

Address by His Excellency, Dr. Abdul Razak Noormahomed, Deputy
Minister of Mineral Resources of the Republic of Mozambique at VI
Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC –Tehran, 21st 22nd
February 2006

Excellency Honourable Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mister Chairman

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I wish to express the gratitude of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for convening the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation and for the warm hospitality afforded to me and to my delegation since our arrival in this Historic country

I would like to congratulate Your Excellency Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Your election as Chairperson of our Association.

It is our belief that under Your able leadership we will come out with concrete projects that will enable us to promote intra IOR-ARC trade, investment and achieve a solid integration, which are the main goals of our Association.

Mister Chairman

I take this opportunity to commend the decisions taken by the Member States during the last Session of the Council of Ministers, in Colombo, which contributed positively to enhance the work of the organization.

Nevertheless, we feel that more impetus should be given to the IOR-ARC to make more progresses in medium to long term. In this context, my Government would suggest a revision of our projects so that we stick on those with a great potential and in which we have comparative advantage.

Our Organization offers opportunity to exchanges experiences and share information in various fields in order to develop our societies and improve the life of our people. In this regard, we have to show the concrete achievements done so far.

We are encouraged by the progress achieved during the previous meeting, specially by the recommendations adopted by the Committee of Senior Officials that leads us to make a strategic revision of our programmes. However, we have to do more to achieve our goals.

My Government would reiterate the need for a tripartite approach of our projects, which provide space for interaction between Governments, academics, and business sector to ensure the full participation of the all society

My Government wants to thank the Government of Mauritius for hosting the Coordinating Secretariat and having covered its expenses since the existence of IOR-ARC. In this context we invite all member states to rethink the role and structure of the bodies of IOR-ARC in order to make them more effective in implementing our decisions, specially those related to the financial management and projects implementation.

I would like to underline the need for all member states to ensure the proper follow-up of our decisions and recommendations aimed at the strengthening and give effectiveness to our Organization.

To allow our Organization to go ahead we must allocate the necessary financial resources and provide the IOR-ARC with a stable budget for its activities and for the proposed projects. In this regard, we commend the offer of USD 50.000,00 made by the Government of India during this meeting.

We noticed an increasing interest of third part countries towards our Organization. For us that is an important signal of growing confidence of the world in our Organization that could be an important factor of progress. Therefore, this issue should be carefully addressed.

Finally, Mister Chairman, I would like to express Mozambique's Government willingness in continuing working with all Member States, Dialogue Partners and others stakeholders within the spirit of the Charter towards the achievement of our objectives and the progress and social development of our countries and people

I Thank you, Mister Chairman!