

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Bin Hussein Al Shaali

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Head of the United Arab Emirates Delegation**

**7th Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association
for Regional Cooperation**

**Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran
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Your highness and Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace be upon you,

On behalf of the UAE Delegation, it gives me great pleasure to extend to your Excellency and to your friendly country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, our sincerest thanks and appreciation for your warm reception and hospitality.

Today, we meet in Tehran to evaluate and examine the achievements made since the establishment of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, especially in the fields of trade, investment, tourism, human development and private sector.

Mr. President,

Since its accession to this Association on 24/9/1999, the United Arab Emirates has been keen to strengthen its involvement in the economic, commercial and investment activities with many member countries due to its firm belief in the importance of pursuing development policies which reflect the objectives and principles of open and free markets, whether in its bilateral and regional relations or in its relations with the international groupings and associations to which it belongs, and under the framework of the economic, commercial, financial and international relations. Proceeding from this understanding, we have been always calling for creating partnerships in these sustainable development sectors since they are considered the primary engine of economic and commercial cooperation, and the driving force of growth, balanced development, and liberalization of trade, as well as or strengthening the bilateral and multilateral relations of our countries on these pressing issues in order to ensure the stability of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

We hope that this joint action will help in achieving the ambitions and aspirations of our peoples towards creating wider perspectives for coordination, cooperation and joint responsibility in the development, human, economic and commercial areas and in strengthening the involvement of the private sector in order to achieve the objectives and purposes for which this association was established.

We are confident that this meeting will achieve-God willing – the positive results to which we all aspire.

Thank you.