



AALCO's CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW THROUGH MODEL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS: RECOLLECTING A GLORIOUS LEGACY

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AALCO: AN INTRODUCTION

- AALCO established on November 15, 1956 as a tangible outcome of the historic Bandung Conference.
- From seven founding Members in 1956, AALCO is today a large inter-governmental organisation comprising 47 Member States from Asia and Africa.
- AALCO derives its mandate from deliberations between Member States in the Annual Session of the Organisation.
- It is a ***consultative organisation*** engaged in the progressive development and codification of international law.
- AALCO's mandate ***includes the preparation of soft laws such as model legal instruments***. This is defined to include declarations, principles, guidelines, frameworks and model laws on any topic of international law, aimed at helping States get broader clarity for further legislative endeavours.

AALCO's MODEL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The Model Legal Instruments or recommendations made by the Organisation, includes:

- Principles Concerning Extradition of Fugitive Offenders, 1961;
- Principles Concerning Admission and Treatment of Aliens, 1961;
- Principles Relating to Elimination or Reduction of Dual or Multiple Nationality, 1964;
- Bangkok Principles on the Status and Treatment of Refugees, 1966;
- Fisheries Legislation on Optimum Utilization of the Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone, 1983;

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- Bilateral Arrangements on Mutual Assistance for the Service of Process and the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1983;
- Arrangement for Promotion and Protection of Investment, 1983;
- Legislation on the Status and Treatment of Refugees, Doha, 1995;
- Regional Co-operation Agreement between States of Origin and States of Destination/Employment within AALCO Member States, 2002;
- Law on Trafficking in Women and Children, 2002; and
- Guidelines on Violent Extremism, 2016 (not adopted).

IMPACT OF AALCO'S MODEL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

- Some of AALCO's Model Legal Instruments were leading 'soft law' principles which subsequently became 'hard law'. Arrangement for Promotion and Protection of Investment, 1983;
- Bangkok Principle enshrining the 'burden sharing concept' is a part of the Global Compact of Refugees is a notable example.
- Influenced legislation and policy initiatives in some AALCO Member States.
- Globally quoted by scholars and publicists of international law.
- Recently, Nepal requested the Secretariat to prepare a model framework pertaining to the Rights of Landlocked States in the context of rising sea levels.