



Jakarta Declaration on Blue Economy

Declaration

Declaration of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Region

Jakarta, Indonesia

8 – 10 May 2017

WE, the Ministers and representatives of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (hereinafter referred to as "IORA"), the Commonwealth of Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Mozambique, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of Singapore, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Africa, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Yemen attended the Second IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference (BEC-II) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8 – 10 May 2017;

RECALLING

- the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other international conventions and instruments related to the activities in the oceans and seas;
- Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources;
- the Recommendations and the Declaration of the First Ministerial Blue Economy Conference in Mauritius on 2-3 September 2015;
- the Jakarta Concord on Promoting Regional Cooperation for A Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean, signed in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 7 March 2017;
- Relevant UNGA Resolutions, including 61/105, 64/72, 66/68, 69/292;

RECALLING ALSO the intention to implement the IORA Action Plan of 2017-2021 as adopted by the Council of Ministers' (COM) Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 6th March 2017;

RECOGNISING that oceans, along with coastal and marine resources, play an essential role in human well-being and social and economic development;

STRESSING the need for the IORA Member States to harness the potential of the Blue Economy to promote economic growth, job creation, trade and investment, and contribute to food security and poverty alleviation, whilst safeguarding the ocean's health through the sustainable development of its resources;

CONCERNED about the disparities in economic development of the IORA Member States, including in skills and human resource development, research and development, business opportunities, resource allocation; technology and innovation and its impact on the public and private sector, including the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);

AWARE OF the need to promote communication and maritime connectivity in the Indian Ocean region;

STRESSING the need to promote observation, protection, conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources so as to continue to meet the needs of the present without comprising the opportunities of future generations;

REAFFIRMING that research and investment are required to address key challenges of the IORA and to provide solutions and create a friendly business environment to attract investors in the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean region;

RECOGNISING the importance of promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and SMEs, with a special focus on promoting youth and women's engagement in the sustainable development of the Blue Economy;

MINDFUL OF the increasing challenges, both natural and human factors, such as overexploitation of resources, increasing marine plastics debris and nutrient pollution, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, over fishing, destructive fishing, crimes in the fisheries sector, biodiversity loss and its impacts on blue carbon stocks, illegal mining and the impacts of global climate change and natural disasters;

ENCOURAGING the IORA Member States to move towards integrated and ecosystem-based approaches in the management of marine resources to maximise sustainable economic yield from the ocean, including through utilising the appropriate management tools such as marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, etc;

RECOGNISING the importance of public-private partnerships in the development of and cooperation in the Blue Economy;

ENCOURAGING sharing of information, experiences, expertise, best practices and technology in Blue Economy related cooperation among IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners;

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcomes of IORA Blue Economy events on various related topics, including marine aquaculture, marine tourism, postharvest processing, seafood safety and quality, maritime connectivity, port management and operation, ocean observation monitoring, forecasting and seabed minerals and hydrocarbons;

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of collaborating and cooperating with relevant stakeholders, including regional and international organisations for the advancement of the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean region;

ENCOURAGING the IORA Member States to mainstream ocean-related issues in their national planning and policy-making process based on their priorities;

EMPHASISING the need to foster support and financing opportunities, as well as promote transfer of technology, capacity building and skills development, for local fishery entrepreneurs and coastal communities that are directly dependent on the sea, including through triangular cooperation;

REAFFIRMING IORA's role and commitment in the development of the Blue Economy, through the sustainable use, management, observation, protection and conservation of marine resources in the Indian Ocean region;

REITERATING the commitment to establish the IORA Working Group on the Blue Economy which would enhance cooperation to promote the Blue Economy.

We, the Blue Economy Ministers/Head of Delegations of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association;

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

That the Member States of IORA will be guided by the following principles when developing and applying blue economy approaches to sustainable development and the enhancement of socio-economic benefits, particularly of the coastal communities, in the Indian Ocean Region:

1. The Blue Economy should ensure the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and taking action for their restoration in order to maintain healthy and productive oceans, and achieve inclusive economic growth in the Indian Ocean region;
2. The development of IORA's Blue Economy priority sectors namely: Fisheries and Aquaculture; Renewable Ocean Energy; Seaports and Shipping; Offshore Hydrocarbons and Seabed Minerals; Deep Sea Mining, Marine Tourism; and Marine Biotechnology, Ocean Observation, Research and Development, should be carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner;
3. IORA Member States are encouraged to pledge their voluntary commitments, including in implementing capacity building programs, in the concerted effort to strengthen cooperation in the blue economy;
4. IORA Member States are encouraged to develop their Blue Economy sectors, based on their priorities, that could contribute to boosting their economic growth and contribute to job creation and poverty alleviation;
5. IORA Member States, in collaboration with Dialogue Partners, should encourage the financing of ocean economy infrastructure and development projects, including development and investment in Economic Development Zones, as well as investment and exploration of new technologies for Blue Economy Development;
6. IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners should enhance cooperation and collaboration to promote: research and development; networking; technology transfer; sharing of information, data and best practices; exchange programmes and expertise; and networking across the Indian Ocean region for the sustainable development of the Blue Economy;
7. IORA Member States should adopt ecosystem-based approaches to sustainably manage and use their marine resources, while protecting and conserving the marine environment;
8. IORA Member States are encouraged to consider the full range of technologically advanced solutions as well as local wisdom and traditional knowledge, as appropriate, in the context of adaptation and mitigation strategy to confront climate change effects on societies;
9. IORA Member States, in collaboration with Dialogue Partners, should promote capacity building, including collaboration of ocean observation training and scientific capacities, and skills development in the Blue Economy sector, through reinforcing collaboration and networking with relevant regional/international organisations and institutions in the Indian Ocean region;
10. IORA Member States, in collaboration with Dialogue Partners, need to address challenges and key issues related to the Blue Economy, including overexploitation of resources, marine plastics debris pollution and nutrient pollution, biodiversity loss, IUU fishing, illegal mining, climate change, and its impact on marine resources and ecosystems;

11. Collaboration between IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners in various aspects, including financing and development of Blue Economy activities and projects, and technology transfer should be strengthened so as to ensure balanced economic development in the Indian Ocean region;
12. Cooperation among IORA Member States, Dialogue Partners and relevant stakeholders in: carrying out marine scientific research; sharing, collecting, and managing data and information; and the implementation of concrete projects on emerging ocean science and blue economy issues;
13. The development of effective legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and ocean management policies should be enhanced as appropriate, for informed decision and policy-making, which are crucial steps toward structuring and guiding its growth;
14. Sustainable development of the Blue Economy should be in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
15. IORA Member States are encouraged to promote public-private partnerships and the involvement of business communities in developing the Blue Economy, including infrastructure development and transfer of technology in various blue economy sectors such as: fisheries and aquaculture; ocean observation; renewable ocean energy; seaport and shipping; deep sea mining and marine tourism, including cruise tourism;
16. IORA Member States should cooperate to promote efficient monitoring and inspection programme to prevent maritime trade of uncertified/unauthorized chemicals and pesticides;
17. IORA Member States consider, if deemed necessary, supporting the establishment of an IORA business travel card to ease business travel on blue economy businesses and collaborate with member countries who are ready to do so;
18. IORA Member States, in accordance with international laws and consistent with existing obligations, should perform environmental impact assessments before engaging in relevant deep sea mining activities and fulfil relevant obligations to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from any harmful effects of deep sea mining;
19. IORA Member States are encouraged to adopt and implement transparency and traceability measures to strengthen the application of sustainable fishing practices by regulating harvesting & ending poverty, the fight against IUU Fishing destructive fishing and crimes in the fisheries sector, provide access to small scale artisanal fisheries to marine resources & markets and protect food security;
20. The empowerment of women and youth to participate in the development of the blue economy is essential through better access to education, training, technology and finance. Women and youth should be encouraged especially by supporting MSMEs and small scale fisheries, to be equitably included in sustainable economic growth;
21. The proposed Working Group on the Blue Economy would consider programs, activities, pilot projects and studies for regional cooperation in the Blue Economy;
22. IORA Member States to consider developing a Master Plan on the Blue Economy to identify and prioritize concrete projects and tangible areas of cooperation, to promote the blue economy as a driver for socio-economic development;

23. The sustainable development of the IORA priority sectors of the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Region would contribute to: food security; poverty alleviation; the mitigation of and resilience to the impacts of climate change; enhanced trade and investment; enhanced maritime connectivity; economic diversification; job creation and socio-economic growth;
24. IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners should increase the economic benefits derived from the Blue Economy to Small Island developing States (SIDs) and least developed countries (LDCs) from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism;
25. Collaboration among IORA Member States, Dialogue Partners, research institutions, industries and public-private partnerships should be enhanced so to create an environmentally sound business environment and attract foreign investment that would accelerate the commercialisation of ongoing research in exploring data and in creating new products derived from marine and maritime data resources;
26. IORA Member States, in collaboration with Dialogue Partners, are encouraged to carry out pilot projects and set-up modern and accessible technologies to effectively develop the Blue Economy in a sustainable manner.

ADOPTED by the Blue Economy Ministers/Head of Delegations of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on 10 May 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia.