



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

Statement by
Mr. António Macheve,
Head of Mozambique Delegation,

At the

15th Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of IORA

Padang, Indonesia, 23 October 2015

**Honorable Retno Marsudi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and
Chairperson of the XV Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the IORA**

**Excellences,
Ministers and Heads of Delegation,**

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honor for me to address the XV Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on behalf of His Excellency Oldemiro Baloi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, who regrets for not being able to join his colleagues and friends due to other important commitments.

Allow me to express the gratitude of Mozambique Government to the Government of Republic of Indonesia for hosting this important meeting of the Council of Ministers of the IORA and express our deep appreciation for the hospitality accorded to us since our arrival and for the arrangements made for this meeting.

We congratulate Indonesia for assuming the Presidency and South Africa as Vice President of IORA, and express our appreciations to Australia for the outstanding leadership and contribution to boost IORA's vision and relevance during its two years term.

We are pleased to welcome Somalia and Germany for joining IORA's family as full member and dialogue partner, respectively.

**Madame President,
Excellences,**

Mozambique attaches great importance to the cooperation in the Indian Ocean region aiming at defining a common and strategic vision on sustainable development and in addressing threats that actually occur motivated by the strategic location of our Ocean and the economic potentiality it offers.

Indeed, the Indian Ocean is internationally recognized as ancient maritime highway connecting Africa, Europe and Asia, and being a main route to foster business connectivity, attract investments contributing to the growth of the economies of the its rim countries.

Our efforts as a region should be to address together the challenges we are facing, namely piracy; traffic of people and drugs, illegal fishing and natural disasters.

In this context, we commend Indonesia for outlining regionalism through IORA Concord as a platform for dialogue and cooperation to define and implement common policies regarding maritime security and sustainable exploitation of marine resources, in observance of the International Maritime Law.

Madame President,

Capacity building and training is an essential area to boost regionalism. Mozambique urges IORA to identify the needs of member States on access and sustainable exploitation of resource in Indian Ocean Region that could contribute to social and economic development. Our main goal has to be the improvement of people's life.

We are of the view that during these 18 years of the existence of our Association, remarkable achievements were registered, although there still room for strengthening the cooperation envisaged to the revitalization of the role of IORA, at regional and international level.

With tangible progress in the reform process and the commitment of the member States, we believe that IORA is in the right path to determine the best future for the well-being of the people of the region, in spirit of partnership, solidarity and cooperation.

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Mozambique to continue working closely with IORA Secretariat and all members States for the strengthening of regional cooperation for sustainable development of the Indian Ocean Region.

Thank you.