

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR. CYRIL CHAMI (MP), DEPUTY MINISTER FOR  
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND MARKETING OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Mr. Chairman**

Allow me first of all to commend you for the manner in which you are presiding over our meeting. I am hopeful that under your able chairmanship our meeting will be able to fulfil its mandate. Secondly, let me express my profound appreciation to the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their hospitality extended to my entire delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Tehran. Let me also thank the Executive Director of IOR-ARC and his staff for the excellent preparations for this meeting.

I would like to align my initial remark with that made by the Hon. Minister from Kenya by observing that, it is ten years now since the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation was established. Ten years is a long enough period to make an evaluation on the success and failures of our Association with a view to giving it a fresh impetus.

It is regrettable that the Association has been able to register very modest success. These successes are in the area of studies that have been done on the potential that exists in our Region. These studies have gone hand in hand with the identification of a number of projects. However, it is a pity that the Association has so far failed to show any tangible results and progress especially in the implementation of projects that have been identified.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is clear from my interactions with other delegations and even by listening to some of their statements, it is clear that there is a vivid and understandable frustration over lack of progress in our Association. If we continue along this painfully slow pace we will soon cease to be relevant. In view of the prevailing lack of progress, we member states need to recommit ourselves to the noble objectives for which our Association was founded in 1997. Indeed, we need to rediscover the enthusiasm and political will that characterised the birth of the IOR-ARC. If possible, let us involve our Heads of State and Government at some stage. It is also my delegation's considered view that one way of revitalising our Association is through pulling our resources together to undertake all those projects that have been identified and agreed upon.

I therefore appeal to all delegations to join me in calling for a resolution to move beyond rhetoric and embark on the path of concrete actions. To that end, I would like to suggest that we should here and today resolve to start the implementation of a few projects whose studies have been completed, commit resources to those projects and set time frames for their implementation. To this effect, my delegation would like to strongly support the proposal made by the Hon. Minister of Oman that we need to expand and strengthen our Secretariat. It is a strong Secretariat that will aid this organization in identifying those projects that we all yearn for. It is a strong Secretariat that will see to the projects' full and successful implementation.

Once again, thank you for your leadership Mr. Chair and thank you for your kind attention.