



**Statement of H.E. Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol, Secretary-General,  
the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) to be  
delivered at the Twenty-Third Session of the Assembly of State  
Parties**

**02-07 December 2024, The Hague**

**(Online Participation)**

Madam President of the Assembly of State Parties H.E. Ms. Päivi Kaukoranta,

Vice-Presidents H.E. Mr. Michael Imran Kanu; and H.E. Ms. Margareta Kassangana.

Honorable President of the International Criminal Court Judge Tomoko Akane,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the ASP of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for inviting AALCO to its Twenty-Third Session as an observer. AALCO has been a regular participant of the ASP and a keen observer of the activities of the ASP over the years.

**Madam President,**

AALCO is an intergovernmental organization comprising 49 Member States from Asia and Africa. Established in 1956 as a tangible outcome of the Bandung Conference, AALCO seeks to bolster cooperation in matters of international law amongst its Member States. Among other major areas, the functioning of the ICC has been an area of keen focus for AALCO. AALCO's work programme includes the topic of "recent developments of the International Criminal Court" as an agenda item. In this context,

the progressive development of international law and international criminal law through the jurisprudence of the ICC has been discussed on several Annual Sessions of the organisation.

Our engagement with the subject began in the year 1996 when we held discussions relating to the establishment of the ICC at the two Special Meetings convened within the framework of the 35<sup>th</sup> and the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the Organization.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between AALCO and the ICC in the year 2008. Thereafter, AALCO has conducted numerous seminars and workshops on specific thematic concerns relating to the ICC.

In 2009, a seminar on “International Criminal Court: Emerging issues and Challenges” was successfully organized in collaboration with the Government of Japan.

In 2010, prior to the Kampala Review Conference, a Round Table Meeting of Legal Experts was convened jointly by the AALCO and the Governments of Malaysia and Japan with a view to consolidate the position of the Member States. Subsequently, the AALCO Secretariat participated at the Kampala Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

The then Secretary-General, in the General Debate shared the outcome of Putrajaya meeting wherein he drew attention to the views of AALCO Member States regarding the definition of the crime of aggression, stocktaking of international criminal justice, and the proposals to amending the Rome Statute.

In 2019, AALCO had the occasion to co-host a seminar on ‘*Operational Functioning of the International Criminal Court and International Judicial Education: Emerging Paradigms*’ in New Delhi seeking to train Judicial Officers of AALCO Member States on operational aspects of international criminal law.

During the same year, at the AALCO’s 58<sup>th</sup> Session held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the then ILC member, Dr, George Nolte, provided an overview to the Member States of the Draft Articles and recommended the elaboration of Convention based on Draft Articles. AALCO and its Member States have substantively reviewed the ILC’s Draft Articles on Crimes against Humanity extensively from 2016-2019.

These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to the work of the ICC and our resolve to engage with the larger questions of international criminal justice with Member States.

**Madam President,**

There is a growing desire across Asia and Africa to learn more about the ICC's work. AALCO can play a vital role in contributing to the work of the ICC by leveraging its unique position as a forum for legal cooperation between Asia and Africa.

Additionally, AALCO also has a long history of addressing critical issues related to violent extremism, terrorism, and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in armed conflict. These are areas of significant relevance to the work of the ICC, and AALCO's expertise and contributions could provide invaluable insights to the Court, particularly in how these issues intersect with international criminal law.

AALCO's diverse membership, representing a wide range of legal systems and cultural backgrounds, offers varied perspectives on issues such as crimes against humanity and war crimes. These perspectives could be helpful during the development of policies and reforms at the ICC, ensuring that it is more responsive to the concerns of the Asian-African Member States.

AALCO, as a forum for discussions, can serve as an intermediary between the ICC and AALCO Member States by facilitating regular dialogues and engagement. By organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops, Member States could be better informed about the ICC's workings, its procedures, and its decisions. Such events can create a platform for open and constructive dialogue between ICC officials and legal professionals from Asian and African countries.

Furthermore, capacity building initiatives such as technical trainings, tailored workshops, focused on the workings of the ICC and its legal frameworks, could provide Member States with the necessary knowledge and tools to engage effectively with the ICC.

**Madam President,**

AALCO's contributions to the ICC can be multifaceted, ranging from fostering dialogue and providing diverse legal perspectives to facilitating capacity-building initiatives. By

strengthening these areas of cooperation, AALCO can ensure that its Member States are better engaged with the ICC, and in doing so, contribute to the ICC's mission of promoting international justice and the rule of law.

I thank you Madam President!

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