

**Statement by MOS For Human Resource Development,**  
**Hon'ble Ms.D. Purandeshwari**

**Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC, Sana'a,  
Yemen, 5 August, 2010**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I am happy to be here in Sana'a for the Tenth Meeting of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers. I thank our hosts, the Government and the people of Yemen for their cordial hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. The Republic of Yemen has provided able leadership and guidance as Chair of IOR-ARC in carrying forward our cooperation in IOR-ARC. We also welcome the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of the republic of Yemen in our midst and greatly appreciate his thoughtful words.

2. We have a rich agenda before us. The Academic Group, Business Forum, Working Group on Trade and Investment and Senior Officials have discussed various issues and have submitted their recommendations for consideration. I thank them for their work. I also thank the Secretariat for their valuable support. The Working Group of the heads of Missions in Pretoria has also been useful as a forum for discussions and exchange of views among Members.
3. The Indian Ocean Region has a maritime tradition of several millennia. The importance of the Indian Ocean maritime trade and transport has grown in recent times. There is considerable scope and shared desire of enhancing cooperation among the Indian Ocean littoral states.
4. I am happy to learn that the draft of a revised Charter for IOR-ARC has been put in place, which we would consider today along with suggested changes in the Rules of Procedure, Staff Regulations and Financial Arrangements of IOR-ARC.
5. Some members have participated in the annual India International Trade Fair. I once again invite you to participate in the Fair this year to be held between 14-27 November in New Delhi. We would be happy to arrange business-to-business interaction for participants. A special IOR-ARC pavilion can also be set up if there is sufficient interest from members. I request you to convey interest in participation to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), which is the nodal agency from our side for the IOR-ARC Business Forum.
6. FICCI has also invited IOR-ARC Members to participate in the 'Annapoorna World of Food India 2010' being held in Mumbai on 24-26 November 2010. The event provides an opportunity for the food and beverage industry for

business-to-business meetings. We would be happy to see participation from IOR-ARC countries as in the past years.

7. The Ministry of Earth Sciences of India has formulated a programme to provide the fishing community with credible advisories on Potential Fishing Zones. These advisories can be provided to the Indian Ocean Rim countries. We are already cooperating with some IOR-ARC members in the field of remote sensing applications for fisheries and coastal zone management. We would be happy to cooperate in the areas of agro-meteorological advisory, tsunami and cyclone warnings, capacity building in the areas of weather and climate, and coastal and marine hazards management.
8. The proposed establishment of the Maritime Transport Council for IOR-ARC would contribute to enhancing maritime transport cooperation including in areas such as security and piracy, maritime pollution, search and rescue operations.
9. India has circulated a concept Note on culture to enhance cultural cooperation and people-to-people contact among member countries. We are thankful to Mauritius for supporting the Concept, and for the interest shown by other members to carry forward our cooperation in this area. We hosted an IOR-ARC cultural event in Kochi with participation of troupes from Bangladesh, Oman, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and India on the occasion of the arrival of replica of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century boat 'Jewel of Muscat' from Oman. I would suggest that we should have more such events.
10. We have been happy to cooperate with the IOR-ARC members in the framework of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). During 2009-10, over 700 nominees from 15 member countries attended various course in Indian professional and technical institutions. 13 member countries participated in the special course for IOR-ARC Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute in May-June 2010. We had planned a one week course in 'Disaster Risk Management including Coastal and Marine Hazards' for IOR-ARC member countries in Chennai, which had to be postponed as very few nominations had been received. We would be happy to reschedule the course if there is interest among members.
11. India had offered secondment of a Director to the IOR-ARC Secretariat. The process of selection of a suitable officer for this is at an advance stage, and we hope to soon communicate the name of the officer identified for the post.
12. Mr. Chairman, before I conclude, I reiterate India's commitment to work with other members to make the IOR-ARC a vibrant organization and enhance our mutual cooperation for the common benefit of our peoples.

Thank you