

## Speech Delivered by Mr Harry MacDonald, United Kingdom 2015 COM – Padang Indonesia

Terima Kasih Ibu. Selamat siang.

Many thanks honourable Minister Ibu Retno for giving me the floor. Let me also say thank you to the outgoing Chair, Julie Bishop for all the great work undertaken during Australia's term as chair of IORA. It has been a productive and successful term for IORA, moving forward on a range of issues such as the Blue Economy, connectivity, and IORA's role as part of the rules-based international system.

I am honoured to be speaking today surrounded by so many friends of the UK on all sides. As a Dialogue Partner, the UK has watched IORA grow including through its applications to the United Nations and the African Union. Here today the organisation has grown still further with the accession of Somalia and with Germany joining the ranks of Dialogue Partners.

Madam Chair, IORA has a crucial role to play in the rules-based international system. It brings together so many voices into a forum with clear objectives. This is a region with a global impact, affecting all of us including those from other parts of the world.

The first area of global impact is trade. The contribution to the global prosperity agenda is hugely significant. Global growth is affected by the improving trade links across the Indian Ocean. The Blue Economy offers a powerful opportunity to enhance trade links and to share innovation and ideas. Connectivity is about trade but it is also about people. The Blue Economy offers that chance to bring people from around the Indian Ocean rim together. To do that the sea lanes must remain open. The architecture to protect freedom of navigation needs is something still to be considered.

Madam Chair, the Indian Ocean Rim has seen some significant successes. The near-eradication of piracy off the coast of Somalia is a tremendous example of cross-regional efforts to tackle a problem with global implications. The contribution of the Indian Ocean Rim States to global security has been impressive. Tackling transnational organised crime and trafficking remains a shared effort. Equally conflict resolution in the region is an area in which lessons can be shared.

We can also share lessons on disaster recovery. The effects on us all and our citizens following disasters are shared responsibilities to which we can all contribute.

Madam Chair, the Indian Ocean is rising. Literally. Global warming affects every region of the world. As we look ahead towards the Paris COP a cross-regional effort to limit global warming and its effects is necessary to support our shared prosperity agenda.

IORA is a forum at which these and other shared interests are usefully discussed. It is a forum from which the UK can learn and as such as I am grateful for the opportunity to hear so much informative comment. I would like to thank you once again Madam Chair as well as the honourable Julie Bishop for all of her effort and achievements.

I wish you the best of luck in your term as Chair Ibu Retno and I know the organisation is in good hands under your guidance.

Terima kasih