

**STATEMENT BY MS. GRACE MUJUMA, ACTING HEAD OF DELEGATION  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, TO THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION  
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (IOR-ARC), SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF  
YEMEN,  
5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2010**

**HONOURABLE DR ABO BAKER ABDULLAH AL-QUIRBI, MINISTER OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN AND CHAIRPERSON OF  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**HONOURABLE MINISTERS**

**EXCELLENCIES**

**DISTINGUISHED DIALOGUE PARTNERS AND OBSERVER**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Yemen for the generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful and historical city of Sana'a as well as the excellent preparation for the meeting.

Allow me also to congratulate you for your good leadership in steering our Association since you assumed office and for the progress Report. My delegation wishes to assure you of our continued support and cooperation.

Also let me express our recognition at the tremendous efforts demonstrated by the Executive Director and the Secretariat in executing and coordinating the various activities of the Association.

**Mr Chairperson**

Over the 13 years of the existence, the Association has seen an increase in both its agreed projects and programmes as well as an increasing initiatives of cooperation in various fields. It is encouraging to note that to-date our Association has attained different stages of implementation of its programmes and projects and due to some unforeseen reasons some proposals being removed from our Agenda. However despite the challenges, I am confident that the principles and objectives that we committed ourselves thirteen years ago continue to be valid. We do hope that given the necessary political will shown by Member States, we will be able to adjust to a new level by giving a greater impetus to our Association.

**Mr Chairperson**

The impact of the global financial crisis, environmental crisis, increased poverty , increased piracy activities in our region, just to mention a few, are a reminder to our Association to redouble its efforts in addressing various challenges we are facing.

It is in this regard, we are urgently required to start tackling the key issues that will ultimately enable us to strengthen our cooperation and be able to promote the well being of our people. Among the key issues which require attention so as to bring the expected integration and accelerated growth of the Association is the strengthening of the Charter.

**Mr Chairperson**

In this context we do agree that the issue of reviewing the Association Charter so that it addresses all the concerns and priorities while maintaining the principle of consensus among member states as well as the principles that set up the Organisation when it began, is of paramount importance. It is our expectation therefore that the revised Charter will make the Secretariat efficient and effective to run our organisation in light of the increasing activities of the Working Groups and the Association at large and be able to meet the expectations of the Member States.

Let me assure you Mr Chairperson, Tanzania continues to be committed to the ideals of this Association despite the different levels of our development. We do recognize the great efforts taken to set priorities in our activities and to choose those that are beneficial to all of us though we are still facing great challenges in their implementation. We do agree we need to inject greater efforts to convince our respective capitals in this regard. Let this be our major task when we return back to our countries.

**Mr Chairperson**

In conclusion may I once again recognize the contribution of the Chair and his team and the entire Secretariat of the Association for their good work and untiring efforts in organizing this tenth session of the Council and reiterate my delegations cooperation during this session. May I also take this opportunity to welcome India and Australia to steer the activities of our Association in 2011. Let me remind the Member Countries that “For a great vision to be achieved team work spirit is vital”.

I thank you.