

H.E. Dr Parviz Dawodi, First Vice President

**In the Name of God,
The Compassionate, the Merciful**

1. Introduction

Holding of the 7th Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of the Indian Oceans Rim Association for Regional Cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran as its host is a valuable opportunity for us. I avail my self of this opportunity to welcome you all the distinguished participants and wish for its success. I hope this meeting will bring about greater achievements not only for all member states but all countries in the region and the world.

Our present world needs empathy, integration and understanding among nations more than ever before and overall and equal growth and development, if not impossible, but can hardly be realized without integration. Therefore such meetings at regional level and different region of the world have given the similarities and closeness of its participants, can bring about understanding and integration based on joint global interests. What ensures the durability and further survival of such global and regional meetings and gatherings in addition to the joint interests which are visible in the first place is the belief and the will of every member state towards the constructive and positive consequences of such gatherings as well as recognition of rights of every member states, transparency in the their positions and their empathy and frankness towards each other.

2. Non- Observance

Failure of many international institutions and gatherings, formed in the first place for rendering services to the people, in solving the problems grappling the globe, despite all the money, facilities and time spent, goes back to the disregard for the previously mentioned factors and even the visible contradictions in this respect.

Selective behaviors:

Examples: we can refer to many examples as the three following ones.

Case No. 1: Democracy is a sacred sacred word which is accepted and respected by every one and used by every country who wishes to show its growth and development. This word also is used by every country who wishes to denounce another country. But in practice, we can see in the case of country like Palestine, an democratically elected under supervision of international, organizations, only because of its policies and positions are not in conformity with that of the great powers, the democracy and the value of the votes of people lose its meaning in their eyes.

Case No.2: Terrorism is a heinous, ugly and disgusting term for all people of the world and is denounced and rejected in all international forums and regional and bilateral meetings. In this context combating terrorism is considered and fully acceptable progressive and revolutionary principle. But in practice, when the occupying regime of Qods openly commits terrorist acts because its interests are in line with the interests of great powers, it is supported and the massacres are neglected. Therefore we are concerned that the ugliness of this phenomenon to be diluted among countries of the

world gradually. The world faces such contradictions. In today's world we observe that countries like the US who are claiming to be in favor of democracy and wishing to spread freedom in the world through military attacks against Afghanistan and Iraq which has resulted in insecurity and instability in these countries.

Case No 3: the third case relates to the selective behavior in exercising the international law. The Islamic Republic of Iran which is one of the victims of these contradictions and double standard policies now is being targeted by bullying and discriminative behaviors of great powers. While many countries presently possess arsenals of destructive nuclear weapons and expressively admit their possession, and also trying to develop new generation of destructive nuclear weapons are not condemned. But the Islamic Republic of Iran is under threats because of its access to domestic nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. These are contradictions which question the efficiency of the International organization and dilute the trust of nations in them. Nations can not tolerate language of force and bullyingness any more.

Therefore we reiterate that it is only through frankness and empathy that the growth and development of countries can be further pushed forward and their capacities and be turned to economic, social, cultural and scientific bloom through dynamic, constructive and active behaviors.

3. Global awareness

Fortunately technological growth and access to modern technologies in the field of telecommunication and information have caused further awareness of people leading to such cooperation as IORARC given its great and valuable capacities.

4. Common history and ancient culture as grounds for facilitating the cooperation:

this association with Islamic Republic of Iran with its thousands years of culture and civilization along with china and India and all other member states with thousands, years of neighborly relations and immense commonalties as its members can be turned into an example of successful symbol for the rest of the world. The main specification of this Association is the exquisite eastern and ancient origins of its member states. There are commonalties which go back to thousands of years are lighting torch which shows the way towards development and growth of its members which will bless all the world.

Potentials (1)

Despite existing great potentials within the member states of IORARC, the existing economic relations are not satisfactory, and all countries shall develop their existing economic relations through providing required legal and trade arrangements as well as conclusion of related agreements.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the major goals of I.O.R.A.R.C is the implementation of economic cooperation plans through optimal utilization of resources and use of comparative advantages to create maximum opportunities for the development and welfare of the peoples of this region. The Charter of I.O.R.A.R.C lays emphasis on the importance of enhancement of economic cooperation among the member states in the areas of

facilitation of trade, promotion of foreign investment, technical and scientific exchanges and development of infrastructures and human resources.

At present, important projects such as regional economic cooperation framework, preferential trade agreement, clearing agreement, shipping and ports, fisheries, banking services, tourism as well as scientific and academic cooperation on the agenda of our Association which, if implemented, can turn this organization into a successful model for regional cooperation.

5. Iran

Being a member of this Association, the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to accelerate its privatization process by laying down the necessary groundwork for that purpose.

In this regard, the implementation of Article 44 of the constitution which is aimed at speeding up economic growth, promoting economic competitiveness, increasing public share in government – run economic institutions in order to promote social justice and also raising the profitability of economic enterprises is being vigorously pursued by the three branches of government.

The Islamic Republic of Iran plans to increase the share of the private and cooperative sectors in the national economy and reduce the financial and supervisory role of the government in economic concerns in order to raise employment opportunities in the various sectors of the economy.

The transfer of 80% of the shares of government- run economic enterprises which fall under Article 44 of the constitution to the private, cooperative and non- governmental public sectors is a measure in the same direction.

With respect to scientific and academic issues, without and doubt, given that has happened in the past, we will witness further economic growth and development in the related activities of the member states.

The scientific and academic group constitutes a core area of our economic cooperation within the Association.

The academic group consisting of the professors and researchers of the member states which functions as a think tank for our organization can play a significant role in the attainment of its goals and objectives particularly with respect to new modern technologies, especially in the peaceful nuclear fields, treatment of diseases like AIDS and spinal cord injuries and generally speaking other fields of scientific cooperation.

Emphasizing the need for the further expansion of scientific and academic cooperation and exchanges in the Indian Ocean Rim region, Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to utilize all its scientific and academic capacities for the enhancement of regional cooperation in this sector.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Believing that development, welfare and security of states are tied to regional and international cooperation, the Islamic Republic of Iran views the development of comprehensive regional cooperation as a pillar of its policies. In that context, my country is prepared to make every effort for the implementation is prepared to make every effort

for the implementation of the projects and also enhancement of the position of our Association.

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, hoping earnestly that this meeting will manage to attain its objectives; I express, once more, my thanks and appreciation to the honourable ministers, heads and members of the delegations and other distinguished participants for their active presence in the deliberations of this meeting.

I wish further success for all of you and also for the success of I.O.R.A.R.C in attaining its lofty objectives.

Thank you