

Decision on the Establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee on the IORA Concord
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;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to promoting the welfare of the people by improving their standard of living and quality of life;

DESIROUS of consolidating and strengthening regionalism in the Indian Ocean region on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities;

EMPHASIZING the importance of strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the Member States of IORA on issues of common interest and concern in order to enhance peace, economic development and prosperity;

ADHERING to the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized principles of international law and the fundamental principles of the Charter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association;

RECALLING the Padang Communique;

DESIRING to further enhance cooperation within IORA framework by taking advantage of the momentum to be created by the observance of its 20th anniversary in 2017;

HEREBY DECIDE:

- To commit ourselves to supporting and developing the IORA Concord by 2017 by:
 1. Tasking the Committee of Senior Officials to establish an Ad-hoc Committee on the IORA Concord; and
 2. Tasking the Committee of Senior Officials to deliberate and decide on the terms of reference of the Ad-hoc Committee, which includes its membership, modalities, and work streams.
- To further task the Committee of Senior Officials to report to the Council of Ministers during the latter's meeting in 2016 on the progress of the work of the Ad-hoc Committee.

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