

Tehran Communique
On the occasion of the 8th Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC
May 4, 2008

The Honourable Ministers and high-ranking Officials participating in the 8th Council of Ministers Meeting of IOR-ARC held in Tehran on 4th May 2008, expressed their appreciation for the two consecutive tenure of Chairmanship extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and noted the progress, achievements and shortcomings of the Association during the past eleven years, expressed the need for further progress in advancing the objectives of the Association in the following areas:

1. The re-examination and amendment to the Charter of IOR-ARC; especially the fundamental principles related to decision making (consensus), called for undertaking structural reforms of the Association in order to make it move forward and action-oriented.
2. Due to the large scale of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities, it is necessary to examine regional regulations to combat the over-fishing of migratory species (Tuna) in the Indian Ocean Rim, and for such purpose to examine the establishment of Regional Fisheries Agreements.
3. To enhance the cooperation between IOR Member States in various areas including the area of Education and Training, support Exchange Students Programs through University Mobility of Indian Ocean Rim (Region) - (UMIOR), and appreciate and support various training programmes and scholarships provided by several IOR Member States.
4. Call upon the Implementation of an Action Plan and the need to prepare a Ten Year Road Map for the future direction of the Association.
5. The need for capacity development building among Member States.
6. Encourage Member States to cooperate in the area of establishing Centers of Excellence.
7. Expedite a Fast Track mechanism to enhance private sector involvement in the Association activities in the area of Business, Trade and Economic Cooperation.
8. Protection of the environment of the Indian Ocean and its unique eco-system and species.
9. Enhancing cooperation on fossil, new and renewable energy.
10. Establishing a sustainable tourism arrangement among Member States.
11. Promoting cultural cooperation among Member States.
12. Preparing the ground for a Summit of Heads of the States to be held in mid-term.
13. Enhanced Cooperation in the priority areas.
14. Project-driven and research oriented initiatives to be actively carried forward.
15. Strengthening the Secretariat, including its financial capacity, structure, salary and allowances of personnel of the Secretariat to make it efficient and dynamic.

Draft Tehran Communique (by India)
on the occasion of the 8th Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC
May 4th, 2008

Senior Ministers and high-ranking officials took part in the 8th Council of Minister meeting of the IOR-ARC held in Tehran on 4th May 2008.

The distinguished Heads of Delegation expressed their concern at the lack of progress in advancing the objective of the organization and called for project-driven and research oriented initiatives to be carried activitely forward. In this context they called for strengthening the Secretarait including conducting a renewal of the structure and salary and allowances of personnel of the Secretariat.

The Ministers also called for undertaking structural reforms of the organization in order to make it more formal and action-oriented and to activitate the functioning of the Working Group and in this context proposed a review of the Charter and to carry out suitable amendments of the Charter, if necessary. The Council of Ministers proposed setting up of Sub-Committee to study in depth organisational and constructive aspects of the Association's functioning.

The distinguished participants engaged in a useful exchange of views on important issues concerning the organization in a frank and cordial atmosphere.