

**STATEMENT BY MR. AZIZ SHEWEEN, ACTING AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA; AT THE IOR-ARC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009; SANA'A; REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.**

**Honorable Chairperson;**

Honorable Ministers;

Honorable Executive Director;

Your Excellencies Ambassadors;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen...

**Honorable Chairperson;**

Allow me to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of Yemen for the excellent facilities availed to us and the hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in the beautiful city of Sana'a. The facilities extended to us will go a long way towards making our meeting successful.

**Honorable Chairperson;**

I would like also to express my sincere gratitude to the leaders and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the role they played during their tenure of office as Chair of the Association and congratulate the Republic of Yemen for assuming the Chair. Tanzania will continue to support and work closely with our Chairperson for the advantage of the region as a whole.

**Honorable Chairperson;**

In one day of our meeting we have an important task before us. We have to review implementation of the Council's decisions for the past year and make new decisions on programmes for the coming year.

**Honorable Chairperson;**

As we gear ourselves for the next year, allow me to make proposals aimed at strengthening the Association. Our proposals are in line with what is reflected in the Australian paper.

**Honorable Chairperson,**

We need a strong and dynamic and an effective Secretariat. We also need •to identify a few common areas of common interest which are not contradicting our membership in other Regional Communities. For this purposes, we need to undertake a study on implication of our commitments in other Regional communities and identify ways to manage such implications. Furthermore, it is our view that Working Groups should meet well before the Council of Ministers in order to give time for national level consultations at our capitals.

**Honorable Chairperson;**

Farther more we need to have a fresh look on the charter with a view to reflect the realities but also to attain a smooth and efficient running of our esteemed organization.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to convey our deepest condolences to the Government of Sri Lanka for the sudden demise of Ambassador Marleen, Sri Lanka CSO representation. Our heart and prayers go to the family of the late Ambassador and may the Lord rest his soul in eternal peace.

With these few remarks, let me end by assuring you my full support and that of the United Republic of Tanzania.

**I thank you very much.**