

**IOR-ARC Ninth Council of Ministers Meeting, Sana'a, Republic of  
Yemen, June 20<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Statement by H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi, Secretary General, Oman  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Excellencies, distinguished colleagues. Ladies and  
Gentlemen,**

May I first begin by expressing our gratitude to His Excellency Dr Ali mujawar, the Prime Minister of Yemen, for honouring us by his presence and his kind and valuable address this morning.

May I also congratulate our brother. His Excellency Dr. Abu Bakr Al Qurbi, The Foreign Minister of Yemen, for the assumption of the Chair of the Council of Ministers Meeting. I hereby wish to register our sincere gratitude to the Government of The Republic of Yemen for the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality that has been accorded to our delegation since our arrival in Sana'a.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular our brother His Excellency, Dr. Manoucher Mottaki, the Foreign Minister, for all their efforts, support and achievements during their chairmanship of the Association over the last two years.

Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,

Since 1997 this Association has grown and expanded. Today we have 18 fully-fledged Member States from various continents, cultures and communities.

It is our wish to see the Association benefit as fully as possible from the unique opportunities it provides in uniting our diverse countries in common interests and partnership.

We would like to recognize the immense amounts of work devoted to strengthening the ever growing partnership among our countries. We are glad to observe that an increase in membership has been accompanied by an increase in activity, as well.

I would like here to register our appreciation to all of our Senior Officials, Members of the Working Groups and the Secretariat, for the hard work they have done in the interest and the development of our Association. It is therefore our hope that we can adopt the kind of mechanisms suggested for better bureaucratic and administrative efficiency, in particular in planning and implementing projects.

**It** is our belief that the introduction of better mechanisms would only enhance the work of our Association, encouraging further development and collaboration on issues of common benefit. I believe the Australian paper offers constructive recommendations in this regard and we welcome that.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Participation, consultation and tolerance are fundamental values in Omani society, and we therefore warmly welcome the insights of all stakeholders in the decision making process. We acknowledge the importance of engaging diverse ranges of knowledge and experiences.

As one of our primary goals hinges upon the transfer of knowledge, education, and expertise among us, we acknowledge the benefits of broadening participation in these discussions, with a spirit of flexibility and accommodation.

We encourage participation to an extent that meets both objectives, enabling transfer of expertise whilst maintaining an environment intimate enough to allow for technical discussion.

The plethora of project development and investment opportunities, with which the Association is now presented, challenges us to maintain positive engagement and to carry projects through to full and successful completion. Our ability to succeed depends on our willingness to focus on quality over quantity and to maintain a regional focus.

### **IORARC Charter**

As the Association has expanded from 7 founding members to 18 today, we believe the Association's charter needs to reflect the realities of an ever changing world. We therefore support the view of the need to carry out a review of the Charter.

Dear Chairman, Excellencies

Before closing my remarks, I would like to briefly comment on some aspects of the Senior Officials Report:

- We appreciate the efforts of Yemen in combating piracy and urge all Member States that are concerned with this alarming phenomenon to intensify collaboration and strengthen our capacity in this regard.

- We thank Yemen for announcing its contribution to the Special Fund of the Association and we urge Members to continue their generous support of this Fund.

- We support the view of holding additional follow up meetings of Senior Officials and even, at the discretion of the Chair, holding a meeting of the Council of Ministers on the

margins of UN General Assembly in New York or any other conferences, as may deem appropriate.

- Oman supports the United Arab Emirates bid to host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency.

- Oman is aiming to host this year a workshop on Fisheries, with the objective of addressing topics such as regional shark tagging, laws on illegal fishing, the red-tide phenomenon and development of statistics and a database on fisheries in the region. Member States are of course invited to participate and we welcome their input on the central theme, as the workshop develops. We are looking forward to working with you on this issue.

- We count on the support of Member States in promoting our efforts in the development of the Tourism Sector in the Region.

- Finally may I join colleagues in expressing to our friends the Sri Lankan delegation, our warmest condolences for the untimely passing away of Ambassador Marleen. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family and may he rests in eternal peace.

Excellencies,

I am honoured to be here and to participate in this meeting among friends and partners. On behalf of the Sultanate of Oman delegation, I would like to express our willingness and determination to work with all Member States to achieve our common objectives and goals for the benefit, progress and prosperity of all our peoples. Thank you.