

Statement by H.E. Dr Abu Baker Al-Qirbi
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Delegation
Republic of Yemen
12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
Gurgaon, Republic of India
2nd November 2012

*Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I cannot start my intervention without first congratulating your Excellency for your appointment as foreign minister of this great country India. And I look forward to work with you to promote the bilateral relations between our two countries.

It gives me great pleasure to attend this 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation which is convening in Gurgaon. On behalf of my delegation, I must express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of India for the preparation for our meeting in this beautiful atmosphere and warm hospitality and we also extend our thanks to the Secretariat senior officials for their hard work in preparing for our meeting.

I would like to welcome the new membership of the Union of Comoros and I am sure it will play a positive role in our organization. We are encouraged by the joining of the US as a dialogue partner as it indicates the US realization of the importance of this group and to provide its support for our organization.

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Again Yemen would like to congratulate the Republic of India for Chairing the IOR-ARC during the last year, a period in which the association witnessed significant progress.

I would also like to thank the government of India for its one million \$ contribution to the special fund.

Furthermore, the constructive participation of our Dialogue Partners in our meetings demonstrate the willingness of all our stakeholders to work together to achieve tangible results in our mission to improve the lives of ordinary people in our region.

I am sure we are all encouraged by the progress made by our organization although there is more work to be done to make it an active forum for greater economic and technical cooperation by governments and private sector as well as exchange of experts the more we focus on this and less politics the more likely we are to achieve our goal and create stronger bonds between our countries.

There is no doubt that the organization will depend on leadership, innovative thinking and programmes as well as adequate budget. Our success will lead to the protection and better neutralization.

One subject that needs to be rembraced in this meeting is the plight of poor fishermen as a result of our concern for maritime security. Thousands of fishermen in Yemen have their source of substance by abandoning their fishing for fear of being attacked by naval ships in suspecting them as pirate boat. This has resulted in the lose of lives of several fishermen and over 200 million \$ of revenue for Yemen. I hope our organization will look at way to deal with this and make the countries responsible of this accountable.

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The Fisheries Support Unit, the Maritime Transport Council, the Regional Center of Science and Transfer of Technology, the Preferential Trade Agreement, and our progress in initiating Trade and Investment opportunities, deserve the support of all Member States. It is critical that these projects be regional in character and this can only be done if we have the broad participation of our Member States.

Yemen is ready to do whatever it can to strengthen the Association and to improve the level of its cooperation with IORARC and proposes the establishment of a traditional fishing resource unit in Yemen, to promote and enhance fishermen's abilities.

*Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

May I take this opportunity to wish our Honorable Council of Ministers every success for this meeting.

I thank you.