



IOR/15COM/REP/15/1.14.2

IORA Maritime Cooperation Declaration

Padang, 23 October 2015

WE, the Ministers of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, on the occasion of the 15th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) on 23 October 2015 held in Padang, Indonesia;

RECOGNIZING that the seas and maritime waters of the Indian Ocean connect the countries of our region to one another and link it to other regions of the world, as they serve as crossroads for global trade, commerce, and economic activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Indian Ocean plays a significant role in the security and prosperity of the region, while **REAFFIRMING** our commitment to build a more stable, secure and prosperous Indian Ocean region;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER the evolving dialogue to develop cooperation on maritime issues in the Indian Ocean;

DESIROUS of consolidating and strengthening cooperation in the Indian Ocean on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities as enshrined in the IORA Charter;

UNDERSCORING that among IORA's objectives are the promotion of sustainable growth and balanced development of the Indian Ocean region and of IORA Member States, and the creation of common ground for regional economic cooperation;

REITERATING our commitment to strengthening the role of IORA as the apex pan-regional organization linking countries of the Indian Ocean rim;

EMPHASIZING the importance of promoting maritime cooperation through dialogue and joint activities of IORA Member States with a view to seizing opportunities and addressing common maritime challenges;

BEING COMMITTED to promoting cooperation and collaboration between IORA and other Indian Ocean regional stakeholders including Dialogue Partner States and regional and international forums;

HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. To promote sustainable development of coastal and small island areas through, among other ways, sustainable coastal and maritime tourism, and leisure activities and enhancing economic activities of

small and medium enterprises including capacity building and empowerment of farmers, fishermen and women;

2. To encourage increased investment in and development of sustainable and resilient maritime infrastructures to promote shared economic growth that will contribute to narrowing the development gap and facilitating the movement of peoples.
3. To encourage cooperation in the field of shipping, logistics and allied industries with the view to promote well-being and employment generation, including of sea-farers;
4. To enhance cooperation in sustainable marine economic development and food security through the promotion of sustainable and responsible fisheries management and the protection and preservation of marine resources and the environment
5. To support and strengthen regional cooperation in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, to address maritime challenges such as Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing, piracy, irregular movement of people, marine pollution, drugs trafficking, illegal trafficking in wild life, disasters and climate change by:
 - Enhancing coordination and communication between and among national maritime agencies and authorities and other relevant fora;
 - Promoting the region's capacity for disaster risk management and search and rescue operations;
 - Enhance cooperation on maritime safety, marine environmental protection and maritime security.
6. To encourage increased engagement between research institutions on maritime issues and collaboration amongst IORA member states on maritime education, research, development and innovation, including the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) from 2015 – 2020.

ADOPTED by the Ministers of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on 23 October 2015 in Padang, Indonesia.