Press Release
Nelson Mandela "Be the Legacy" Internship Programme

Cybercity, Ebene, Mauritius, 18 July 2022:

Today and every year on **18 July,** the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) joins the international community in celebrating the life of the global icon Mr Nelson Mandela for Nelson Mandela International Day.

At IORA we proudly associate late President Nelson Mandela as the visionary leader who originated the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim Association for socio-economic co-operation in 1995 and who remains a source of inspiration for all who are fighting for freedom, equality and justice throughout the world.

We recall that 2018 marked the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and provided an opportunity for IORA to solidify the historical link it has with the global icon by contributing to another of his visions: to change the world for the better. To this end, **The IORA-Nelson Mandela "Be the Legacy" Internship Programme (NMIP)** was launched by the 18th Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers' (COM) on 2 November 2018 in Durban, South Africa.

The long-term objective of the NMIP is to create a strong and growing base of young people in the Indian Ocean Region that understand and support the need to safeguard an Indian Ocean that is safe, secure and develops sustainably. The programme will also serve to strengthen the capacity of the IORA Secretariat as called for in the IORA Action Plans.

The NMIP was initially expected to commence in 2020 but was postponed in 2020, and subsequently again in 2021, owing to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The IORA Secretariat and the IORA Secretary General, Ambassador Salman Al Farisi are pleased to announce that the first iteration of the NMIP will take place with the secondment of 4 young diplomats from IORA Member States (Bangladesh, Madagascar, South Africa, and Sri Lanka) to the IORA Secretariat in Ebene, Mauritius from 1 September to 30 November 2022. The first iteration of the NMIP will coincide with IORA's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Further details can be found on the Secretariat's website https://www.iora.int/en.