

**ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL  
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION  
(AALCO)**



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STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY AMB. DR.WAFIK ZAHER KAMIL, SECRETARY GENERAL, ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2002

Thank you Mr.President.

Mr.President, Hon'ble Ministers, Excellencies, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC, distinguished delegates and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour for me to address this august assembly on behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO). Allow me to begin by introducing the AALCO, which is having its headquarters in New-Delhi, is an inter-governmental organization, with a membership of 45 States, comprising almost all the major States from Asia and Africa. AALCO serves as an advisory body to its Member States in the field of international law and is a forum for Asian-African cooperation in legal matters of common concern with Observer Status with United Nations since 1980 and works with full co-operation with major international organizations.

Mr.President, it need not be reiterated that the problem of climate change is undoubtedly one of the most serious environmental problems affecting the life on planet Earth. The third report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that there is new and stronger evidence that most of the observed global warming of the past 50 years is attributable to human activities. The longer we postpone taking stronger action against climate change, more efforts will be required to reverse the trend of increasing emission of greenhouse gases.

It is heartening to note that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attained universal acceptance. The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol will give impetus to achieve the goals set out in the Convention. However, this raises the crucial legal issue of effect of the Kyoto Protocol mechanism on non-parties to the Protocol.

Mr. President, the AALCO has been associated with the Climate Change Convention since its negotiations phase in the early 1990's. We continue to follow-up the developments in the Convention process and report on the progress achieved to the Annual Sessions of the AALCO. We believe that at present the climate change negotiations have reached a crucial phase. In these circumstances, we stress that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility should remain the firm basis for the Convention process and the developed States must bear their primary responsibility for reducing GHG emissions. Developing countries have a vital stake in the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol as well as its subsequent implementation. In this regard, commitments for financial resources and measures for technology transfer and capacity-building of developing states must be strengthened.

Mr. President, the World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized climate change as an important component of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation *inter alia* called for a number of steps for greenhouse gas emission reduction. The AALCO calls for necessary efforts in the attainment of these goals and steps.

Mr. President under your able guidance COP-8 through its subsidiary bodies – SBSTA and SBI have worked effectively and achieved considerable progress on addressing some of the crucial issues affecting the implementation of the Convention. Apart from the other outcome of the COP, we look forward to the adoption of an implementation-oriented Delhi Declaration focusing on climate change and sustainable development.

Mr. President, the AALCO works in close cooperation with the Ministries of Justice and Legal Department of Foreign Affairs of its member governments and I would like to offer our full support for wider ratification and effective implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and all other measures towards strengthening of the climate change regime.

Thank you Mr. President.