

REMARKS BY
DR MAGBY RADY
Representative of Egypt to the 15th Ministerial Council of IORA
Padang, Indonesia: 23 October 2015

Honorable Chairperson,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Egyptian Delegation, I would like to thank Indonesia, the current President of IORA, for inviting us as a Dialogue Partner to the 15th Ministerial Meeting and to thank the Government of Indonesia for the kind hospitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to use my four minutes opportunity to deliver three messages:

The first message is about **the current situation in Egypt** after the difficult four years which we passed in the road towards building a new Egypt. We have experienced tremendous challenges. On the Security front, I am happy to note that we dealt successfully with the challenges and threats at the domestic level and our security forces are determined to restore order and stability in full. However, the regional challenges and threats are extremely dangerous, not only for our region but for the whole world. It is a global threat that needs a global collective action.

Political challenges in the transitional period were many. But we are in the course of concluding the last step of our Road Map which we started to implement since the Revolution of June 2013. Parliamentary elections are currently underway and with their conclusion, we will have completed the institutional framework for the democratic structure of modern Egypt.

On the economic front challenges are tremendous as we have before us the task of reviving our economy, address problems of unemployment, raising the standard of living for all Egyptians, attract investment and achieve social justice.

Against that background, Egypt is coming back to its usual historical role as a regional power House. We assumed back our position in Africa and our active membership in the African Union. We succeeded last week to be elected as a non-permanent member at the Security Council of the UN and we are restoring back our position and duty in dealing with the security challenges and political troubles prevailing in our region.

The Second message is about the past and current **relationship between Egypt and IORA**. Egypt has been interested in the association since its establishment in 1997. We became a dialogue partner since 1999. We have fruitful cooperation with IORA in the last decade in the successful fight against piracy in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

Egypt is in the cross road for a significant part of trade of IORA members with the Northern hemisphere through the Red Sea and Suez Canal. Therefore, we share with IORA the challenges and aspirations to achieve Maritime Security and Safety to work together on sustainable economic growth and development.

We are happy to note that the consecutive Presidencies of IORA, India, Australia and currently Indonesia are determined to revive the Association and to vitalize its activities. We are also happy to note that the priority areas of identified for action by IORA coincide with the potential areas of interest for Egypt to collaborate with IORA members unilaterally and collectively.

That brings to me to the **Third Message** about the **future of the relationship of Egypt and IORA**. We are looking forward to putting together a plan of action covering issues common interest. Maritime cooperation tops the list with its different aspects. Security and Safety are vital areas of dialogue and common action. In addition, trade, investment and sustainable development are the most important areas of potential cooperation.

Egypt has just concluded the first phase of the New Suez Canal project which will have a clear significant positive impact on the trade of IORA members with the world. The next phase is to build a mega project flanking the Canal directed to industrialization and logistics. Many IORA members have known experiences and big potentials to partner with us in this mega endeavor. We invite you all to look identify with us areas of cooperation in the field.

In addition, Tourism, Blue Economy, Science and Technology and Women Empowerment are also potential fields for concrete actions between Egypt and IORA.

We look forward to a new era of closer fruitful cooperation.

Thank you