

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**Statement
by
H.E. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simao,**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Cooperation of the Republic
Of Mozambique at 5th IOR ARC**

Council of Minister

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
Statement by His. Excellency. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simao
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic
Of Mozambique at 5th IOR ARC Council of Ministers

Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and
Chairman of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished Dialogue Partners

Dear Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me at the outset to congratulate the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for convening this important gathering and for the warm hospitality my delegation and myself have enjoyed since our arrival in this beautiful capital Colombo.

May I also take this occasion to join the previous speakers in expressing our high appreciation to the Chairperson for the able skilful and dynamic manner in which you have been conducting our work, indeed your leadership and competence have contributed for the strengthening and revitalization of our organization over the past year.

Excellences,

Indeed, the convening of this meeting it's an opportunity to exchange among ourselves, experiences and share views on how we should make use of our common development goals. We are encouraged by the perspectives for progress and what we have achieved since our inception, give us strong hope for further co-operation among the member states of our Association.

It is within this context that I commend the decisions taken by Member States during the Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, hold October last year. Today there is no doubt that those decisions played an important role in enhancing the Organization structure and work. They gave some light and guidance.

However, for further consolidating our Regional Association and Cooperation, Mozambique stands for approaches that lay out long term arrangements. Because those mechanisms allow more stability, coherence and continuity, they are determining factors for far reaching concrete results and sustainability.

For this far reaching concrete results approach, IOR ARC must be able to adapt itself to the new challenges, namely those imposed upon us by globalisation by the implementation of Millennium on Partnership.

It is based upon the above mentioned broader view that Mozambique join the consensus built up within our Association for more and active participation of Dialogue Partners and the Observers in IOR ARC scope of activities. Being generally accepted that, through technical assistance and project financing, they should be associated with IOR-ARC sectors, mainly those responsible for Trade, Tourism and Investment.

Along with the Dialogue Partners relationship IOR-ARC should value the tripartite approach of programmes, which through “Win Win “ solution provide appropriate space for interaction between Governments Academics and Business Communities. This broader “modus operandi”, not only carries on full participation of various sectors of our societies in our endeavour towards Indian Ocean Zone development, but also reinforces our project development and project implementing capacity: thus contributing for concrete results that will certainly give more internal and external visibility and credibility of IOR-ARC.

Excellences,

Before winding up my remarks let me stress that within today’s world Globalisation to develop and increase institutional relationship with other regional organization such as ASEAN, African Union, the European Union and others, with the propose of fostering intra and inter-regional cooperation as well as for mobilizing resources and expertise for IOR-ARC projects:

The cooperation with other institution will also help to strengthen global harmony and attract meaningful interest in the settlement of regional conflicts thus contributing to make our region safer.

Lastly, I would like to express Mozambique’s Government willingness in continuing working with all Member States, with the Dialogue Partners, the Observers and other stakeholders towards the achievement of the objectives we all strongly stand for.

Thank you, very much!

Colombo, 26th, 2004