

## Introduction

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997. IORA enhances economic dialogue and regional cooperation to promote sustainable growth and balanced development for a prosperous Indian Ocean Rim. The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995, where he said:

*“The natural urge of the facts of history and geography ... should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic co-operation and other peaceful endeavours. Recent changes in the international system demand that the countries of the Indian Ocean shall become a single platform.”*

## 21 Member States

Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

## 7 Dialogue Partners

China, France, Japan, United States of America, Egypt, Germany and the United Kingdom.

## Priority Areas

- Maritime Safety & Security
- Trade & Investment Facilitation
- Fisheries Management
- Disaster Risk Management
- Tourism Promotion & Cultural Exchanges
- Academic, Science & Technology

*\*With the Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment as focus areas*

## Celebrating Twenty Years

The first IORA Leaders' Summit was hosted by the Republic of Indonesia on 7 March 2017 in Jakarta. The Summit was entitled “Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean” and Prime Ministers and Presidents from the region issued the milestone IORA Concord and accompanying IORA Action Plan for 2017 – 2021.

## Structure

IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. The Republic of Indonesia has been the Chair of IORA since 2015. The Republic of South Africa will assume the role for 2017-2019, followed by the United Arab Emirates. A committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA's agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people in the Indian Ocean Member States.

## Specialised Agencies of IORA

- ⊙ **Fisheries Support Unit (FSU)**  
Headquartered in the Sultanate of Oman since 2003, FSU plays an important role in enhancing the cooperation, better utilisation of fisheries resources, exchanges of expertise and joint research activities.
- ⊙ **Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT)**  
Established in 2008 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, RCSTT aims to facilitate the transfer of sustainable and appropriate technology to, and between, Member States.

## IORA Special Fund

The IORA Special Fund is a financial mechanism for supporting projects and programmes adopted by the Association within the identified priority areas of the Association.

## IORA Secretariat

The Secretariat manages, coordinates, services and monitors the implementation of policy decisions and work programmes adopted by the Association. It is based in Mauritius and overseen by a Secretary General who is appointed for a three-year period.

## CHAIR

The Council of Ministers elect the Chair of the Association for a period of two years. This is based on the voluntary offer by Member States to become the Chair or, if there is no voluntary offer, the Chair will be elected on the basis of geographical consideration.

	Year
Republic of Mauritius	1997 – 1998
Republic of Mozambique	1999
Republic of Mozambique	2000
Sultanate of Oman	2001
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	2003 – 2004
Islamic Republic of Iran	2006 – 2008
Republic of Yemen	2009 – 2010
Republic of India	2011 – 2012
Commonwealth of Australia	2013 – 2014
Republic of Indonesia	2015 – 2017
Republic of South Africa	2017 – 2019
United Arab Emirates	2019 – 2021

## IORA SECRETARIAT

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**AUSTRALIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Canberra  
 Language: English  
 Currency: Australian Dollar



**BANGLADESH**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Dhaka  
 Language: Bengali  
 Currency: Bangladeshi Taka



**COMOROS**  
 Joined IORA in 2012  
 Capital: Moroni  
 Languages: Comorian, Arabic, French  
 Currency: Comorian Franc



**INDIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: New Delhi  
 Languages: Hindi, English  
 Currency: Indian Rupee



**INDONESIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Jakarta  
 Languages: Indonesian, Bahasa, Indonesia  
 Currency: Indonesian Rupiah



**IRAN**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Tehran  
 Language: Persian  
 Currency: Iranian Rial



**KENYA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Nairobi  
 Languages: Swahili, English  
 Currency: Kenyan Shilling



**MADAGASCAR**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Antananarivo  
 Languages: Malagasy, French  
 Currency: Malagasy Ariary



**MALAYSIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Kuala Lumpur  
 Language: Bahasa Malaysia  
 Currency: Malaysian Ringgit



**MAURITIUS**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Port Louis  
 Languages: English, French, Mauritian Creole  
 Currency: Mauritian Rupee



**MOZAMBIQUE**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Maputo  
 Language: Portuguese  
 Currency: Metical



**OMAN**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Muscat  
 Language: Arabic  
 Currency: Omani Rial



**SEYCHELLES**  
 Joined IORA in 2011  
 Capital: Victoria  
 Languages: English, French, Seselwa  
 Currency: Seychellois Rupee



**SINGAPORE**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Singapore  
 Languages: English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil  
 Currency: Singapore Dollar



**SOMALIA**  
 Joined IORA in 2014  
 Capital: Mogadishu  
 Languages: Somali, Arabic  
 Currency: Somali Shilling



**SOUTH AFRICA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Pretoria  
 Languages: English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Sesotho sa Leboa, Setswana, isiNdebele, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Sesotho  
 Currency: South African Rand



**SRI LANKA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardeneputra Kotte  
 Languages: English, Tamil, Sinhala  
 Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee



**TANZANIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Dodoma  
 Language: English, Swahili  
 Currency: Tanzanian Shilling



**THAILAND**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Bangkok  
 Language: Thai  
 Currency: Thai Baht



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Abu Dhabi  
 Language: Arabic  
 Currency: United Arab Emirates Dirham



**YEMEN**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Sana'a  
 Language: Arabic  
 Currency: Yemeni Rial

# Dialogue Partners



**CHINA**  
 Joined IORA in 2000  
 Capital: Beijing  
 Languages: Standard Mandarin  
 Currency: Renminbi



**EGYPT**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Cairo  
 Languages: Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic  
 Currency: Egyptian pound



**FRANCE**  
 Joined IORA in 2001  
 Capital: Paris  
 Languages: French  
 Currency: Euro, CFP franc



**GERMANY**  
 Joined IORA in 2015  
 Capital: Berlin  
 Languages: German  
 Currency: Euro



**JAPAN**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Tokyo  
 Languages: Japanese  
 Currency: Japanese yen



**UNITED KINGDOM**  
 Joined IORA in 2000  
 Capital: London  
 Languages: English  
 Currency: British Pound



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
 Joined IORA in 2012  
 Capital: Washington, D.C.  
 Languages: English  
 Currency: United States Dollar