



**57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization  
8-12 October 2018, Tokyo**

**Keynote Address**

**By**

**Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares**

Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and  
United Nations Legal Counsel  
8 October 2018

Excellencies,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be invited to address this annual session of AALCO,  
building on its





Rule of law activities permeate the work of the United Nations, and the Office of Legal Affairs, which I head, is the lead in many of these areas. The various Divisions of my Office work “upstream” in assisting Member States in developing and negotiating international law instruments, as well as “downstream” in promoting awareness and implementation of international law. Our activities include: ensuring better knowledge and understanding of international law; encouraging greater accession to multilateral treaty regimes; assisting the General Assembly in progressively developing international law; assisting States in their





Moreover, the progressive development of international law and its codification – embodied in Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations – are key elements to the promotion of the rule of law. Since the General Assembly established the International Law Commission 70 years ago, the Commission has made far-reaching achievements in this regard. This would not have been possible without the support of regional bodies such as AALCO, which has made significant contributions on topics before the Commission, including identification of customary international law, provisional application of treaties and protection of the atmosphere. I can assure you that, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Commission, the Codification Division of my Office will continue to facilitate such cooperation.

The U# 1404f1 0 0 1 8.9 58.5 Tm0 g0 G( )TJET@.00000912 09ET@6J TJET@.0000091

