Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me in the beginning to join my colleagues in congratulating H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr al Qirby for assuming the responsibilities of chairmanship of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the IOR-ARC.

Allow me also to convey to your Excellencies a message of greetings from H.E. Ahmed Abul-Gheit the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

It is a great pleasure for us to participate as a Dialogue Partner in the 9th Ministerial Conference of the IOR-ARC in Sana'a, the historical capital of united Yemen.

I believe that our participation in this conference reflects the linkages between the Indian Ocean and the Red and Mediterranean seas countries in the sense that we share the same interests and concerns.

I take this opportunity to express our willingness to participate actively in all activities and projects of this esteemed Association which are of mutual benefit to us and other Member States. This willingness stems from our strong conviction of the importance of deepening all avenues of cooperation between the Dialogue Partners and the Member States, an issue which we believe has been emphasized during this important conference.

We wish the conference all success and we are convinced that the deliberations of this meeting will achieve fruitful results for the benefit of all Member States and Dialogue Partners.

Thank You.