



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT BY

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During

15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

23rd October 2015

Padang, Indonesia

Madam Chairperson, Honorable Ministers and Head of delegation, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

- Thank the outgoing Chairperson (Australia)
- Welcome the incoming Chair (Indonesia) and Deputy (South Africa)
- Express support for their tenure

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to thank IORA Secretariat and Indonesian Government for hosting this important meeting.

As we have previously stated in other IORA meetings, we wish to reiterate that we appreciate our membership in IORA and consider it a key association to the much needed momentum aimed at realizing mutually beneficial regional co-operation.

As you are aware, the United Nations in September of this year adopted The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising of 17 Goals; our attention is drawn to SDG 17- Partnerships for the Goals which opines, as a matter of fact, that the SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation.

We are therefore pleased that IORA finds itself at the forefront of fostering such desired peaceful cooperation amongst the countries that share the Indian Ocean.

Most important to IORA's mission is SDG 14- *Life Below Water* which aims to create a framework to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems while enhancing their conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources.

I have mentioned only the two SDGs, but the remaining 15 also strike at the heart of IORA. While individual Member States will have their own strategies for implementing these SDGs, we, nevertheless, wish to recommend to the IORA Secretariat to align the 6 Priority Areas with the newly adopted SDGs.

Madam Chairperson

Kenya recognizes the importance of ensuring safety of lives at sea at all times and the protection of the marine environment. In this regard, we have put in place a robust legal regime of ensuring that the ships operating in Kenyan waters are fit for the purpose for which they are intended.

Piracy in the Western Indian Ocean faces near eradication; however, there exist various other security-related challenges such as trans-boundary crimes involving, among others: illegal immigration, narcotics and arms smuggling; customs aversion; and illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. To combat these, concerted efforts are required both sub-regionally and in the entire IORA region.

With regard to **trade and investment facilitation**, Kenya proposes the following:

- **Technology transfers;**
- **Harmonization of trade standards;**
- **Exchange of trade delegations;**
- **Establishment of Joint Business Councils**
- **Promotion of Joint Ventures**

- Putting in place Incentive frameworks
- Research and development and information dissemination
- Need to strengthen export import and regulatory institutions
- Public-private cooperation and dialogues
- Facilitation of Trade and Investment

Madam Chairperson,

On **Fisheries Management**, One of the top priorities for Kenya is to develop the capacity to access the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) fisheries- in line with the 'Regional Strategy to Address Issues of Sustainable Management and Development of Fisheries Resources in the IOR Region.

Nature and man-made disasters are a constant threat of disrupting the way of life for vast populations in the Region. Kenya has adopted the Hyogo Framework for action in which is a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. However, we wish to call for committed action to reduce disaster risks through: Member States cooperating in the areas of early warning and disaster risk reduction; and in the West Indian Ocean Region, establishing regional early warning system and disaster response capabilities;

Against this backdrop that sustained efforts to maintain peace, stability and prosperity as well as to deal with non-traditional security challenges in the region are today more important than ever before. All stakeholders in the Indian Ocean are called upon to enhance and intensify IORA regionalism.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!