



Second IORA Meeting of Experts for Maritime Safety and Security
7-8 November 2017

COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

New Delhi, 8 November 2017:

The *Second IORA Meeting of Experts for Maritime Safety and Security* was inaugurated by the Foreign Secretary of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar. Describing maritime safety and security as an important dimension of the national interests and international relations of all Indian Ocean states and regional bodies, he stated that *“as the Indian Ocean takes a centre stage in the 21st century, the onus is on us, as equal stakeholders, to collectively secure and nurture our oceanic states.”*

Dr S Jaishankar said that maritime safety and security is a multi-faceted issue, especially in the realm of non-traditional threats, and that issues like maritime terrorism, smuggling, transnational crime, drug trafficking, illegal immigration etc, compounded by natural disasters, oil spills and effects of climate change are threats and challenges that highlight the acute and imperative need for enhanced regional cooperation within the IOR to preserve the integrity, inviolability and security of the maritime domain. Describing IORA as a collective platform to highlight common challenges, the Foreign Secretary said that IORA is an important instrument in promoting cooperation and ensuring stability in the region.

Hosted by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, this event was held over 7-8 November 2017. It provided the over 150 participants, including 50 experts from IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners, with an opportunity to discuss existing Maritime Safety and Security issues in the Indian Ocean region and to deliberate upon tangible and feasible solutions to successfully manage these challenges.

The topics chosen for the *Second IORA Meeting of Experts for Maritime Safety and Security* included: Maritime Safety and Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region; Geostrategic Cooperation: An Indian Ocean Architecture; Inclusive Approach to Maritime Domain Awareness; Regional Legal Framework for Maritime Governance; Creating Synergy in Capacity and Capability Building; and a concluding session that focussed on the outcomes and deliverables.

Recognising that while there are several challenges within the region, there are also several opportunities that can be capitalised, the delegates actively engaged in the discussions and put forward various proposals which brought out governance, surveillance, and preventive as well as protective measures to deal with maritime safety and security threats in the

region. The deliberations were substantiated with the intervention of a number of regional experts and professionals.

The outcomes of the *Second IORA Meeting of Experts for Maritime Safety and Security* were amalgamated in the “Blueprint for Maritime Safety and Security in IORA”(to be circulated subsequently).

8 November 2017

IORA Secretariat