

Statement by

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Australia**

Thanks Islamic Republic of Iran for its hospitality for this 8th Com and the work of Secretariat and the Executive Director in organising the event.

Australia, as one of the founding members of IOR-ARC 11 years ago, continues to be committed to the organizations and offer support to its development.

Australia would like to see IOR-ARC focus on a small number of practical and key projects to be completed by the organization to enable it to demonstrate progress and build confidence in the organization. To use a cricket term, may be not familiar to all here today, to enable IOR-ARC “to get some runs on the board “.

In particular, Australia is interested in focusing on the Fisheries Support Unit and perhaps one of two projects in other priority areas of the organization. Australia sees important benefits to be gained through cooperation in this area as it is the Indian Ocean which unites IOR-ARC diverse membership.