

IORA ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

PRIORITY AREA	FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES		
	SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM
<p>MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY - Promoting Maritime Safety and Security in the Region</p>	<p>Establish an IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security</p> <p>Enhance cooperation with the United Nations Offices and Agencies to support the IORA Working Group in addressing common safety and security challenges</p> <p>Encourage Member States to sign the IORA MOU on Search and Rescue</p> <p>Explore the establishment of the Maritime Institute of Malaysia as an IORA Centre of Excellence for Maritime Safety and Security</p>	<p>Implement training and capacity building programs</p> <p>Implement IORA MOU on Search and Rescue</p> <p>Explore further proposals for establishing IORA Centres of Excellence for Maritime Safety and Security</p>	<p>Explore a regional surveillance network of existing Member States institutions including sharing of data and exchange of information on maritime transportation systems.</p>
<p>TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION - Enhancing trade and investment cooperation in the region</p>	<p>Organise capacity building and technical support on regional trade and investment with a focus on the facilitation and reducing of barriers to trade including through closer collaboration with the Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI)</p> <p>Strengthen regional cooperation for promotion of SMEs</p> <p>Establish an IORA online platform (entitled 'IORA Trade Repository') to provide information on tariffs and rules of origin to assist and improve trade and business facilitation</p> <p>Establish IORA Guide for Investment to help promote investment</p>	<p>Revitalise Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) as a platform to share information on trade and investment and strengthen linkages between WGTI, IORA Chambers of Commerce and private sector</p> <p>Explore the possibilities of promotion and cooperation in the field of financial services among Member States</p>	<p>Explore the feasibility of an IORA Business Travel Card (IBTC) to enhance economic integration amongst IORA Member States</p>

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<p>FISHERIES MANAGEMENT - Promoting sustainable and responsible fisheries management and development</p>	<p>Revitalise the FSU through implementation of the FSU Action Plan</p> <p>Sign an MOU with FAO and IOTC to develop regional fisheries management and information sharing</p>	<p>Implement joint capacity building projects with FAO and relevant organisations including aquaculture to address food security</p>	<p>Explore an IORA Mechanism to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing</p>
<p>DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT – Improving resilience and responses to disaster risk management</p>	<p>Enhance cooperation with the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and other multilateral organisations and agencies</p>	<p>Explore creation of an IORA Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Management for sharing information, expertise and best practice</p> <p>Implement training and capacity building programs</p>	<p>Develop resiliency through early warning systems, regional exercises, and training for coordinated disaster risk reduction</p>
<p>ACADEMIC, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION - Strengthening academic, science and technology cooperation</p>	<p>Strengthen the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG)</p> <p>Strengthen Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT)</p> <p>Institutionalise the Indian Ocean Dialogue as an annual mechanism for multi-sector and 1.5 track engagement</p> <p>Create a data base of higher educational institutes recognized by IORA Member States</p>	<p>Strengthen cooperation with universities in the Indian Ocean, including the University Mobility in the Indian Ocean Region (UMIOR)</p> <p>Support RCSTT to promote science and technology</p> <p>Strengthen the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) through the sharing of information and knowledge</p> <p>Implement training and capacity building programs</p> <p>Conduct a feasibility study of an Indian Ocean Technical and Vocational University in Bangladesh</p>	<p>Explore cooperation projects with the International Solar Alliance and IRENA</p>
<p>TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES - Fostering tourism and cultural exchanges</p>	<p>Establish a Core Group for Tourism</p> <p>Strengthen the Core Group for Culture</p>	<p>Conduct feasibility studies to explore the potential of cruise tourism</p> <p>Establish an IORA Tourism Resource Centre and Website in the Sultanate of Oman</p>	<p>Develop joint capacity building projects in tourism including community-based tourism for poverty reduction, cultural heritage and eco-tourism</p>
<p>BLUE ECONOMY - Harnessing and developing the Blue Economy in the Region</p>	<p>Establish an IORA Working Group on the Blue Economy</p> <p>Implement the outcomes of the Blue Economy Core Group Workshops as well as Ministerial and High-level Expert Meetings</p>	<p>Develop appropriate mechanisms of cooperation for sustainable development of blue economy sectors, including training and capacity building programs</p>	<p>Improve livelihoods of coastal communities through capacity building programs</p>

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<p>WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT - Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls</p>	<p>Establish an IORA Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment</p> <p>Establish a Women's Business Forum in the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF)</p>	<p>Establish cooperation with UN-Women and relevant organisations for capacity building and information exchange</p> <p>Champion initiatives to increase women's economic empowerment such as the Women's Empowerment Principles</p> <p>Implement training and capacity building programs</p>	<p>Organise activities and to strengthen women's economic capacity and participation in business</p>
<p>INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND BROADENING ENGAGEMENT – Strengthening the IORA Secretariat and its collaboration with stakeholders</p>	<p>Strengthen the IORA Secretariat's capacity to support Member States and deepen regional cooperation</p> <p>Strengthen the administration and functioning of the IORA Special Fund (SF) to implement sustainable development programs</p> <p>Establish cooperation with other regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and ASEAN</p>	<p>Conduct public diplomacy and outreach programs</p> <p>Strengthen engagement with Dialogue Partners through concrete collaboration</p> <p>Hold Ministerial, High-level or Expert meetings as required to promote IORA's priority and cross-cutting areas</p>	<p>Deepen collaboration amongst academic, business, government, civil society as well as regional and multilateral bodies</p> <p>Explore the establishment of the IORA Development Fund</p>