

NELSON MANDELA “BE THE LEGACY” INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

A. BACKGROUND

2018 marked the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and provided an opportunity for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to solidify the historical link it has with the global icon by contributing to another of his visions: to change the world for the better. To this end, The IORA-Nelson Mandela “Be the Legacy” Internship Programme was launched during the 18th Council of Ministers’ (COM) meeting held on 2 November 2018 in Durban, South Africa.

This was further reiterated in the “Special Declaration on the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Birth of Nelson Mandela” and the eThekweni Communique, adopted by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of IORA Member States at the COM meeting.

The long-term objective of the Programme will be to create a strong and growing base of young people in the Indian Ocean Region that understand and support the need to safeguard an Indian Ocean that is safe, secure and develops sustainably. The Programme will also serve to strengthen the capacity of the IORA Secretariat as it is called for in the IORA Action Plans.

B. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Programme are:

- To create a strong and growing base of young people in the IO region that understand and support the need to safeguard an Indian Ocean that is safe, secure and develops sustainably;
- To strengthen the capacity of the IORA Secretariat as called for in the IORA Action Plans (2017-2021 and 2022-2027);
- To provide a framework by which young secondees from Member States gain exposure to IORA through assignment to work within the Secretariat;
- To enhance the secondees’ educational experience, gain practical work experience in the IORA Secretariat, and conduct research on a subject highlighted in the respective Work Plans of the Functional Bodies related to the IORA Priority Areas and Cross-cutting Issues, thereby contributing to the IORA body of research; and

- To strengthen Member States' research capacity and knowledge base of challenges and opportunities within the Indian Ocean region and beyond.

C. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Nelson Mandela “Be the Legacy” Internship Programme, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of an IORA Member State.
- Have successfully completed their undergraduate studies, preferably in subjects related to one of IORA's six Priority Areas or two Cross cutting areas, international relations or international development.
- Be aged between 20-35 years.
- Be employed in a professional role promoting regional and/or international cooperation, such as junior diplomats who have not yet served abroad, scientists, academicians, government officials from relevant line Ministries, etc.
- Have competent written, verbal and communication skills in English.
- **Be endorsed for secondment to the IORA Secretariat by their IORA National Focal Point (NFP).**

D. INTAKE

Number of secondees

There will be a maximum of four secondees from 01 September – 30 November 2025. The secondees will be seconded to, and be based at, the IORA Secretariat, which is located at the NeXTeracom Building, Tower I, 3rd Floor, Cybercity, Ebene in the Republic of Mauritius.

Allocation of Placements

The Secretary-General will approve candidates, based on merit and suitability, while also taking into consideration their profile, the desire to promote the participation of all Member States, and the desire to ensure Least Developed Countries (LDCs) participate and benefit fully from the Programme. In each intake, the Programme will endeavor to allocate at least two placements to LDCs, with preferential consideration being given to those LDCs Member States who have not yet benefited from the NMIP.

Application Process

Member States will be required to nominate a candidate for secondment through their respective National Focal Point (NFP) using the Registration Form obtainable from the NFP by 22 April 2025.

Completed registration forms and the following supplemental materials

- Cover letter explaining career goals and research interests
- Resume or CV
- Research Proposal on one of the IORA Priority Areas and Cross-cutting Issues.

To be submitted to hq@iora.int and kritika.nuckchady@iora.int. The Secretariat will confirm in writing to the NFP whether the candidate has been successful.

E. FUNDING

Secondees from LDC Member States will be sponsored in full by the IORA Nelson Mandela Be the Legacy Fund (The Legacy Fund”), which has been established at the IORA Secretariat. This includes costs and arrangements for travel, accommodation, medical insurance, and a proposed stipend. Non-LDC Member States will be expected to cover the cost of their nominated secondee in full and estimated cost for a period of three months is approx. USD 16,685 excluding the cost of air tickets.