

Conference: Modernising Trade in the Indian Ocean Rim

17-18 June 2019, Capital Pearls Hotel, Durban, South Africa

Interested in Indian Ocean trade?

IORA's major trade and investment event for 2019 will discuss the Indian Ocean Rim region's potential for greater trade and investment and women's economic empowerment. A full-day program will identify emerging trends such as changing business ecosystems and tools to increase regional trade and empower women among IORA's 22 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners. On Day 2 the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) will meet to discuss business priorities in the region, followed by a panel event hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Conference speakers include leading figures from the International Chamber of Commerce, Centre for International Private Enterprise, International Trade Centre, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, UN Women, and regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Who should attend?

- ◆ Government officials promoting trade, investment and women's empowerment
- ◆ Local, national and international Chambers of Commerce;
- ◆ Digital industry players such as logistics firms, banks, infrastructure providers
- ◆ Anyone interested in promoting trade, investment and women's empowerment.

How can I register?

You can register online [here](#) by **7 June 2019**.

Side Event

The International Chamber of Commerce will hold an event to mark its 100-year anniversary in 2019, with panels on two pressing issues facing the region:

- ◆ Stopping the rise in global inequality
- ◆ Making climate change everyone's business



1.30-5.00pm, 18 June

Read more [about IORA](#), and our work on [trade and investment facilitation](#) and [women's economic empowerment](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE, SEE OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.IORA.INT



Draft Conference Program

Day 1: Monday 17 June 2019

9.30-10.00	Opening Welcome Address Greeting by Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary-General of IORA
10.00-11.15	Session 1: Opportunities and Challenges for Trade and Investment in the Indian Ocean Rim This session will set out the current status of trade and investment in the Indian Ocean Rim and key trends such as the fourth industrial revolution and digitisation.
11.15-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-12.45	Session 2: Promoting Trade Facilitation This session will provide an update on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement including current status of ratification, examples of customs compliance and overcoming barriers to trade.
12.45-13.45	Lunch
13.45-14.45	Session 3: Tools for promoting regional trade This session will showcase practical tools from Member States and experts, including IORA's Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Mechanism project and the Trade Community System.
14.45-15.15	Afternoon Tea
15.15-17.00	Session 4: Tools for Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment This session will outline tools that governments and businesses can adopt to promote women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion.
19.00	The conference will be followed by a networking cocktail hosted jointly by the Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Day 2: Tuesday 18 June 2019

08.30-12.30	The Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) IORA's private sector arm, the IORBF, will provide an opportunity for the business community to set a new direction in how businesses engage with IORA Member States. Member States nominate IORBF representatives from national business communities, but business representatives are welcome to attend as observers.
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-17.00	ICC Centenary Panel Event The International Chamber of Commerce will host a panel event to celebrate its centenary year, and showcase its thought leadership on two ICC campaigns namely 'Stop the rise in global inequality' and 'Make climate change everyone's business'.

Kindly note that official IORA meetings of the Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI), Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment (WGWEE) and a UN Women research validation workshop will also be held on 18-19 June 2019 but are open to nominated IORA delegates only. For more information contact the Secretariat at hq@iora.int or Kritika.nuckchady@iora.int.