

# **FOURTH INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research  
9-10 October 2017**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Background**

Since its inception, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) has constantly been expanding its activities to constructively engage its 21 Member States in identifying and applying cooperative strategies that address the opportunities and challenges of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) – a flagship initiative of the IORA - has its source in the 13th Council of Ministers meeting, held in November 2013 in Perth, Australia. To date, three IODs have been held. The first IOD was held in Kerala, India in 2014, followed by two others in Perth, Australia in 2015 and Padang, Indonesia in 2016, respectively.

Discussions at the previously held IODs have included far ranging topics such as economic cooperation, maritime safety and security, blue economy, human assistance and disaster relief, etc. and have resulted in the Kochi, Perth and Padang Consensuses each.

Today, the IOD retains its role as a stand-alone Track 1.5 discussion, encouraging an open and free flowing discussion on a number of key strategic issues of the IOR. It brings together key representatives including scholars, experts, analysts, and policy makers from governments, think tanks and civil societies.

### **Proposal for the Fourth Indian Ocean Dialogue**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) proposes to host the Fourth IOD on 9-10 October 2017 in collaboration with the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi.

The Fourth IOD will be organized over a period of two days and seeks to engage scholars, experts and policy makers from think tanks/ civil societies from IORA Member States.

## Objectives

Recognizing the importance of the IOD as a strategic platform to discuss regional issues, the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), which took place in Bali, Indonesia on 25-26 October 2016, encouraged the continuity of the forum and requested Member States to formulate new proposals, which could be sustainably actionable and achievable, based on the recommendations of the three past IODs.

It is with the above objectives in mind that the UAE will host the Fourth IOD with the aim to:

- Address current challenges and opportunities facing the IOR and suggest possible future actions to effectively tackle them.
- Advance progressive policy formulation for regional capacity building.
- Provide a venue for active collaboration among IORA Member States – stakeholders from governments, think tanks and civil societies to address pressing issues of common interest.
- The Fourth IOD will also enhance partnership value by facilitating the engagement of all Member States and the exchange of knowledge on pertinent issues as illustrated below.

## Structure

The proposed sessions for the Fourth IOD are as follows:

Session 1: Maritime Safety and Security: Enhancing Cooperative Mechanisms in the IOR

Session 2: Renewable Energy and Innovation: New Technologies for Sustainable Energy Security

Session 3: Climate Change: Adaptation and Resilience of Coastal Communities in the IOR

Session 4: Cyber Security in the IOR: Partnership for Sustainable Development

Each session will be preceded by a Keynote Address by an eminent speaker. The event will conclude with a final session on day two which will crystalize the salient conclusions of the discussions.

Conference proceedings will be documented in an outcome document – ***The Abu Dhabi Consensus***, which will be drafted by the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research and tabled at the IORA Council of Ministers in October 2017.

\*\*\*\*