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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) becomes Dialogue Partner of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**

H.E Mr Sultan Al Angari, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of South Africa paid a courtesy call on Secretary-General Dr. Salman Al Farisi at the IORA Secretariat in Mauritius where H.E Mr Sultan Al Angari transmitted the Letter of Acceptance to become an IORA Dialogue Partner.

During the call, Secretary-General Al Farisi welcomed the KSA as the 11th Dialogue Partner of the Association and appreciated the commitment of the KSA to support IORA. The Secretary General and the KSA discussed possible areas of cooperation, including supporting research in IORA.

To this end, Ambassador Al Angari expressed his appreciation to the IORA Member States and Secretariat for their support in the process of the application of KSA as the Dialogue Partner of IORA. He also conveyed the readiness of the KSA’s to support the realisation of IORA’s priorities and to increase cooperation between IORA and KSA.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been admitted as the 11th Dialogue Partner in IORA. The KSA was conferred the status of IORA’s Dialogue Partner (DP) at the 22nd IORA Council of Ministers’ (COM) Meeting on 24 November 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed to support the High-Level Strategic Dialogue on IORA’s 25-years - Reflection, Review and Renewal which was held from 20 to 22 June 2023 in Mauritius.

IORA is the apex regional organisation of 23 Member States and 11 Dialogue Partners. By becoming the 11th Dialogue Partner, the KSA has formalised its relations with the Association - including through attending high level plenary session meetings of the Council of (Foreign) Ministers (COM), the IORA’s apex body / Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)/ IORA Functional Bodies at the appropriate level.

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