



**REPUBLICA DE MOZAMBIQUE**

*Check Against Delivery*

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Dr. Eduardo Koloma, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique**

**At the**

**IX Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for  
Regional Co-operation**

**Sana'a, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

**Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,  
Distinguished Dialogue Partners and Observers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I wish to express the gratitude of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to the People and the Government of the Republic of Yemen for convening the IX Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation and for the warm hospitality accorded to me and to my delegation since our arrival in this historical City of Sana'a

I should like to congratulate you, Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, on your election as Chairperson of our Association.

It is our belief that under your able leadership our deliberations will be crowned with tangible results that will enable us to strengthen and promote intra IOR-ARC cooperation and a solid regional integration, that is the main goal of our Association.

From our side, we would like to assure you, Mr. Chairperson, our full collaboration in the discharge of your duties.

Our special appreciation goes to your predecessor, our colleague from the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the brilliant manner in which he fulfilled his responsibilities.

Special recognition goes also to our Senior Officials and to the Working Group of Heads of Missions in Pretoria for the extraordinary preparatory work done, which I am sure will lead this Ministerial Meeting to a successful outcome.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Since the establishment of the IOR-ARC, we have been able to achieve many important goals as a result of our strong commitment. Today, and once more, our Association is called upon to redouble its efforts to overcome the various challenges facing our countries, particularly those relating to our social and economic development.

I am confident that the principles and objectives we committed ourselves to, twelve years ago, are still valid. In this regard, it is crucial that we, Member States, work more closely to secure the achievement of those noble goals reflected in our Charter.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The world is witnessing an unprecedented multifaceted crisis with tremendous consequences on the global economy. The global crisis, namely the food crisis, the energy crisis and the current global financial and economic crisis, have a negative impact on our economies, thus undermining the gains made so far and creating constraints to our efforts to fulfill national and regional development agendas. In this regard, our

Association should not be a mere spectator of the global efforts being undertaken by the international community.

It is worth noting that the IOR-ARC tripartite approach in its activities, provide a space for interaction among different actors, such as Governments, Academics and private sector, all of them relevant stakeholders in the search for solutions. This approach is therefore vital in the reinforcement of our cooperation ties and in the transformation of our vision into concrete reality.

We have no doubt that reinforcing cooperation among the Members States of IOR-ARC could help to change the prevailing scenario and to reshape the world architecture towards a more fair and democratic international system, in which we all can enjoy peace, development and prosperity.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The majority of our Nations are blessed with natural resources, but most of our people still live under extreme poverty. IOR-ARC constitutes a privileged forum where we can define strategies to mobilize our potential resources to uplift the social and economic conditions of our people, through pragmatic, realistic and results oriented interventions.

From the reports before us it is clear that we have been spending our scarce resources on various projects, not always focused on priority areas and only few of them delivering the much expected and needed results. We believe that the momentum posed by the current crises demands from the IOR-ARC a revision of its "modus operandi", to have a more efficient Secretariat and statutory organs.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Mozambique is of the view that our efforts should be more coordinated and concentrated, focusing on sustainable and result-oriented initiatives.

By so doing, we would be creating the necessary conditions to reach the needs of our peoples, giving more credibility to our Association and making it more visible at the regional and international level.

In addressing the effectiveness of the Association, we are of the view that adequate consideration should also be given to the role we ought to assign to our Dialogue Partners.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Allow me to take this occasion to briefly share with this august body some political developments taking place in my country, Mozambique.

This year is of particular importance to the people and the Government of Mozambique as we are preparing to undertake the fourth multiparty general elections, which will include, for the first time, the provincial elections.

These elections represent the Government's commitment to further consolidate democracy, the rule of law and to enhance the participation of all citizens in the process of national development at all levels.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

I should like to conclude my remarks by reaffirming the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to work closely with all IOR-ARC Member States, not just bilaterally but also at regional and international levels, in light of the adopted principles and for the achievement of our noble goals.

**I thank you!**