

INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

**Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers meeting (COM)
Sana'a Thursday 5th August 2010**

Speech of the M.Pascal Burel, Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Excellencies,

France is very pleased to attend the tenth Meeting of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers. We would like to thank the Yemeni Presidency for welcoming and organizing this conference.

As a dialogue partner, with maritime borders in the Indian Ocean, France is very committed to the development of the IOR organization. Nearly one million French citizens live in this area. Coming from France as well as Indian Ocean countries, they are part of this great cultural community and deeply contribute to the diversity of the French culture and identity.

French developed a wide range of universities and research centres in the Indian Ocean - particularly in vulcanology and meteorology .Its navy and its air presence contribute to international efforts to improve the security in the region and to cope with natural disasters such as the Hubert hurricane.

France wishes to be a key partner in the IOR-ARC projects and hence promote the dynamism of the organization. France is aware of the importance of an organization gathering three continents. The IOR-ARC is the only body able to manage the region natural resources. We need to build up a common policy and carry our scientific cooperation to deal with the regional climate stakes, to manage the oceanic resources and develop ocean based energy technologies.

As part of the European Union, La Réunion can be a valuable partner in developing cooperation projects with the European Commission. French territories in the Indian Ocean are an important have already developed profitable economic partnerships in the area.

This is why, as announced last to this assembly, France is considering applying for an enhanced membership. Since then, we have been carrying out bilateral meetings with the IOR-ARC member States in order to officially submit this application to you.

I very warmly thank the Yemeni Presidency for the occasion I was given to address this assembly.

Thank you very much.