



AALCO Webinar on

**Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction**

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**Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2025**

**Concept Note**

The topic of “Immunity of State Officials from foreign Criminal Jurisdiction” was put on the work programme of the International Law Commission (ILC) in the year 2007. Over the years, three Special Rapporteurs have worked on this topic namely, Mr. Roman Anatolevich Kolodkin, Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández and Mr. Claudio Grossman Guiloff who is the current Special Rapporteur on the topic.

Recently, in July 2022, the ILC adopted the Draft Articles on this topic, including Draft Article 7, which has sparked diverse opinions, particularly from States in Asia and Africa. The Commission has made concerted efforts to gather a range of legal perspectives on the scope of Draft Article 7, with a focus on input from these regions.

AALCO’s engagement with the International Law Commission forms a key aspect of its mandate under Rule 12 (8) of the Statutory Rules of AALCO. Over the last two years, AALCO has conducted Webinars for officials of its Member States on different topics on the Work Programme of the Commission. These have included the following topics:

- a. Rising Sea Levels and AALCO Member States: Perils And Protection Under International Law (7 June 2022)
- b. General Principles of Law and AALCO Member States (6 April 2023)

To continue this practice, it is proposed that the next topic of AALCO’s engagement in this series will be ‘Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction’.

### **Key objectives of the Webinar**

The views of Asian and African States are crucial for the deliberation on this topic by the Commission and the codification and progressive development of international law.

- Information sharing by the ILC about the evolving legal framework on the immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction to ensure Member States are updated in order to facilitate constructive discussions.
- Providing a forum for Asian and African States to express their views on the legal and policy dimensions on the topic of immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction to facilitate the work of the ILC on this topic.
- Strengthen engagement of AALCO Member States on topics on the agenda of the Commission as per the mandate of the Organization. (Rule 12 (8) of the Statutory Rules of AALCO)

### **Resource Persons**

- Prof. Dr. Phoebe Okowa, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Masahiko Asada, Member, International Law Commission
- Prof. Dr. Mohsen Abollahi, Associate Professor, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran
- Dr. Owiso Owiso, Independent Consultant and International Lawyer