

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTERS/HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF MEMBER STATES

AUSTRALIA – CHAIR

General Debate Statement, Indian Ocean Rim Association 13th Council of Ministers Meeting

Speech, E&OE, (check against delivery)

Perth

1 November 2013

Australia is proud and honoured to be chair of the newly named Indian Ocean Rim Association — IORA.

It is fitting that Australia's two year term as IORA chair commences in Perth, our dynamic Indian Ocean capital.

The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest ocean and the lifeline of our international trade and economy.

- It's a region that has been woven together by trade routes and sea lanes for hundreds of years
- Now, it carries half of the world's container ships, one-third of the bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of the oil shipments

The Indian Ocean Rim's population is close to two billion people.

The stability and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region is increasingly important globally.

For example, the World Bank estimates that piracy costs the global economy around US\$18 billion a year in increased trade costs — an amount that dwarfs the estimated US\$53 million average annual ransom paid.

IORA must play its part in developing better maritime security across the region, fostering economic growth and sustainable development.

IORA is the only body with a broad-based agenda and a membership that spans the Indian Ocean region.

However, compared to many other regional bodies, our Association has delivered relatively modest outcomes.

India has made good ground in building the stature of our association.

It is incumbent now on Australia, with vice-chair Indonesia, to inject the dynamism I believe is necessary to drive further progress on policy and administrative fronts.

Australia's future lies in the Indo-Pacific, so we have every reason to build IORA's capacity and influence.

Australia wants to ensure that your nation's membership of IORA brings positive benefits that justify an investment of effort and resources.

Together, we need to lift our ambition and work with renewed vigour, focus and resolve, for the challenges and opportunities we face in the Indian Ocean region are increasingly complex.

Our role, as ministers and heads of delegation, is to ensure that IORA is relevant to our respective national interests and to the peace and prosperity of the Indian Ocean Rim.

Thematic officials, experts and scientists — not just our foreign and trade/commerce ministries — must be enlisted in support of this.

We are a diverse group, but we have much in common — including a shared commitment to the peaceful, sustainable use of this magnificent ocean.

Our proposed 'Perth Principles' Declaration captures this commitment. There is much useful work also to be done in IORA's six agreed priority areas.

Today I am committing Australia to funding and delivering a package of activities and initiatives across most of these themes, of \$1.175 million.

Within the six priority areas, I also see room to focus on broader issues including women's economic empowerment and educational exchanges.

One in three international students studying in Australia comes from the Indian Ocean Rim. This highlights the education linkages that I believe we can enhance. The Australian Government's signature policy the New Colombo Plan will enable young Australians to benefit from deeper learning experiences in the region, by giving them the opportunity to study in their undergraduate years at universities in the Indo-Pacific region.

For over 30 years, from the 1950s to the 1980s, the original Colombo Plan saw 40,000 students from across the region study in Australia. Today they are leaders in their own countries. Our new Colombo Plan will send our young people to live and learn in the region — coming home with new skills, ideas and perspectives and lifelong friendships and networks that will not only be a rewarding experience for the individual, but will build deeper engagement between nations.

Working collaboratively with member states, Australia wants to not only sharpen IORA's work program but also its way of doing business.

We believe IORA's institutional arrangements should be strengthened so members can work more effectively together.

And I hope that our member states can engage the deeper interest and the undoubted expertise of IORA's Dialogue Partners and I warmly welcome their representatives today.

Our future, individually, collectively, lies in the Indian Ocean region.

So we have every reason to seek to grasp to the fullest the opportunity that a refreshed IORA now presents.

As of 1 November 2013
Check Against Delivery

INDONESIA – VICE CHAIR

Statement by

H.E. Dr. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for
Foreign Affairs Republic of Indonesia

At the 13th Council of Ministers
Of the Indian Ocean Rim Association
Perth, 1 November 2013

Honourable Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and
Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,

Ambassador K.V. Bhagirat, Secretary General of IORA, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating Australia on its election to the IORA Chairmanship for the period of 2013 to 2015. I am confident that under Australia's skillful leadership, deliberations during our meetings will be fruitful.

It is also a particular pleasure for my delegation to be here in your home state of Western Australia, Madam Chairperson. We appreciate the warm welcome and hospitality that have been accorded to us since our arrival.

I wish to take this opportunity to also extend my delegation's appreciation and congratulations to India on its successful tenure as the Chair of IORA for 2011 to 2013. India's leadership of IORA contributed to making the organization more robust than it has ever been.

As Vice Chair, Indonesia is fully committed to working closely with the Chair and with all member states to build on what have been achieved and bring our cooperation to a higher level.

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,

The Indian Ocean has great strategic value not only to our region, but also to the rest of world. It plays a vital role in international shipping and trade. It links two vast continents, Asia and Africa, and serves as a bridge between Asia and Europe. Indeed, in Indonesia, we have long believed that our seas and oceans are bridges that connect us, not gaps that separate us.

This strategic geographic uniqueness, combined with the region's wealth of natural and maritime resources, and being home to a quarter of the world population, has greatly contributed to the region economic dynamism over the last decade.

For Indonesia, the future course of the Indian Ocean region is thus of profound importance.

The decades of peace and stability in the region have allowed the pursuit of economic development, social progress and prosperity by countries in the region. We are in fact seeing a peace dividend.

Yet the region's tremendous diversity, change and transformation within countries that have ramification within the region has become an increasing challenge.

Managing this challenge and creating condition conducive for sustained development is therefore critical. This is inseparable and mutually reinforcing to the success of IORA and cooperation the region.

Against this backdrop, Indonesia is of the view that a region-wide commitment of peaceful, productive and good neighborly relations can contribute to building confidence and creating condition conducive for continued regional development.

Madame Chairperson,

Since the establishment of IORA 16 years ago, some significant achievements in various areas of cooperation have contributed to the region's development.

While recognizing that there is still great potential and opportunity for cooperation within the context of IORA, at the same time we are seeing today a growing number and proliferation of regional cooperation.

In Southeast Asia, we have ASEAN. In South Asia we have SAARC. In the Gulf region we have GCC. In the Southern African region we have SADC. And in the larger context of Asia-Pacific we have APEC—to name a few.

This is a particular challenge for IORA. For our organization to remain relevant and play a central role in the Indian Ocean cooperation it must be able to continue to add value.

Indonesia therefore supports efforts towards reassessing our strength and ensuring that focus on the six priority areas we have adopted in 2011.

We also have to continue to strengthening our organization and empowering our Secretariat. In this regard, I am pleased to reiterate Indonesia's readiness to second one of its diplomats to fill in one of the Director position at the Secretariat starting early next year.

It is also important for IORA to ensure synergy and build linkages with our dialogue partners, as well as with sub-regional, regional and multilateral organizations. This can have important multiplier effect to the work undertaken in IORA.

In closing Madame Chairperson, it is important to highlight that in a world full of growing challenges towards our common prosperity, the contribution of each member of our organization bears great significance. We must all do our part in advancing our cooperation to address shared challenges and serving our common interests.

I thank you.

INDIA – PAST CHAIR

13th Meeting of IORARC Council of Ministers
[0915 hrs, November 1, 2013]
[Ball Room, Hyatt Regency, Perth]

Country Statement by EAM on behalf of India

Excellencies,
Secretary General,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to thank our senior officials, business persons and academics, as well as the Secretariat, for the hard work they have put in to prepare for today's meeting. I congratulate both Australia and Indonesia on assuming the Chair and Vice Chair of our Association respectively. I am sure that our Association will further flourish under their able leadership.

The Indian Ocean is becoming increasingly critical to the world's economic growth and energy security. Therefore, the focus of IORA agenda, as the apex organisation in the Indian Ocean region, should continue to strengthen the capacities of its members to tackle developmental challenges. We need to focus on our economic synergies to build and strengthen infrastructural linkages for enhanced connectivity and to promote trade and investment flows amongst ourselves to unleash the full economic and developmental potential of our region.

Security of maritime commerce and safety of our seamen continue to remain a shared concern for all of us. India is hosting the first Indian Ocean Dialogue at Track 1.5 level to bring together scholars, experts and policy makers for exchange of views on these very important issues.

The recent cyclone Phailin which affected India and other countries in the region was an acute reminder of the fact that natural calamities know no geographical boundaries. Such natural calamities also underscore the importance of sharing best practices and experiences to tackle these challenges. We need to have initiatives aimed at promoting such exchanges in our Association.

There is no doubt that aquatic resources in Indian Ocean are on the decline due to over-exploitation and other reasons. Sustaining our common resources for benefit of the countries on the Rim is indeed an important issue.

We need to have closer linkages between our educational institutions for student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations and cooperation in science and technology. Our corporate sector has to be more fully engaged in pursuing opportunities for mutual benefit.

Excellencies,

We welcome the ideas of our Chair to impart further dynamism into the functioning of our Association. I reiterate India's commitment to work together with all members to realize IORA's vision for enhanced cooperation and for the benefit of the peoples of our Association.

Thank You.

BANGLADESH

Statement by Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque at the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC in Perth, Australia on 01 November 2013

Hon'ble Chair

Hon'ble Vice-Chair, Hon'ble Past Chair

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni regrets that she could not attend this important meeting due to her pressing domestic preoccupation. She, however, conveys her best wishes for success of this meeting. Madame Chair, allow me to offer my warm congratulations to you on your assumption of the Chair of this meeting. Let me also express my sincere thanks to the government of Australia for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and for the generous hospitality extended me and my delegation in this beautiful city of Perth. Our thanks are also due to the Government of India, in particular, Hon'ble Foreign Minister, for commendable leadership of IORA over the last two years. I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary General and his team.

Madame Chair,

This 13th Council of Ministers in Perth is indeed a milestone in the history of IORA. Today, we have adopted a new name for our Association. The new name is not just a simplification of pronunciation; but it signifies a reorientation of our Association towards a more effective, efficient and functional way forward. In this context, we welcome Australia's timely paper on strengthening the Association containing many valuable recommendations. It is perhaps time to focus our efforts on concrete outcomes in the six identified priority areas of cooperation.

Today, the Indian Ocean is an economic highway of the world. It is fast emerging as the global "centre of gravity" as 60% of the world's old shipment, 33% of the bulk cargo and 50% of the world's container trade pass through its water. Therefore, safe and secured shipping should remain a topmost priority for our Association. We look forward to early completion of final steps for establishment of the Maritime Transport Council. We, however, need to go beyond technical cooperation to work towards establishment of a free and non-discriminatory regime by which ships and sailors can have easier access to the region. Maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea continues to threaten the peace, security and prosperity of the region. IORA needs to assume a prominent role in addressing these challenges through cooperation in capacity-building.

Distinguished delegates,

Bangladesh would continue to pursue the feasibility of establishing a Preferential Trade Arrangement for the member states to enhance trade facilitation. We need to direct increased attention to the area of investment, particularly in the knowledge-based sectors. We welcome the outcomes of the recent IOR-ARC Economic and Business Conference that highlighted the potentials of some promising sectors such as service, agro-business and ocean economy.

We welcome the operationalization of Fisheries Support Unit. We commit our support for its development in promoting knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and addressing strategic issues related to fishing.

We recognize considerable potential for cooperation in the academic, and science and technology sector. We believe that activities in this arena should be focused on the priority sectors identified for our Association. We commend the activities of IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer. We would like to encourage greater interaction between member states and RCSTT in formulation of its plan of work.

Our region is also witness to 70% of the world's natural disasters. In fact, almost 80% of the human fatalities in natural disasters of the last decade have been in Asia. The vulnerability of our region to natural disasters only adds another layer of complexity to the overall security milieu. Bangladesh supports IORA initiatives for an integrated project to build capacity in ocean forecasting.

Bangladesh encourages private sector development in the IORA activities, particularly in energy, tourism and infrastructure. Bangladesh also supports work under the IORA Fisheries Support Unit to address needs in aquaculture and artisanal fishing.

Madame Chair,

We note with concern that some cooperation areas suffer from proliferation of project proposals, some of which even appear overlapping. We would prefer to see fewer and carefully selected projects that have robust, long-term and sustainable impact on the member states.

Madame Chair,

The potentials of the Indian Ocean Rim are immense. An effective IORA can provide us the platform to realize many potentials. Bangladesh stands ready to extend all cooperation to put IORA on a result-oriented journey towards the goal reaching tangible benefits to all our peoples.

I thank you, Madame Chair.

UNION OF COMOROS (FREE TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH)

Statement of H.E. Mr. El Hassane Anrif Said,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in charge of the Diaspora and the Francophonie and
the Arab World

Perth, November 1, 2013

Her Excellency, Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations
His Excellency, the Secretary General,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure that I find myself among you on this day and for the first time since I have been allocated the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Union of the Comoros four months ago.

The Union of the Comoros, having acquired the status of full member in this organization last year, wishes to affirm its commitment and determination to provide its support and its contribution to the organizational strength of the Association by fully participating in its development, and to actively cooperate in the strategy to bring together Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim.

With that, I would first like to join other distinguished speakers, to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and the brotherly people of Australia, for the brotherly welcome and the excellent hospitality shown to the Comorian delegation which has been provided to us since we have set foot on Australian soil.

Also, I must not miss such an opportunity to express our sympathy and solidarity with the Government, the brotherly people and friends in Australia following the repercussions of the forest fires and its widespread impact that destroyed an important part of its flora.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, I wish to support your qualities as a seasoned diplomat, a guarantee of success of our work, to express our wishes to the successful foundations of our 13th Council of Ministers meeting and to confirm the full support of the Comorian delegation to you.

With regard to you, Mr. Secretary General and to your team, my delegation and I would like to express our gratitude for your availability, commitment and dedication which you have demonstrated throughout your mandate to serve our organization and its activities.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a world in constant movement and change, multifaceted crises come and go, and when some countries are at war, lives are lost, countries and economies are destroyed and rights are violated.

In these tragedies, associated to the whims and disasters of nature, countries and peoples expect from their Government peace, security, development and well-being.

In this commitment to this principle, the opportunity is given to Member States to assess their actions and performance against the interests of the Indian Ocean region which wants peace and solidarity.

We have all believed and supported this well informed policy vision, and the country programs tend to approach these policies as desired by our peoples and cultures.

Enormous sacrifices need to be made to achieve this. The combination of energy, skills and resources of each other and the joint commitment of all to the economic and social development of our respective States will meet our expectations.

Our organization, relying on the availability of its multidisciplinary subjects, can pride itself on the quality and complexity of its large countries, strong and rich, but also on its small, poor ones which form part of the organisation. All this is testimony of our common capacity to build this much desired area, where peace can be realised.

This great hope further strengthens the determination of my country to devote its full cooperation and complete solidarity to our organization.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My country, the archipelago of Comoros, gained in a specific way, international sovereignty in July 6, 1975, after a century and a half of French colonization, which prevented us to achieve our full potential. One of its islands, Mayotte, remains to this day, under French administration and a visa is requested for the inhabitants of three other islands to enter it. This visa has, since its establishment, resulted in the deaths of nearly 10,000 children, women, youth and old people in Comoros, in the strip of water that separates Mayotte from the three other islands of the archipelago.

Since then, the Comoros archipelago has claimed its right to recover the integrity of its territory. In all fora, the international community recognizes the right of the Comoros to recover its territorial integrity and calls on both sides, the Comoros and France to enter into negotiations with a view to achieving a just and lasting solution to the dispute.

Today, I would like to bring to the attention of our organization and its Member States that the two Presidents, Ikililou Dhoinine and François Hollande, have initiated a bold move that promises to become a

fruitful engagement and strong commitment to the search for a negotiated solution, to the unfortunate dispute concerning the Comorian island of Mayotte; a dispute which has lasted too long with immeasurable multidisciplinary consequences.

With that, I would like to make an urgent appeal to the States and key loving personalities involved in peace processes, human rights and freedom to invite them to give us assistance and support, each in its own capacity to help us overcome this dispute in a peaceful way.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By addressing the subject of our meeting here in Perth, I would like to say that for the past two days, representatives of our States have devoted body and soul to bring our organization and its cooperation to a new level in its march towards excellence.

After the constructive discussions taking place in the working groups, we have to comply with the decisions and recommendations made on the various topics on the agenda. I believe that here, as everywhere else, our work will be successful and that our statement and our decisions will form part of the finest pages of our cooperation and solidarity in creating a prosperous Indian Ocean Rim.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Chairman of the Indian Ocean Commission, I cannot conclude my remarks without affirming that the Indian Ocean Commission wishes to reaffirm its sympathy, his strong support and willingness to collaborate closely to make the great Indian Ocean an active reality.

The membership of most of the members of the IOC is also members of the IOR-ARC which is a guarantee and a good opportunity to display their political, economic, socio-cultural and environmental vision. In doing so, the IOC believes that its concern for peace, solidarity, sharing and adaptation to being small and fragility and climate change will receive the full attention from the IOR-ARC.

So let us go and face our challenges as we will win by being together in unity and solidarity.

Thank you.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Director General for Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran before the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association

1 November 2013- Perth, Australia

Madam Chair
Honorable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I wish to congratulate Your Excellency, distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia for assuming Chairmanship of Indian Ocean Rim Association, while thanking India for its dedicated efforts as IORA Chair in recent 2 years. I should also express my gratitude to Australia for warm hospitality in charming city of Perth and for the arrangements for our Meeting, and for sideline gatherings to foster public and private engagement in the work of the Association. I should thank the Secretariat of IORA for their arrangements and elaborate documents before us. We found the report of Ambassador Bhaghirat, IOR-ARC Secretary-General a substantive and useful document. I am happy that we have come up with “**IORA**” : a more user friendly name.

Madam Chair,

We all are cognizant of great strategic and economic importance of Indian Ocean. More than 80 percent of the world's seaborne trade in oil transits through Indian Ocean choke points.

Although for centuries, its waters have carried religions, languages, traditions, and indeed people across thousands of miles and bound them together in a cultural brotherhood, but it's not just about sea lanes and trade. More than half the world's armed conflicts are presently located in the Indian Ocean region. Continued evolving strategic developments including rise in military competitions and frequent incidence of piracy in and around the Horn of Africa, and management of diminishing fishery resources, shape current challenges to the Region.

The effects of climate change and marine environmental degradation pose profound threats to many Indian Ocean littoral states. Related human, food, and environmental security concerns requires vast cooperative responses.

Presence of non-regional powers in the Indian Ocean could impinge upon freedom of navigation and therefore the flow of maritime trade.

Other law and order issues that threaten the interests of Indian Ocean states include unlawful unilateral coercive measures against free flow of trade, illegal fishing, marine pollution, and smuggling of people, and drugs.

Madam Chair

Our nations have gathered together to enhance their cooperation in economic, trade, business, maritime related and cultural issues. There's no doubt the Association has enormous potential. New administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which took power after judiciously sober choice in the recent elections, opts for discourse of hope, foresight and prudent moderation. In multilateral arena, the combination of these elements means that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a regional power, will continue to act responsibly and constructively with regard to regional and international issues.

Madam Chair

On trade issues, we are happy to note that the importance of the contribution of private sector in enhancement of economic and trade cooperation amongst IORA member states has been recognized overwhelming. In this context we have to seek ways and means to ultimately establish of IORA Business Council or Federation of Chambers of Commerce which would be materializing our trade agenda at private sector segment.

While reiterating on the importance of fisheries, maritime transport, marine research and disaster management. There's also real ground for expansion of cooperation in science and technology after 4 years of efficient functioning of RCSTT. Agriculture, tourism and culture are areas for cooperation which need more attention. My Government is ready to accept responsibility, if mandated, over cultural cooperation in IORA.

We are much delighted and do support the approach of our new Chair, and take note with appreciation Australian Paper. We are confident that the Australian recommendations and its implementation by the steering committee, can enhance institutionalized cooperation in our Association. We need to evaluate the current status. Current activities of the Association are far from capacity for cooperation throughout IORA. If we want to move towards a full fledge regional mechanism for cooperation, we have to note and devote our capabilities to revitalize institutional bodies and mechanisms. We have to support key projects which will lead to establishing mechanisms and bodies in order to deal with wide variety of issues before us.

Madam Chair

Iran is the host of IOR ARC Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) in Tehran since 2009, and accordingly we have done every effort to support the Centre in materializing its aims and goals encompassed in the Charter and policy guidelines of IORA.

My Government has provided proper premises and infrastructure, and seconded dedicated experts and logistic staff to facilitate smooth and efficient functioning of the Centre. The Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a financial decision of granting annually 200/000 Dollar to the Centre. We sincerely hope other member states of IORA initiate their financial grants to the Centre in order to enable it achieve its noble goals.

RCSTT acts as a science and technology tool of IORA, and we expect full support and scrutiny over the Centre from the Secretariat and Member States.

Madam Chair,

In line with our commitments to contribute in enhancement of sectoral and technical cooperation in the context of IORA, Iran will be hosting the First IORA Coastal Cities Mayors' Meeting on Safety and Security of Indian Ocean Maritime in December 2013 in city of Bandar Abbas. This meeting will be seeking ways and means to promote maritime safety and security including dealing with natural disasters, pollution, combating illicit drug and human trafficking, and safeguarding environment.

Furthermore in line with suggestions of the first Economic and Business Conference, Iran will be hosting 1st IORA Conference of Free Trade and Industrial Zones in Kish Island in 2014. We welcome participation of relevant authorities of IORA member states.

Once again I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of Australia for wonderful arrangements and in particular Your Excellency, for chairing our Meeting, and I thank you all for your attention.

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KENYA

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, AMB JOHN LANYASUNYA MBS, HEAD OF ASIA AND AUSTRALASIA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM 13TH COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S MEETING IN PERTH AUSTRALIA ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2013

The Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth Republic of Australia and new Chair of the IORA

Distinguished Ministers

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the onset, allow me to register apologies from Amb. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya who could not make it to this meeting. She would have wished to be here, but was not able to, due to other unforeseen exigencies.

It is with great honour that I join Ministers and colleagues from the Indian Ocean Region on this wonderful occasion of the 13th Council of Ministers meeting here in Perth, Australia. First, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Australia for the excellent reception, friendship and hospitality that was accorded to us on our arrival in this beautiful city of Perth. Let me also take this opportunity to recognize the presence of our dialogue partners, delegates from various forums, observers and the media.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Australia for assuming the role of the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers. In the same vein, I also congratulate Indonesia for taking up the position of Vice Chair. I wish to specifically thank the IORA Secretariat for the preparations that have made this forum a great success. Consequently, we fully support the felt need, to continue strengthening the Secretariat to enable it undertake greater responsibilities.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As you all know, Kenya has been in the news in recent weeks in connection with the cowardly terrorist attack at a shopping mall in Nairobi that took so many innocent lives and left so many others injured in so many ways. We are grateful to all our friends and partners who stood with us during that trying time.

Earlier in the year, Kenya underwent a peaceful election process that brought in a new administration. Under the leadership of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, the new government is working hard to put in place the frameworks for the successful implementation of a new constitution that was promulgated just three years ago. The new constitution ushers in a devolved system of government that presents new opportunities and avenues for productive engagements between Kenya and its trading partners. In this regard, we have much to learn from a number of the IORA members who have successfully walked this road of devolution.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Kenya Government recognizes that intra regional trade and investment is a key component of the economic development of the Region. I am glad to note that during the last Economic and Business Forum held in July 2013, members came together to forge partnerships and address some of the challenges inhibiting expansion of trade and investment in the region.

In spite of this importance, however, there are a number of factors that continue to constrain intraregional trade. Principal among the barriers are poor transportation networks; cumbersome import and export procedures and border crossing problems; limited use of information and communication technology (ICT); limited involvement of the private sector in the design of programmes intended to raise intra-regional trade; and poor trade dispute settlement systems and financial encumbrances, among others.

I wish to point out that these and other obstacles to intra-regional trade could be overcome through collaboration between the public and private sectors. In this regard, the private sector could partner with relevant public sector agencies to simplify trade policies; pursue a broad-based liberalization of intra-regional trade; invest in trade supporting infrastructure, such as roads, rail, telecommunications, etc through public-private partnerships; and support dissemination of information on intra-African trade opportunities on a wider scale within the continent.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As a country we are equally concerned with climate change and its effects on our lives – present and future. Many of our members struggle with how to address these issues, especially in the absence of a common regional policy framework on this subject. Climate change continues to affect our water resources,

agriculture and food security, public health, energy, biodiversity and forests, infrastructure, urban planning among others. I call upon all of us to fully support our Regional Centre of Science & Technology to continue its research activities whose findings can be useful in addressing this perpetual challenge.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite the impressive economic growth registered by several member States over the years, a significant proportion of the people still live below the poverty line. It is important to embrace sustainable and inclusive growth and most importantly, utilize available opportunities through joint and coordinated actions. This calls upon member states to make efficient utilization of the scarce shared resources, such as the seas and marine food resources.

I recognize that piracy remains a menace which increases the cost of transacting trade through the sea. As a country we fully support the establishment of the Regional Anti Piracy Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC) in Seychelles. We encourage various complementary initiatives, such as discussions during the forthcoming Coastal Cities Mayors meeting on safety and security of Indian Ocean Maritime. Let me once again restate what we have always said in the past. Somalia mainland is the breeding ground of pirates. There is therefore need for all of us both as member states of IORA and members of the international Community to work together to stabilize Somalia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to restate the commitment by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, to continue working closely with all member states of the IOR-ARC and its international partners for the successful implementation of all commitments, goals and objectives of this regional organization.

Thank You

MADAGASCAR

STATEMENT BY H.E. JACQUES ULRICH ANDRIANTIANA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR TO THE 13th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE IORA, PERTH, AUSTRALIA , 1ST NOVEMBER 2013

Chairperson,

Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations of Member States,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to address this august Assembly for the 13th Council of Ministers Meeting of the IORA. First of all, on behalf of the Transitional Government and the people of Madagascar and on my own behalf, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Government and people of Australia, especially to H.E Ms. Julie BISHOP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and Chairperson of the IORA Ministerial Council, for the warm hospitality extended to us, since our arrival in this amazingly gorgeous country.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our participation in this Council of Ministers is of paramount importance because it occurs at a turning point of the process in resolving the current crisis in Madagascar.

In Gurgaon in 2012, the Malagasy delegation had informed the Ministers of Member States about the major strides that have been made to get out of this critical situation, namely, the signing of the Roadmap to end the crisis in Madagascar which culminated in the establishment of the whole transitional institutions.

Today, I am pleased to announce that Madagascar has just held a peaceful and serene first round of the presidential elections, a cornerstone for the process to end the crisis. Indeed, Malagasy people, who demonstrated patriotism and cast their votes in large numbers, are looking forward to obtaining the election results.

This milestone has been reached owing to the assistance and support of the international community, including IORA Member States. May I, therefore, extend my thanks for your unfailing commitment. However, Malagasy people still seek your support to conclude successfully this process.

It is worth recalling that the 2nd round of the presidential elections, coupled with the House of Representatives ones will be held on 20 December 2013.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to acknowledge the progress that has been achieved by our Organization lately and may I avail myself of this invaluable opportunity to pay a special tribute to the Government of India for its unwavering commitment to promoting our organization during its chairmanship, and to the Member States for their tireless efforts with the

aim of achieving our community's goals and ideals.

In this regard, despite the current national context and financial constraints, Madagascar has been actively involved in various IORA activities and programmes, through the National Structure of the designed IORA Focal Points, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry in charge of coordinating the regional cooperation and integration policy in Madagascar. This structure was set up in order to coordinate and ensure the coherence of our international commitments. Madagascar opted to adopt this inclusive approach to steer effective participation.

Accordingly, some projects have been initiated to ensure successful materialization of our objectives of integration, and development. Actually, Madagascar is delighted with the implementation of some of them such as the first edition of IORA Economic and Business Conference, which was convening in Mauritius this year. Madagascar has commented on the 15 key recommendations. On this point, I firmly wish that every project on Trade and Investment Facilitation would take into account the different stages of development as well as the main concerns of the least developed and the most economically vulnerable Member States. We also attach great importance to the completion of the project on Sustainable Aquaculture and Artisanal Fisheries Development in Eastern Africa for IORA Member States, of which Madagascar is among the beneficiaries. Fishermen Communities from the Northern and South –western part of Madagascar only live on small-scale traditional fisheries-related activities. Thus, this project will enable them to improve their fishing technique and will lead them to use more modern and trade-oriented fisheries.

In addition, Malagasy Government is keen to ensure full implementation of the initiatives on maritime security issues and fight against piracy, which solely can guarantee the freedom of movement at sea recommended by international law. Madagascar intends to be a key player in this field as regard of its geostrategic position.

Illegal fishing has also become a major challenge for some Member States. IORA with its Dialogue partner States should work together with regional organizations that have the same program so as to cooperate with joint efforts.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indeed, some significant achievements have been witnessed, but it would be relevant to mention that a lot of challenges still need to be addressed to consolidate our integration. I am convinced that Australian chairpersonship will provide impetus to strengthen our assets and will infuse dynamism into our Organization, as a vehicle for a qualitative impact on our people's living conditions. We are expecting a lot from IORA.

In this regard, I would like to express our appreciation of Australian initiatives which aim at strengthening the organization, taking into account budgetary constraints. In this sense, Madagascar expects that cultural and tourism exchanges can play a key role owing to the fact that our regional block is inherently marked by cultural diversity. It is high time for us to contemplate organizing IORA Member States games because a worthwhile integration should promote people-to-people understanding. It will also create a positive impact on tourism. Madagascar is willing to work with interested Member States to study the feasibility of such a project.

Before ending my remarks, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all our Partners for their assistance and support in the implementation of our regional programs. My special thanks and my warm congratulations also go to the Secretariat, which has made every effort to take forward our regional integration agenda.

In closing, may We, Member States, build up an integrated and inclusive Organization through the realization of projects that meet the aspirations of our peoples.

May the 13th Council of Ministers meeting be fully successful!
Long life to IORA !

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your kind attention.

MALAYSIA

The 13th Meeting of IOR-ARC Council of Ministers (COM)
Perth, Australia
1 November 2013

Country Statement by YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman,
Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia

Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you, Madam Chair. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to say I am indeed delighted to be here in the beautiful city of Perth, and to join this gathering of distinguished colleagues from the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member countries.

2. I wish to also join my other colleagues in expressing my deep gratitude to you, Excellency, as well as, to the Australian Government, for the warm hospitality that has been extended to me and my delegation from Kuala Lumpur, and for the excellent arrangements of the IORA 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers in Perth.

3. On behalf of the Malaysian government, I wish to welcome and congratulate Australia as the new chair of IORA, as well as, Indonesia as the new Vice-Chair. Malaysia trusts that under the able leadership of Australia and Indonesia, IORA is destined to soar to greater heights. I would also like to take this opportunity to also commend India, for the excellent leadership and its significant contribution to IORA during its Chairmanship over the past two years.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. For Malaysia, IORA remains as one of the best platform that brings together valuable cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim countries. Despite its very diverse nature, IORA has achieved considerable progress in terms of forging partnership in areas of mutual interest among its members.

5. Henceforth, the next logical step would be to cement our determination towards closer collaboration, as well as, increasing the visibility of the good work of IORA. In this regard, I am certain that the change of name from IOR-ARC to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) would provide the fresh impetus for us to do so, as stated by Hon. Julie Bishop earlier, a new era.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Notwithstanding the change of name, we must continue to further consolidate ourselves and draw focus on tangible outcomes to make IORA more effective and bring benefits to the people of our countries. In this regard, it is imperative that each initiative must demonstrate the solidarity of IORA as a group. As mentioned by Bangladesh earlier on, programmes or projects proposed by members must be pragmatic, economically viable and contribute to the progress of the Indian Ocean region as a whole.

7. In addition, Malaysia maintains the view that any initiatives have to be done based on the voluntary spirit and, in accordance with the members' ability and capacity. We believe that this arrangement would enable, and encourage interested member countries to contribute effectively in their respective fields of expertise and areas of interest.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Malaysia is heartened to note that the positive interaction among IORA members and partners over the years is a fundamental step towards the right direction that would significantly contribute towards a more strengthened IORA cooperation.

9. Malaysia is also pleased to note some positive outcomes from the earlier Bi-Annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) which was held in Mauritius, as well as, yesterday's Bi-Annual Meeting of the CSO. I am confident that the intensified engagements among Member States would contribute to closer co-operation and coordination of IORA members. To this end, Malaysia looks forward to working together with IORA members in achieving the tangible and viable targets of the organization.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Finally, I wish to commend our host once again for the excellent arrangements and for the efforts made to ensure its success. I look forward to fruitful deliberations with colleagues for the rest of the meeting.

Thank you.

MAURITIUS

Statement

by

Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Regional Integration and International Trade
Republic of Mauritius

*Agenda item – General Debate-Statements by Ministers
at 13th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting,
Perth, Australia, 1 November 2013*

Hon. Mrs Julie Bishop, Chair
Hon. Dr Marty Natalegawa, Vice Chair
Hon. Mr Salman Khurshid, Past Chair
Hon. Ministers
Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me at the outset to thank the Government and the people of the Commonwealth of Australia for the warm welcome extended to the Mauritian delegation in Perth.

Excellencies,

The IOR-ARC organisation has today been re-energised under India's able chairmanship over the past two years and the Secretariat's dedication to drive the organisation to unprecedented heights.

Australia, as the Incoming Chair, will certainly maintain this momentum and even give it a further boost.

I must here commend the paper prepared by Australia for strengthening the Association in terms of restructuring the existing sub-fora, proposing the organisation of an annual Ministerial Retreat in the margins of the Ministerial meetings and the further involvement of Dialogue Partners in the activities of the Association. This Ministerial Retreat, the first in its kind in the history of our association, will give us more time to freely and openly concert and strategise on pertinent regional issues and to explore ways and means to deepen cooperation.

Our region, with its rich resource endowment on land, its vast untapped marine resources, and above all, the political will of countries to drive their economies on the path of prosperity, has the capacity and potential to take a more active part in orienting the new world economic order. Trade promotion and business facilitation should continue to be high on the agenda of the organisation. The co-hosting by Mauritius and India of the IOR-ARC Economic and Business Conference in July 2013 was very successful and gave birth to some concrete business deals. It is hereby submitted that regular Business-To-Business Meetings could be organized annually in the margin of the IOR Business Forum.

Excellencies,

The Ocean Economy can become a bridge to the future development of the IOR-ARC member-States while setting the path for the coming generations, as the potential in the Ocean is enormous for growing the GDP, create high productivity jobs and improving the standards of living of the citizens. It is thus important to have increased collaboration between IOR-ARC members for capacity-building and to create not only the right regulatory regime but also an adequate level of skills required to license and supervise ocean activities and the essential knowledge to tap the ocean resources. The vision of the Government is to make of Mauritius a nation fully conscious of its immense potential as an Ocean State.

One of the key recommendations of the IOR-ARC Economic and Business Conference was the establishment of an Ocean Economy Observatory. Mauritius has come up with a concept note entitled "Towards an Enhanced Ocean Observatory and forecasting System for the development of the Ocean Economy". This aims at sending timely information to members on major oceanic parameters in order to harness the full potential of the ocean. We could resolve to agree for a collaborative Enhanced Observatory System and network for their mutual benefits.

Excellencies

The proposed establishment of a Coordinating Institute for Open Universities in the Indian Ocean Rim region which would be responsible for coordinating and managing the online courses delivered by the Open Universities of the IOR-ARC Member States, is indeed a commendable endeavour. Mauritius fully supports this proposal and together with India, is working closely with the Secretariat on the Terms of Reference for the conduct of a feasibility study. I would make a plea to the other Member States to give due consideration to this proposal. This will lead eventually to the establishment of an Indian Ocean Rim qualifications framework. Undoubtedly, if this proposal is successfully implemented it could benefit our people in terms of mobility, migration and employability.

Excellencies

The IOR-ARC has an important role to play in the way international relations are shaping up in the wake of the new world order, and in the way international trade is being now conducted. Our region has the capacity and potential to take a more active part in designing new pillars of growth and prosperity. Let us make the most of it.

I thank you, Chairperson.

MOZAMBIQUE

Check Against Delivery



REPÚBLICA DE MOZAMBIQUE

Ministry of foreign affairs and cooperation

Statement by His Excellency Henrique Banze
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
at
the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IORA

Perth, 1 November, 2013

Your Excellency, Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and Chairperson of the 13th Ministerial Meeting of IORA

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Heads of Delegation

Your Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me, at the outset, convey my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Australia for the invitation addressed to my country to attend the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality afforded to us since our arrival in this beautiful City of Perth.

Our appreciation goes also to the outgoing chair, India, for the extraordinary work done during the two years of its mandate. To Indonesia, the Vice Chair we would like to wish a good work in the coming years.

Madame Chairperson

Allow me to focus my contribution to this meeting by highlighting some points: first the reform process of our Organization; second the efforts to strengthening cooperation in the six priority areas; and third the potentials of the Indian Ocean region.

The current session of the Council of Ministers, takes place in a time where the Organization is in a process of transformation, as a result of reforms that have been initiated some years ago.

These reforms that encompassed the adoption of a new Charter, a more dynamic, effective and efficient Secretariat and the change of name to Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) amongst others, are a result of our common resolve to strive for an Organization that is relevant to our people and is more visible at the global stage.

The decision to foster cooperation in the six priority areas should be accompanied by result oriented projects that contributes, not only to strengthen IORA, but also to materialize our common desire to sustainable growth and development.

In this context, we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all Member States, in particular those who joined the aquaculture and artisanal fisheries projects initially presented by Mozambique, for the progress registered so far.

We also take this opportunity to commend Australia and the Fisheries Support Unit for its availability and efforts towards implementation of these two projects, which will make possible to organize a workshop in the near future.

For Mozambique, fisheries and marine resources as a whole are of utmost importance. In view of the recent decline of the wild fisheries stocks, aquaculture becomes more important. Hence, we are particularly interested in developing aquaculture technology to enhance fish production and productivity.

These projects are of paramount importance for their contribution for food security and the improvement of the livelihood of the communities in the Eastern African Region, therefore, requiring from all Member States a strong support.

Ladies and Gentleman

On the main challenges we are facing, allow me to state that to accomplish our mission with even more success in the six priority areas it is worth to note that, there's a pressing need for a stronger IORA Secretariat as well as national technical capacity. And, to achieve these important objectives it is, therefore, crucial to enhance the Secretariat ability of transforming its intentions into an even more meaningful leadership role.

We should therefore take stock of the momentum provided by the reforms to join synergies aimed at making IORA a more robust Organization.

At this junction, Mozambique commends Australia and welcomes the proposals presented to the Member States aimed at strengthening the role of IORA. We see them as bringing new opportunities to discuss broad matters of interest of Member States.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda, the global trade and climate change are amongst the global challenges that we should look into in IORA in order to impact in the ongoing discussions at global stage.

Indeed, the security challenges posed by piracy are a menace to trade in the Indian Ocean region and should, therefore, gain more attention from our Organization.

We are confident that our deliberations in this meeting will bring important inputs for the success of our organization as a whole. On our side, we assure you, Excellency, the readiness of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to fully collaborate with you for the success of your mandate.

I conclude my remarks by reiterating our willingness to continue to co-operate with the Member States for the realization of our common agenda, the prosperity of the Indian Ocean region.

Thank you!

SULTANATE OF OMAN

Statement By

His Excellency Talib Miran AL-Raisi
Chief of the Economic sector
Sultanate of Oman

At

The council of ministers Meeting of IORA
IN Perth, Australia on
1st November 2013

Madam. Chairperson

At the outset I would like to congratulate you for the assumption of the chair of the council of ministers meeting, and for hosting this meeting in this beautiful city of Perth. on behalf of the omani delegation, I would like to thank you and the Australian government for the excellent arrangement and warm hospitality that was accorded to our delegation since our arrival. The excellent arrangement made by your government will undoubtedly contribute towards the success of our meeting.

I would also like to thank India for carrying the banner of the IORA so high during its chairmanship in the last two years, the SG , the secretariat for their dedication and hard work to fulfill the aims of IORA , and thank the Dialogue Partners for their positive contribution, and urge them to participate more, specially in our six priority areas

Ms chairperson, Distinguished colleagues,

The origins of IORA goes back to the early 1990s when South Africa had just dismantled the apartheid regime and was trying to assert its identity and regional space. this was a time when India had initiated a (look east policy), India also wanted to assert it's position in a regional grouping . This was also the time when Australia had initiated a (look north & west) policy . The fusion of look east policy' of India with Australia's (look north & west) policy together with South Africa's need for new regional identity resulted in the IORAC in 1997. Thus, open regionalism was embraced, Australia & India & south Africa was the main proponent of this concept given its leading role in the IORA. The main areas for voluntary action are trade liberalization and trade and investment facilitation.

Oman is hosting The FSU and we are working with many countries in the region on the important fisheries issues. If we do not peruse food security in some countries it means further economic collapse in these countries which may prompt more farmers and fishermen to turn to piracy. Piracy is a symptom of much wider maritime disorder. The seasonal ebb and flow of piracy Attacks is influenced by the twice - yearly

monsoons. Pirates are very adaptable and very flexible. Some of the pirates are former fishermen put out of work by overfishing, illegal toxic dumping in their waters, and the virtual collapse of commerce in the country. It would be nice to help them find other less risky jobs. Perhaps some could be enlisted in a proper coast guard. If nation building is too ambitious, is building one national institute is possible?

There are many maritime issues that IORA countries could work collaboratively on. This is why we suggest that some form of open source maritime information data could be attached to the M TC (Host country agreement. Mou-sec) which is going to be hosted by Oman. This would enable regional countries to collect and collate data about maritime traffic, environmental issues, piracy and smuggling. Data could include information on the management of the shipping and storage of containers, multinational hydrographic and oceanographic programs might be worth pursuing at a later phase

Madam. Chairperson

The sultanate has suggested in the last ministerial meeting in Gurgaon in India to create a shipping company, and the secretariat has produced an initial study regarding that, and our suggestion in Oman is to use the existing shipping companies, our suggestion is that such a platform be used more for policy making to improve ease of doing business between the member countries, to share information, to improve institutional links etc(we sent also new terms of reference to SG). Than to actually get into the business of owning and operating ships the actual business of ship owning and operations be left to the respective regional companies on purely commercial basis

Informatively, from amongst the 20 members of IORA. We are already involved in maritime transport of Oman, Australia, India and UAE in varying degrees.

However, our membership in IORA was on political decision, this is why we think, governments must play an important role in creating this company.

Madam. Chairperson

Regional arrangements in practice will be (building blocks) rather than (stumbling blocks) as they say "life is full of stones, we need not to stumble at them, but we need to collect them and make a ladder toward success". Simply open regionalism is trade liberalization among the member countries of IORA, on a most favored nation (MFN) basis unilaterally without asking for reciprocity from non-members.

The regionalism thinking should be replaced by a new understanding of the association as international or inter regional organization that deals with different maritime issues.

Business to business meeting have an important role to play for expanding trade and commerce between member states.

The participation of business entities particularly in the small and medium size enterprises and entrepreneurs is important.

we are also working in key areas that there are emerging risks and challenges which require our attention and careful management, such as climate change,

One issue on which countries in this region are working closely together is in the development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami warning and mitigation system.

We in Oman worked with geoscience Australia to explore opportunities for cooperation, particularly on issues like disaster warnings, as earthquakes in one region could cause tsunami in another, including in the Gulf,

Madam. Chairperson

Finally, I wish to conclude my remarks by stressing the importance of such projects which will create economic prosperity if the eco-system and national resources whether on land or in the seas are managed carefully and responsibly for our benefit today and for tomorrow's generation.

I thank you Madam. Chairperson

SEYCHELLES

STATEMENT BY JEAN-PAUL ADAM, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES AT THE 13TH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION, PERTH, AUSTRALIA, 1ST NOVEMBER 2013

Madam Chair, the Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia

Secretary General, Amb. K.V Bhagirath,

Ministers, Ladies and gentlemen,

Between Bengaluru in 2011 and Perth in 2013, our organization has taken on a new momentum- and a new sense of purpose to go with its new name.

It is in that spirit that I warmly congratulate the incoming Chair, as well as the outgoing chair on their leadership in creating this momentum, and in sustaining it.

I also have every confidence that our newly elected co-chair, Indonesia, will bring the same sense of dynamism to our organization.

A key part of this dynamism has been the strong engagement in strengthening the framework for trade in our region, and creating better connections for our private sectors. In July in Mauritius we were pleased to join the private sector from across our ocean in the first pan-Indian Ocean Economic and Business Forum.

Moving beyond the nexus of North-South trade is essential for us to achieve sustainable development. For a small island country like Seychelles- the realities of global trade mean that it can sometimes be more challenging to export or import to and from our closest neighbours in East Africa, than to Europe thousands of miles away. We are however encouraged by efforts being made within our region to better connect our economies through shipping and air links. We strongly support the IORA initiative to explore ways to improve our shipping links and make them more viable.

We also believe that strengthening our tourism partnerships will create further synergies that will amplify opportunities across our economic sectors. Seychelles is proud to welcome you all in June 2014 when we will host the IORA Tourism and Travel mart, where we hope to create an even stronger platform for these synergies.

Madam Chair,

Seychelles strongly supports the draft 'Perth Oceans Declaration' which is before us. The 'Blue Economy' is one of the biggest opportunities for our region- and our nations are determined to collectively create sustainable economic opportunities through long term investments in sustainable fisheries, responsible exploration of undersea resources and minerals, renewable and affordable energy from the sea and fair trade through reliable sea routes.

We see the IORA Fisheries support unit which we have endorsed and which aims to strengthen the sharing of information and expertise in our region as a concrete example of our shared desire to better connect our oceanic resources.

The 'Blue Economy' is our shared opportunity.

We thank the government of the UAE for agreeing to co-organise with Seychelles, a special Summit on the Blue Economy, to be held in Abu Dhabi on the 20th January 2014, and we look forward to welcoming you all on that occasion to further invigorate the debate on this subject which is a critical piece of the sustainable development jigsaw.

Madam Chair, I would also like to salute the determination of our nations to create a safe and secure maritime space for our shared development goals to be achieved. In 2009, Seychelles' economy was under siege as piracy threatened to cut off all our trading arteries. Through concerted action, we have brought back a sense of security- but we cannot remain complacent. Seychelles has used its experiences to establish a coordination centre which has been actively involved in sharing intelligence with the region and beyond. And we are aiming to develop and strengthen law enforcement in our shared maritime spaces through a shared approach to maritime response- both strategically and operationally. We look forward to be able to establish partnerships with other centres in our region, with a view to further build capacity to fight all threats that affect our maritime corridors- from piracy to drugs trafficking, to illegal fishing and people trafficking.

Madam Chair, before concluding I would like to offer our best wishes and congratulations to the people and government of Madagascar on successfully organizing the first round of presidential elections last weekend, which marks a significant step in ending the political crisis there. We look forward to continued peaceful and credible proceedings in the second round.

I thank you.

SINGAPORE

<u>Title:</u>	Singapore Country Remarks at the 13 th IORA Council of Ministers' Meeting in Perth, Australia, 1 November 2013, by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore Mr K Shanmugam
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Thank you Madam Chair. We thank Australia and yourself for hosting this meeting. We are encouraged by the new Australia Government's initiative to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the IORA, and the intention to give this a further impetus.

2 The diversity of the forum's membership betrays the potential for cooperation but also belies some intense challenges. We are confident that Australia, together with Indonesia as Vice-Chair, will lead the IORA on the pathway of closer collaboration.

3 In this context, we also acknowledge the key role that India has played and thank India for laying an important foundation during its chairmanship. India has provided greater clarity and focus by streamlining and consolidating the forum's work into six priority key areas of interest.

4 Madam Chair, I would like to share three main issues, the way we see it. These are the short, medium and longer term issues for the Ministers to consider in their deliberations.

5 In the short term, we think that the key issue is - how do we strengthen IORA's effectiveness? There is a need for clear goals and for us to be realistic about the level of ambition. The six key priority areas are a good start and we should focus on cooperation in these areas before moving on to others.

6 Singapore has consistently supported IORA's agenda by offering technical assistance courses under our cooperation programme in the six priority areas, and we will be happy to continue to do so. We will continue to offer priority places for IORA members for training courses in these priority areas under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), and we are prepared to collaborate with the IORA Secretariat and other members to jointly conduct customised study visits or training courses for senior officials in any of the six priority areas, or common challenges such as climate change and water security.

7 South Africa has proposed a project on water, science and technology and we are happy to support that. We think urban planning can also be something that we can focus on and Singapore will be happy to work on that.

8 In the medium term, the IORA must not only identify but address issues of common and strategic interest such as maritime security. Much of the world's energy trade originates in IORA countries and crosses the Indian Ocean. Members have a shared interest to enhance the security of sea lines of communication across the Indian Ocean.

9 We are happy that the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) South Asia Programme and the Maritime Security Programme are collaborating with IORA to host a workshop at Mauritius in the first quarter of 2014 under the theme "IORA and the Strategic Stability in the Indian Ocean".

10 In the longer term our focus ought to be on becoming more connected. The centre of gravity for world economic activity is moving towards this region. IORA economies currently account for almost one quarter of global economy. If intra- and inter-regional aviation, maritime and land connectivity is enhanced, the potential of Indian Ocean Rim countries could be maximised.

11 We look forward to the discussions at the Ministerial Lunch and Retreat on these and other issues. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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SOUTH AFRICA

SECTION F: PROPOSED OPENING REMARKS

DRAFT STATEMENT BY HEAD OF DELEGATION

DEPUTY-MINISTER E. EBRAHIM

General Debate: 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers

Chairperson

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to represent South Africa at this 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. Minister Nkoana-Mashabane requested that I convey her regret in not being able to attend today's meeting, but asked that I kindly convey her warmest wishes to Your Excellencies representing IOR-ARC Member States present here today.

On behalf of my delegation, may I also thank the Government of Australia for its hospitality and excellent arrangements for the hosting of this meeting. It is also appropriate that the Indian Ocean city of Perth was chosen to host this meeting, making it possible for us to have a glimpse of what this great country has to offer.

Excellencies

May I congratulate Minister Julie Bishop on her recent appointment as Foreign Minister and we welcome her to the IORA family. While we regret that your government has to deal with this huge natural disaster so soon into your new administration, we applaud your response and your efforts in minimizing the injuries and the loss of lives of your citizens.

I wish to also add my voice in deploring the horrific terror attack of innocent, unsuspecting civilians at the Nairobi Westgate Shopping Mall on 21 September, for which the Al-Qaeda linked Al-Shabaab militants claimed responsibility. South Africa condemns all acts of violence and extremism inside the Indian Ocean Rim and Kenya in particular, and stands united with Member States to halt this scourge.

Please be assured that South Africa is keen to continue to work with the Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as the other Member States of the IORA, in our attempt to contribute towards the new dynamism this organization is currently experiencing.

In assessing what we have been able to do together, it is quite acceptable to continue make some adjustments where necessary and to also reflect on the various present and emerging challenges that we face.

In this regard, in our current engagement with Dialogue Partners, we need to explore ways in which we may revive and refresh our relationship and to explore concrete ways to engage them.

While progress sometimes appears to be slow, we must remain mindful that the changing geopolitical and natural environment of the past sixteen years has launched the Indian Ocean Region back into the prominent position it held a few centuries ago.

We therefore need to collaborate more closely with each other and with our international partners like the African Union and the United Nations in achieving our objectives. We cannot function in isolation and must therefore seek further avenues for cooperation with each other. I am therefore pleased by the work done by Secretary-General Bhagirath in seeking avenues of engagement with these groupings.

Excellencies

It is encouraging to see Members cooperating in a variety of areas like Education, Health, Science and Technology, Transport and Maritime Security. There is, no doubt, that increased regional trade within the IORA region, if pursued strategically and equitably, offers the prospects of stronger economic growth through greater regional cooperation and integration.

It will be recalled that at the Biannual-Meeting of the Council of Ministers held earlier this year in Mauritius, South Africa indicated that it would seriously consider that it assumes the position of Vice Chair in 2015 when Indonesia becomes Chair and to accordingly assume Chairship of IORA in 2017.

I am delighted to announce to Council that South Africa is in a position to offer itself to become Vice Chair of IORA in 2015 and Chair in 2017 and looks forward to exchanging views on a common strategy for the IORA for the forthcoming years, between fellow Member States as well as with our Troika - Australia, Indonesia and India.

Excellencies, may I thank the Government of India for its dedication and leadership of IORA during its Chairship. In congratulating Australia on its elevation to the position of Chair, I have no doubt that Australia and Indonesia would continue the momentum set by India in providing both direction and support for the programmes and activities of IORA.

I thank you.

SRI LANKA

Statement by Hon. Prof. G L Peiris, at the
13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the
Indian Ocean Rim Association [IORA], Perth, Australia

Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia,
Ministers of Foreign
Affairs from IORA Member States,
Excellencies,
Distinguished invitees,
Ladies & gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here with you in Perth, at this 13th Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation to the Government of Australia for the excellent arrangements that have been made for this Meeting and for the gracious and warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation during our stay in Perth. Allow me to also congratulate Hon. Julie Bishop, on the assumption of the Chair of IORA. Sri Lanka has the fullest confidence in her and her able team to guide this fledgling organization into new heights in the years ahead. We are further confident that Australia will be ably assisted by Vice Chair, Indonesia. I also wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India, for providing visionary leadership to this organization during its tenure as Chair.

Excellencies, ladies & gentlemen,

We are about to step out from the old to the new, marking the end of an important era while stepping into a new age of greater cooperation and opportunities for our Organization. As the baton is passed on from one great Indian Ocean nation to another, to lead this Group in the years to come, it is but fitting that we are also evolving in name, scope and vision too. I have no doubt that our organization has its best days ahead of it. Its vast potential is yet to be tapped, the benefits that could be accrued to all our peoples are yet to be realized and the enormous goodwill that exists among us is yet to be fully transformed into a grouping of greater cooperation and cohesiveness.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In addition to its geo-political and geo-strategic significance, the Indian Ocean Rim region is now emerging as a dynamic economic powerhouse with vast prospects. The path towards uplifting the living conditions of our peoples lies in the shared, sustainable and responsible utilization of the bounty of resources provided by the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka believes that we must further cooperate to seek synergies in our policies, reduce redundancies and duplication of work and collectively work towards our shared goals. It is in this spirit, ladies and gentlemen, that Sri Lanka fully endorses the proposed "Perth Principles" which we believe constructively addresses the necessity for conservation of biological and other resources while ensuring sustainable and equitable utilisation, reiterates the need for further cooperation in capacity building and most importantly recognise our shared desire for greater economic cooperation for the benefit of all our peoples.

It is with these goals in mind that Sri Lanka in 2010 proposed the establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Ocean Sciences and Environment. I am happy to reiterate this commitment. The Centre will serve as a partnership institution for Indian Ocean Rim countries, support scientific and socio-economic research in relation to the geographical area, and carry out educational and training services to build capacities of institutions and persons in the region.

This proposal is in conformity with His Excellency, President Mahinda Rajapaksa's vision to build scientific and technological research capacity and training in ocean sciences and environment for the sustainable utilization of marine resources. By supporting collaboration among Indian Ocean Rim countries this proposal will also contribute to straightening policies articulated in the document *Mahinda Chinthana* which envisions making Sri Lanka a knowledge hub in the region.

We are looking forward to having officials from IORA member countries in Colombo, in the first quarter of 2014, to discuss the modalities of the establishment of the Centre, its scope and future endeavours. I invite all Member States to actively participate in this process and contribute to the speedy establishment of the Centre of Excellence.

Ladies & gentlemen,

Sri Lanka is a country that was plagued by terrorism for nearly three decades until its total eradication from our shores in 2009. However we are consciously aware that the armed conflict was sustained by the terrorists', mostly with smuggled weapons from abroad through maritime channels. These terrorists also acquired enormous wealth through illicit activities such as trafficking of narcotics, weapons and persons. Sri Lanka remains particularly concerned that some of the terror operatives, especially those who were involved in maritime smuggling activities remain active beyond our shores. Well organized attempts of human trafficking and people smuggling through the high seas, witnessed since the end of the conflict, are testament to this prevailing threat. It is a concern that highly trained terrorists who earlier functioned as weapons and drug smugglers have now expanded their illicit activities into human trafficking. All coastal nations are vulnerable to such threats from the sea, as terrorists will exploit the weak points in our defences to their advantage. To combat this threat, it is vital that law enforcement authorities cooperate by sharing intelligence and information on cross border illicit transactions and enhance maritime domain awareness through joint and coordinated patrols as well as exercises to enhance interoperability. Providing assistance to improve the resources and capabilities of less advanced naval powers will also enhance overall maritime security. I take this opportunity to implore the IORA to look into these common security threats with all the seriousness it deserves.

Sri Lanka is also very concerned about the security of commercial sea lanes of the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean borders over thirty nations and it is estimated that approximately 60,000 ships sail this ocean each year, including nearly half of the world's containerised cargo. The threat posed by pirates, particularly in the Eastern Indian Ocean region is a threat to global trade and security. It is noted here that the existing international legal system has proven inadequate to face this growing problem. Though the multilateral efforts undertaken through the International Task Forces to contain piracy in the Indian Ocean are laudable it is necessary to commit greater resources and cooperation in these efforts. In this regard Sri Lanka is ready to cooperate with like-minded countries to ensure the safety of sea lanes that is vital for all our economies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you all would agree the Indian Ocean Rim region has a rich heritage of cultures, civilizations and religions. The many bonds between our peoples transcend the mere economic realm and are entrenched in these historical linkages that draw our region closer. It is important to transform hitherto largely economic oriented interactions of our grouping to a broader people to people contact, which would nourish the roots of our bonds. This can be achieved through cooperation in the cultural sphere. In this context I am pleased to inform that Sri Lanka is hosting a workshop on Heritage Management in May 2014 in Colombo to create awareness among IORA Member States on the diversity of cultures and heritage of our Group. This will also facilitate the establishment of networks to promote heritage tourism among Member-States which is a modern trend in the tourism industry. This Workshop will provide a forum to learn, exchange and discuss methods and best practices to manage and preserve our collective heritage.

Excellencies, ladies & Gentlemen,

In conclusion I wish to reiterate Sri Lanka's commitment to the Indian Ocean Rim Association. We thank the Chair, Secretary General and Members of the Secretariat for their efforts in steering the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers and other related Meetings to a successful conclusion.

Thank You.

TANZANIA

STATEMENT BY MR. JOHN M. HAULE, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
13TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF IOR-ARC, 1 NOVEMBER, 2013, PERTH,
AUSTRALIA

Honourable Julie Bishop (MP), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia and Chairperson of the
Council of Ministers,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me, first and foremost, to register the apologies of Hon. Bernard K. Membe, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania who could not attend this important meeting owing to other official business which he has had to attend in the country. However, he wishes the meeting successful deliberations.

Let me express my delegation's sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Australia for the warm reception and hospitality which have been extended to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful and coastal city of Perth. Let me also thank the Government of Australia and the IOR-ARC Secretariat for the excellent facilities that have been put to our disposal for this important meeting.

As we meet here today we are mindful of the fires that have been raging in this country causing untold destruction of property and loss of lives especially in the New South Wales State. In this respect, Tanzania wishes to extend its profound sympathies to the Government of Australia and the affected populations. It is

our hope that the brave men and women of this great country will soon be able to stop this menace in its tracks.

Madam Chairperson,

I wish to congratulate you personally and Australia on the assumption of the Chairmanship of our Organization. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Republic of Indonesia for assuming the seat of Vice Chair and the Republic of India - the outgoing Chair - for the sterling job done during her tenure.

Our Organization has come a long way since it was founded in 1997 in terms of identifying projects and avenues of cooperation in line with the objectives as enshrined in the Charter. Indeed, there has been a tremendous amount of work done in proposing a wide range of common projects which would advance our common desire for sustainable growth and balanced development. We now need to do a similarly good job in promoting and developing the projects already identified to actual and full operationalisation.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me once again thank you and your Government for the customary and legendary hospitality.

Tanzania stands committed to cooperate with the Chair and all other relevant stakeholders in our joint efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and development in our Organization.

I look forward to the deliberations and hope that this august meeting will afford us yet another opportunity to advance the objectives for which our organization was founded 16 years ago.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

as of 25 October 2013

Statement by Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Dr. Pichet Wangtepanukhor

at the 13th Council of Ministers Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC)

1 November 2013

Perth, Australia

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my pleasure and honour to participate in the 13th Council of Ministers Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC) in Perth.

Allow me to first express our delegation's appreciation to you and the Government of Australia for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to my delegation.

Excellencies,

Our Association has come a long way since its inception in 1997. IOR-ARC has emerged as a dynamic grouping for promoting sustainable growth and balanced development in the Indian Ocean region. Over the past 16 years, many useful activities have been organized to enhance collaboration and sharing experiences among Member States.

I wish to commend India and Mauritius for co-organizing the First Economic and Business Conference in Mauritius in July 2013, as well as the business-to-business meeting on the sidelines of the Conference. It clearly demonstrates the significant role of entrepreneurs and private industries in promoting trade and investment in our region.

The offer by the United Arab Emirates to host the First Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum of the IOR-ARC in January 2014 is also very timely, as the global community is facing the rising challenge of energy security. Meanwhile, we should make an effort to promote an investor-friendly environment in the region to attract private sector participation in energy development.

There are many opportunities for even closer cooperation within our framework. We should also look at what remains to be done to move the IOR-ARC forward.

I would like to share Thailand's views on key issues for IOR-ARC cooperation.

Since the Indian Ocean shipping routes are vital to our economy. There is a need to increase cooperation on information sharing and common **maritime security** measures to deal with security problems at sea. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium could be an appropriate forum for this purpose.

Thailand believes that building capacity can help address piracy at its root cause. Therefore, we are considering offering technical assistance to Somali officers in any area of Somalia's preference. This is part of our Thai-Africa Initiative which we launched this year.

I am delighted to learn that the Action Plan for IOR-ARC Fisheries Support Unit (FSU) was approved by Senior Officials. Thailand will work with the FSU in implementing the Action Plan. If desired, we plan to organize a Training Programme on Aquatic Plants Culture Technology to promote better utilization of fisheries resources and protection of the environment in the Indian Ocean.

In view of the potential for enhancing connectivity, Thailand supports **the development of port and harbor infrastructure** in the Indian Ocean region. Thailand and Myanmar have been working closely on the Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Deep Seaport Project. Once operational, it will create a strategic land bridge linking the South China Sea with the Indian Ocean. IOR-ARC countries can certainly benefit from this project, especially through future port-to-port connections.

Next is **disaster management**. My Government is determined to address the issue of natural disasters and destruction through floods and tsunamis. To enhance our national capacity in dealing with water-related challenges, Thailand is investing 12 billion US dollars in a comprehensive water management system.

Given that the Asia and Pacific region is the most disaster-prone region in the world, Thailand will host the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok in June 2014. Perhaps, we could explore the idea of cooperation between the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regional water commissions and disaster management centers in order to share expertise and related technologies. We can make use of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) which deals with climate change and early warning systems. This will help IOR-ARC countries be more resilient to natural threats and challenges.

Excellencies,

Another important area is **trade and investment**. Closer cooperation among the investment promotion agencies and Chambers of Commerce in the IOR-ARC is crucial for enhanced regional trade relations. They should be able to access information on investment opportunities in our region. Furthermore, the capacity building of business entrepreneurs, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will help promote inclusive economic growth in the Indian Ocean countries. As Thailand is focusing on supporting SMEs to become international traders, my Government has set up a 10 million US dollar fund under the SMEs Proactive project to support and develop SMEs in Thailand. We could share our experiences with Member States.

On the issue of **science and technology cooperation**, Thailand is the world's major producer and exporter of food products, as well as a pioneering country with respect to Halal science and research on its application to the food industry. In this regard, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand organized the International Seminar on Halal Standards, Halal Science and Technology and Halal Food Product Trade for IOR-ARC countries in Bangkok in March this year. If desired, we are also considering the possibility to host an IOR-ARC Workshop on Research, Development and Regulation of Herbal Medicines next year.

Excellencies,

For IOR-ARC to realize its full potential, we need more concrete and constructive proposals, both about the future work plan and the structure necessary for our framework to function effectively. May I take this opportunity to compliment the Secretary-General of the IOR-ARC Secretariat and his staff for their hard work in support of our Association.

On our part, Thailand is committed to playing a constructive role in the IOR-ARC and will work closely with Member States to attain our common goals for sustainable development and shared prosperity of our region. I also wish to reiterate Thailand's willingness to host the 4th Bi-Annual Meeting of the Committee of the Senior Officials in 2014.

Thank you for your kind attention.

YEMEN

Statement of The Republic of Yemen
13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
Perth – Australia
1er November 2013

Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chairman

I would like to convey our thanks and gratitude to the outgoing chair H.E Minister of Foreign Affairs of India, I would also like to congratulate H.E The Hon Julie Bishop MP – Minister for Foreign Affairs – for assuming the presidency of our meeting, also I would like to thank the Government of Australia for their warm hospitality and for hosting the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers & Related Meetings of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in Perth

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Secretary General and the Secretariat of the Association for the excellent arrangement and preparations for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to convey H.E Dr. Abu Baker AL-QIRBI – Minister of Foreign Affairs – apology for not being able to be with us today for his engagement in the Yemeni national dialogue

Mr. Chairman,

A lot has been achieved since 1997 when we established this association. However, we believe after 16 years' time has come for us to evaluate and review the achievements, the challenges and the obstacles.

Furthermore, the constructive participation of our Dialogue Partners in our meetings demonstrate the willingness of all our stakeholders to work together to achieve tangible results in our mission to improve the lives of ordinary people in our region.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all encouraged by the progress made by the organization, although there is major work to be done to make it an active forum for greater economic and technical cooperation by governments and the private

sector, as well as an exchange of experts – the more we focus on this and less on politics, the more likely we are to achieve our goal and create stronger links between our countries

Yemen confirms the importance of USA accession as a partner in the dialogue that reflects its recognition of the importance of this gathering and importance of its support. As well, we confirm the importance of strengthening cooperation between member states in order to reach the goal of achieving the desired objectives through merely focus on economic and technical cooperation, far from any politicization of the issues.

Mr. Chairman

The Republic of Yemen is one of the most affected countries in the region from the piracy, its challenges and consequences. Yemen suffered and still of this challenge that carried a lot of repercussions and consequences and direct threat to the security, economic and social peace and stability, these are to be reflected in the issues of infiltration of terrorist elements across the Horn of Africa to the country and the spread of the smuggling of weapons , personnel and drugs in addition to the risk of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, not to mention the damage and serious threats has become a lot of Yemeni fishermen suffer of puppies under exposure frequent kidnappings and killings , families and the confiscation of their boats and their property by pirates and naval forces that roam the Arabian Sea, which limit their ability to earn a living and support their families considering fishing livelihood only mostly in addition to what the implications economic , social and security to our country and its citizens.

In the context of the procedures and the efforts made by the Republic of Yemen to combat piracy and promote national infrastructure in this direction has been the establishment of 11 centers operationally subordinate to the interest of the Yemeni Coast Guard and distributor in the sectors of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea , where they were activating the work in each while efforts are still being made to enter the rest of the service centers which faltered due to a lack of potential and provide the basic requirements for activating the role of the centers . As well as the interest has created art workshop in the port of Aden mission is to maintain the readiness of naval vessels of interest , and work is underway on the establishment of coastal electronic control system , which will be on 4 stages along the coast of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. On the other hand In the context of providing a cadre human qualification has proceeded interest of the Yemeni Coast Guard to the establishment of the Institute of the Coast Guard in Aden to train and qualify its personnel on the face of all challenges at sea. Has made the Republic of Yemen all that despite the limited potential out of a sense of responsibility towards the security of navigation and the fight against international piracy and terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

Allow me to clarify the efforts made by my country on the level of regional and international cooperation and coordination efforts within the framework of the Convention on a Code of Conduct Djibouti on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships, the Republic of Yemen has established the regional center maritime information exchange as a point of contact with the regional countries signatories to this Convention in the region, which has achieved remarkable success in his duties , but in order to continue its success in carrying out its role, the center needs serious attitude and genuine action from the countries in the region as a reflect to the shared commitment and concerted efforts intra- activated, they should provide assistance for the needs and requirements of the center in order to expand his duties because of its great importance will be reflected in the fruits of his success on the region as a whole. As well as the competent national authorities in the Republic of Yemen, the establishment of maritime distress system in some coastal sections of the Public Authority for Maritime Affairs for the purpose of receiving distress calls from ships and boats when exposed to piracy or to any security problems or other technical .

Mr. Chairman,

In this context, we emphasize the importance of coordinating efforts between Member States in fighting against terrorism and piracy due to the impact on marine navigation which in turn effects the security and stability of the Member States and its interests in the Indian Ocean .

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, I would like to confirm that, the Republic of Yemen stands firm in its commitment to closely cooperate with the Chair, the Secretariat, Member States as well as other relevant stakeholder of the IOR-ARC in our joint efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and development in the Indian Ocean Rim to achieve the purpose of establishment of our organization to bring peace and security in the region and facilitate trade way among themselves and encourage investment for economic prosperity prevail on their countries .

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

STATEMENTS BY DIALOGUE PARTNERS

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Remarks by H. E. Director-General Lu Shaye at the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Perth, 1 November 2013

Your Excellency Minister Bishop,
Your Excellency Secretary-General Bhagirath,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's an honour for me to attend the 13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on behalf of the Chinese government. First of all, please allow me to extend our warm congratulations to Minister Bishop and Minister Marty on their assumption of the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship respectively. I'd also like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Australian government and the Coordination Secretariat of the Association for their hard work in preparing for this meeting.

Spanning Asia, Africa and Oceania, the Indian Ocean Rim region, which is home to 28.4% of the world population, is among the most promising and dynamic regions in the world. Under the guidance of the amended Charter, the IORA has made positive progress in promoting trade and investment liberalization, connectivity, marine resources development and peace and stability in the region as well as institutional building and cooperation with dialogue partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China is not only a big land country, but also a big maritime country with a long coastline of more than 18,000 kilometres. China attaches great importance to the dialogue and cooperation with the IORA and its member states. In recent years, China has carried out fruitful cooperation with them:

First, investment and trade have reached a higher level. In 2012, the trade volume between China and IORA member states reached US\$803.6 billion with a year-on-year increase of 26.9%, taking up more than one fifth in China's total foreign trade of the year. China now is having FTA talks or has set up FTAs with many IORA member states.

Second, China's participation in regional security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region has kept deepening. China has sent 15 naval squadrons to the waters off the Somali coast on escort missions in order to safeguard the security of international shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. China also actively supports the mediation and resolution of regional hot spot issues.

Third, practical cooperation has kept broadening. This is the first time for the Chinese delegation to include members from the State Oceanic Administration and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade who participated the meetings of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG), the Working Group of Trade and Investment (WGTI) and the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) respectively. We are discussing with the IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer

(RCSTT) on the Establishment of a Regional Division on Desalination Technologies in Tianjin, China. We hope to see an early formulation by the Secretariat of a standard text for MOUs on establishing technology transfer centres in all areas so that this cooperation project can be implemented at an early date.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a sincere partner of the IORA, China is ready to work with its member states and other dialogue partners to promote the IORA institutional building and regional dialogue and make active contribution to peace, stability, prosperity and development of the Indian Ocean Rim region in the following ways:

First, work for closer economic and trade ties and promote trade and investment liberalization. It is expected that the coming 5 years will see China import goods valued over US\$10 trillion and invest more than US\$500 billion overseas. More than 400 million Chinese tourists will also travel abroad. This will provide new historic opportunities for cooperation in economy, trade, investment and tourism between China and Indian Ocean Rim countries. Now, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade is ready to discuss with the IORA on setting up a certain form of business cooperation to further promote bilateral trade and investment.

Second, strengthen dialogue and promote practical marine cooperation. China is ready to further step up cooperation with the IORA and its member states in fields such as marine exploration, resources development, disaster prevention and mitigation and environmental protection. At the same time, China is also ready to make full use of its advantages and expertise to strengthen cooperation with IORA and its member states in infrastructure and connectivity.

Third, tackle security challenges and safeguard regional peace and stability. China is ready to continue strengthening cooperation with IORA and its member states in fighting piracy and safeguarding the security of shipping lanes, and make joint efforts to create a stable environment for economic development.

Fourth, enhance communication and advance the implementation of IORA cooperation projects. China is ready for deeper participation in the agendas of the IORA meetings and will continue to support institutional building of the Association. I'm very glad to take this opportunity to announce, on behalf of the Chinese government, that the Chinese side has decided to contribute another US\$100,000 to the IORA to facilitate the implementation of its cooperation projects, in particular the project of building a Regional Division on Desalination Technologies that will be carried out with China.

To conclude, I wish the 13th Council of Ministers' Meeting a complete success.
Thank you!

FRANCE

**Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation
13th Meeting of the Council of Ministers
Perth, November 1st, 2013**

M. Frédéric CADET
Head of the French delegation and
Vice-president of the Regional Council of La Reunion

Excellencies,

I would like to thank the Government of Australia for their invitation, their warm welcome and for the excellent organisation of this 13th meeting of IOR Council of Ministers, which France is very pleased to attend.

With about one million French citizens living in the South-West of the Indian Ocean, France is undeniably an Indian Ocean Rim State. Moreover, France became a full member of the Indian Ocean Commission thirty years ago.

My country has been contributing to the international efforts to strengthen peace and security in the Indian Ocean, including the fight against piracy, against trafficking, against terrorism - the dramatic event in Nairobi last September recalls how it can threaten us all.

France aims at facilitating cooperation and integration of the Indian Ocean territories in their regional environment. My region, La Reunion, is very active in that regard. We have not only developed mutually fruitful relations with nearby countries in Africa, but also with other member States of IOR, in particular with India and Australia.

Today, France is willing and ready to work with the IOR-ARC and all its members, in order to face common challenges together, such as maritime security, the preservation of biodiversity, and economic integration.

Therefore, I would be grateful to IOR member states to consider again the possibility for France to become a full member of the Association.

We are looking forward to working closely with the IOR-ARC and its Chair in the future.

Thank you for your attention./.

JAPAN

Members and dialogue partners,

I am pleased to be here on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Firstly, I'd like to touch on Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean.

The Sea Lines of the Indian Ocean are connecting Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and therefore play an important role in supporting the development of world economy. Japan acknowledges that the Indian Ocean Rim Association has expanded the scope of its interests from economic affairs to such areas as freedom of navigation and maritime security. As a maritime state, Japan also has a great interest in making the Indian Ocean more open and stable through ensuring the freedom and safety of navigation.

With this in mind, Japan has been making various efforts to ensure the safety of sea shipping across the Indian Ocean. Since March 2009, the Japanese Self Defense Forces have been conducting anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and have escorted over 3,000 vessels in accordance with Japan's anti-piracy measures act. Starting in December this year, in addition to the current operations, Japanese Self Defense Forces are also scheduled to participate in the multinational counter-piracy force, CTF151, thereby further contributing to international counter piracy efforts.

With a view to strengthening the maritime safety and security capabilities of coastal states, Japan has made a financial contribution to the International Maritime Organization, through a part of which the Djibouti Regional Training Centre is conducted and due to be inaugurated in January next year, inviting maritime safety officials from Yemen, Oman, Kenya, Djibouti and Tanzania. Japan is also conducting Training Course 'Maritime Law enforcement (Anti-Piracy Measures)'.

Moreover, Japan is engaging in various dialogues on maritime safety at administrative levels. The Japan-India Maritime Affairs Dialogue, the Japan-Singapore Maritime Security Dialogue, the International Workshop on "Confidence Building Measures in Maritime Security" attended by Malaysia and Australia at Japan's behest, are but a few examples.

The great economic potential in the Indian Ocean Region is also plain for all to see, as the Indian Ocean rim is home to 30% of the world's population. India holds 1.2 billion and there are a further 100 million in other nations such as Bangladesh and Indonesia

Relations between Japan and Indian Ocean rim nations have been growing steadily, especially in the economic arena. Relations with the nations of more Dynamic Africa; with South Asian nations where the growth of Japanese enterprise has been significant; with nations of the middle East where attention has been focused on the economic development and abundant resources; and with ASEAN nations, where to mark the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan have visited member nations one after another.

I have every confidence that this meeting will foster mutual understanding between members and dialogue partners of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, and lead to stronger relations.

Thank you.

UNITED KINGDOM

Speech By Tony Brennan

Deputy High Commissioner

British High Commission | Commonwealth Avenue | Yarralumla | Canberra | ACT | 2600 | Australia

Madam Chair,

The UK is proud to be a dialogue partner of IORA. We were proud to be a dialogue partner of IOR-ARC, but even more so of IORA. The new name demonstrates that the organisation is in the process of reform, as well as being easier to say, and we welcome it for both reasons.

The UK welcomes progress in each of IORA's areas of priority focus. We are particularly focussed on maritime security, and welcome the progress made in the fight against piracy in the Indian Ocean. But piracy remains a problem, of course, and for this reason the UK supports the work of the RAPICC counter-piracy centre in the Seychelles, and welcomes the contributions of four IORA member states to this centre's work. I would like to echo the words of our Kenyan colleague, when he said that the root cause of Indian Ocean piracy is the instability prevalent in Somalia, and call for us all to address this problem.

I researched the word IORA last night, and discovered that it is a rather beautiful and multi-coloured bird, which is found in many countries around the Indian Ocean. As such, it seems an eminently appropriate name for this organisation.

Thank you, madam chair."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting

Remarks

Atul Keshap, Senior Adviser for South and Central Asian Affairs
Perth, Australia
November 1, 2013

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to convey the warm greetings of U.S. Secretary of State Kerry and his thanks to the Government of Australia for its excellent work hosting this ministerial meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. The United States is pleased to participate in this important gathering for the first time as a Dialogue Partner. We look forward to a productive relationship with the IORA and working together to advance our mutual interests.

The discussions over the past two days have reaffirmed the importance and potential of the IORA in bolstering security and prosperity across the Indian Ocean region. We all know regional cooperation can be politically and logistically challenging, but the results can be truly transformative. This is why the United States supports the Association's role as a regional platform for making tangible progress in the six priority areas agreed to by Ministers in 2011.

Today, the Indian Ocean region faces increasingly complex challenges to stability and growth. Piracy, climate change, and fishery depletion are just a few examples of challenges to the region that require practical multilateral solutions. A dynamic, pro-active IORA can do much to address these and other challenges through effective coordination, cooperation, and sharing of best practices.

The United States is engaged in the Indian Ocean region in a number of initiatives that support the IORA's priorities. For example, this year, the United States is chairing the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, which brings together over 80 countries, organizations, and industry groups to tackle piracy, ensure pirates are brought to justice, and support regional states in developing maritime security capabilities. Thanks to the collective efforts of the international community, Somali pirate attacks declined 75 percent from 2011 to 2012. The United States welcomes IORA's efforts to enhance counter-piracy cooperation among its member states, including through greater information sharing and stronger national legal capacity.

As you know well, the Indian Ocean region is unfortunately prone to a variety of natural disasters. The United States supports disaster risk reduction efforts to build resilience, strengthen national disaster management capacity, and bolster regional entities. Last year, we provided over \$33 million to support disaster preparedness in the region. U.S. efforts include working with regional partners to develop and strengthen tsunami warning systems. We strongly encourage nations to sign mutual aid agreements to

prepare for these unpredictable and devastating disasters that so quickly wipe out hard won economic development gains.

The United States is sharing its expertise in marine management in order to promote conservation of the Indian Ocean's unique marine habitats. We are helping Maldives establish marine protected areas, and will soon be working with India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka to share lessons learned with the aim of further protecting these landscapes vital to the region's fisheries, broader economy, and way of life.

On all these and the other priority areas of this Association, the United States believes sustained engagement and leadership can make a real difference in making substantial progress. Once again, the United States thanks the IORA for its acceptance into the Association as a Dialogue Partner. We look forward to fruitful cooperation in this forum