



**Statement by HE Mr Kevin Magee
Ambassador of Australia to Yemen & Head of
Delegation IOR-ARC 9th Council of Ministers
Meeting Sana'a, Republic of Yemen 25 June 2009**

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Australia welcomes the assumption of the Chair by Minister Al-Qurbi, The Foreign Minister of Yemen, and thanks the Republic of Yemen for its excellent hosting and organisation of the Working Group, Committee of Senior Officials and Council of Ministers Meeting here in the historic city of Sana'a.

I would also like to express on behalf of the Australian Delegation our sincere condolences to the Government of Sri Lanka and his family on the passing of my colleague and friend, HE Ambassador A M Marleen. He will be missed.

Australia supports an effective and efficient IOR-ARC with a limited number of well thought out and effective projects.

Australia also supports a high performing IOR-ARC Secretariat and to that effect, Australia has proposed a series of recommendations in its non-paper on High Performing Secretariats, which has been circulated to IOR-ARC Member States.

Australia supports the establishment of a well-funded and effective Fisheries Support Unit that will support the conservation and sustainable management of Indian Ocean fisheries. We acknowledge the good work done on the FSU by the Sultanate of Oman.

Australia does not support the establishment of the Regional Centre for Science and Transfer of Technology, but we do not stand in the way of consensus to establish the centre or to fund it. However, Australia is of the view that membership and funding of the centre should be voluntary. Australia also believes that contribution of funding to the Special Fund should be voluntary. We acknowledge India's efforts to ensure that proper procedure is followed in the matter of the Regional Centre for Science and Transfer of Technology Memorandum of Understanding.

The IOR-ARC should focus on a small number of practical and achievable activities to demonstrate progress and build confidence in the organisation. IOR-ARC needs to 'get the runs on the board'.

Australia encourages the implementation of the recommendations of the Australian non-paper on High Performing Secretariats.

Australia also encourages the IOR-ARC to pursue development projects in conjunction with other key capacity building organisations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation.

Australia supports the IOR-ARC and is committed to membership but we want to see an effective and efficient organisation. To achieve this is the challenge for the IOR-ARC.