

## **Statement of H.E Mr. RANJEVA Marcel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar**

Mr Chairman,  
Honourable Colleagues,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me, first of all, to express my sincere appreciation and my gratitude to the Government of Iran for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangement extended to my delegation and myself since our arrival in Tehran.

Allow me also to congratulate Your Excellency for the outstanding work that has been achieved throughout your first year as Chairperson of our Association.

Mr Chairman and Honourable Colleagues,

Since this year is dedicated to the celebration of the 10th anniversary of our Association, and the year of tourism of IOR ARC, my congratulations go to all of us and I wish continuous success to our Association for the coming years.

As far as tourism is concerned, we all know that this sector plays a key role in the economy of our respective countries. Unfortunately, due to the global warming and climate change, our region is permanently exposed to natural disasters, resulting in thousand of homeless and starving people, leaving our countries' economy shattered.

Recently, we have witnessed floods in Indonesia, cyclones in Mozambique and Mauritius, threatening the tourism economy of our countries. I would like to take this opportunity to renew our sympathy to the Government and the people of these brother countries.

Since January of this year, my country has also experienced the same negative climatic conditions. However, national efforts towards rapid development of the tourism sector will not fail, intensive promotion of the tourism sector is being listed among the eight commitments for high growth economy, within the "Madagascar Action Plan" (MAP).

Briefly, the MAP is the national policy to be implemented to accelerate and better coordinate the development process. It is a five year plan establishing direction and priorities for the Nation's progress, stating the commitments and strategies.

Last and not the least, I would like to thank our Association for having encouraged and recommended Madagascar, during our Meeting last year, to organize exhibitions and other activities in view of attracting investors as well as tourists.

I wish full success to our Meeting.

Thank you.