

Statement by H.E. Mr Mohamed Bakri Ben Abdoufatah Chariff,

Foreign Minister of External Affairs of the Union of Comoros

12th Council of Ministers Meeting, 2nd November 2012, Gurgaon, New Delhi

EXCELLENCIES

It is a great honour for me as part of this noble cause to be present in Gurgaon, this beautiful city of India, on the occasion of the Indian Ocean Rim Ministerial Meeting.

A few minutes ago, it was announced that my country would be joining the IOR-ARC for Regional Cooperation as a Member State.

This honour and trust for my country, becoming a full Member of IOR-ARC, filled me with pleasure and great emotion. This reflects the solidarity, friendship, fraternity and the sustained shared interest of research for our region which will be engraved in the archives and the memories of my country.

It is true that our respective countries have common visions, policies and strategies for the future.

But it is also true that our common vision and our shared future policies, economic security, trade, cultural and environment of the Indian Ocean Rim, would guarantee peace and well-being which are important for our region.

My country, on requesting and obtaining the membership in the IOR-ARC, means at the same time an honour to my country, with the immense challenges that needs to be overcome and know-how necessary for the benefit of our common institutions.

However my government remains confident that the recommend strengthening and diversification in the cooperation between our Members are the main guarantees of our success and future.

Mr Chairman

Since my nomination at the head of the delegation of the Union of Comoros, I have the opportunity to meet many of you present here.

We have not missed to speak at every opportunity about the value of our region which unites us such as peace, cooperation, and solidarity.

On this happy occasion, I would like to say a big thank you to all the delegations presents here and to convey our appreciation on behalf of the government of the people of the Union of Comoros.

I would also, express here my sincere thanks to the Government of India for the warm and brotherly welcome of my delegation and myself since our arrival in India.

Secretary General, I would like to express my appreciation to you for the action taken upon our request for membership of my country to the Association.

On the other hand, I would not miss to say a special thank you to my brother and friend Foreign Minister of External Affairs of India for all the efforts offered to the Union of Comoros to join the big family of the Indian Ocean Rim. I also wish to express my deep appreciation with regard to the important task by the Government of India for their support to the Union of Comoros to join the IORARC.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen

The world is facing many issues and challenges.

The Indian Ocean Rim needs to know how to seize opportunities beyond traditional North/South and East/West sides of the Indian Ocean region with determination to seek long term solutions for the Region.

If the reality of the environment for political stability is not definite, it will not be easily acquired.

We have to acknowledge that the region is peaceful, stable, in harmony and progress , so let us work together to make this our common ideal.

We remain confident of the future of the Association.

Our region has the means and capacity to guarantee its support, and ensure a better assurance, hope and a better standard of living for its people.

Also, we should strengthen what exists with financial and technological support, which will make our region a hub of wealth, know-how and expertise.

It with this optimism, that I would like to conclude, and I would assure you our full support, availability and collaboration in encouraging all the members to persevere in this promising vision of peace, cooperation and solidarity.

Long live the Indian Ocean Rim

Long live International Cooperation

I thank you