

**Statement by Mauritius at the 10th IOR-ARC Council, Sana'a Yemen
05 August 2010**

Chairperson
Hon Ministers
Distinguished Representatives of Dialogue Partners
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have been requested by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius, Dr Hon Arvin Boolell, to present his apologies to you, Members of the Council, for not being able to be present at this 10th Meeting of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers in Sana'a because of his urgent commitments.

Hon Boolell has kindly asked me to convey to you, Excellencies and Members of the Council, his best wishes for a successful meeting.

Like all the previous distinguished speakers, allow me to convey my profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Yemen for the warm welcome.

Excellencies,

I am pleased to inform you that the Secretariat of the IOR-ARC would soon move to a new state-of-the-art accommodation the heart of a growing new city, Ebene, in Mauritius. We sincerely hope that our secretariat would be happy to work in the new conducive environment.

The Year 2009 has been fruitful for our organization. I would cite only one step that is the preparatory work for the review of the Charter. After 13 years of existence of our organization, we have taken a bold step to give a sense of direction to our organization with a Member-driven approach. The intention is to unleash the dynamic complementarities and potentialities in the new changing global environment and promote greater regional cooperation among Member States, encompassing the African, Gulf, Asian and Australasian regions.

In spite of the tyranny of distance and the disparity in the levels of development of our countries, we have been able so far to engage ourselves in some form of economic as well as cultural cooperation. The stage is set to intensify such cooperation.

With hindsight, we believe that the IOR-ARC provides a platform for us to access each other's markets and thus change the predominantly the North-South pattern of trade. The promotion of trade and investment through a general framework/umbrella agreement and support measures like improvement of air and maritime transport, organization of trade/investment promotion contacts on a region-wide basis, should be in the fore front of our agenda.

We also value relations with our Dialogue Partners, other countries and organizations which may, in particular contribute to intensified economic cooperation, capacity –building and overall development of our populations at large.

Excellencies,

With these few words of optimism, I thank you for your kind attention