great value to its member States, include its studies and deliberations in respect of the Principles concerning Extradition of Fugitive Offenders; the Model text for Bilateral Arrangements on Mutual Assistance in Civil Matters; and the Model Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Investment.

6. India is proud to be the host country for the Organization ever since its establishment. India has provided land and building for its Headquarters in Delhi. I am pleased to inform that the current Secretary General is from Tanzania. Regional rotation is a healthy practice as it adds values and enriches cultures, perspectives and diversity.

AALCO held its last 55<sup>th</sup> session in New Delhi in May 2016. The topics considered at the session *inter-alia* are: counter-terrorism, customary international law, sustainable development, law of the sea, climate change and cybercrimes. Results of deliberations are published.

7. AALCO has also established several regional arbitration centers in Asia and Africa. These Arbitration centers apply the Arbitration Rules promulgated by the UNCITRAL and the arbitrations are well received.

8. At UN Headquarters, as the Permanent Observer, AALCO has been organizing on a regular basis seminars, workshops and informal discussions on topics of international law of common interest. These events are open to all Missions, delegations and the Secretariat, inclusive and open discussion being the objective. Judges, jurists, scholars and practitioners visiting New York are usually invited to take active part in these activities.

9. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the cooperation activities between the United Nations and the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization.

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