



## INTRODUCTION

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7th March 1997. IORA enhances economic dialogue and regional cooperation to promote sustainable growth and balanced development for 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.”

## 23 MEMBER STATES

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

## 11 DIALOGUE PARTNERS

China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States of America.

## PRIORITY AREAS

- ✓ Maritime Safety and Security
- ✓ Trade and Investment Facilitation
- ✓ Fisheries Management
- ✓ Disaster Risk Management
- ✓ Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation
- ✓ Tourism and Cultural Exchanges

*\*With the Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment as Cross-cutting Issues*

## STRUCTURE

IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually. A Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets bi-annually to review and prioritise IORA's activities. The Association has Functional Bodies which strengthen and promote activities in the Association and are governed by their Terms of Reference (TOR) as recommended by the CSO and approved by the COM.

## SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

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 was established by the Council of Ministers in its meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 2004. The Special Fund is a financial mechanism for supporting and complementing the funding of projects and programmes adopted by the Association, in line with the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter as well as the objectives and goals envisaged by the relevant bodies of the Organisation.

## IORA SECRETARIAT

The IORA 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 the Secretary-General who is appointed for a three-year period.

## CHAIRS

The Council of Ministers elects 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 based on geographical consideration.

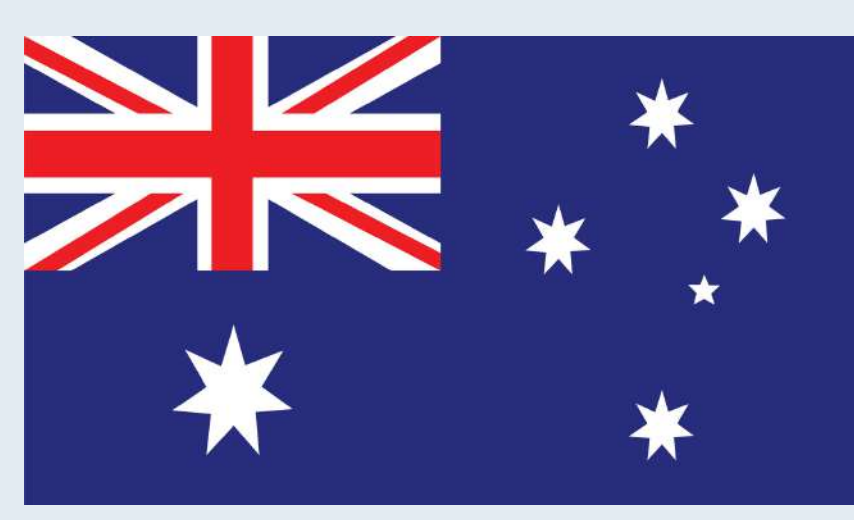
	Year
Republic of Mauritius	1997-1998
Republic of Mozambique	1999-2000
Sultanate of Oman	2001
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	2003-2004
Islamic Republic of Iran	2006-2008
Republic of Yemen	2009-2010
Republic of India	2011-2012
Commonwealth of Australia	2013-2014
Republic of Indonesia	2015-2016
Republic of South Africa	2017-2018
United Arab Emirates	2019-2020
People's Republic of Bangladesh	2021-2023
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (incoming)	

## IORA SECRETARIAT

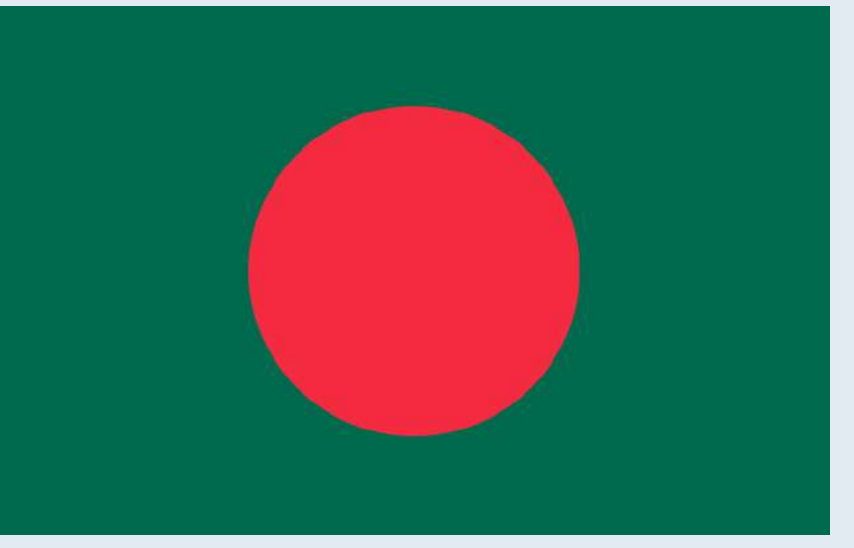
3rd floor, NeXTeracom Building  
 Cybercity, Ebene, Republic of Mauritius  
 Office : +230 454 1717 Fax: +230 468 1161  
 Email: [hq@iora.int](mailto:hq@iora.int) [www.iora.int](http://www.iora.int)







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



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



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



**FRANCE/ REUNION**  
 Joined IORA in 2020  
 Capital: Paris/ St Denis  
 Language: French  
 Currency: Euro



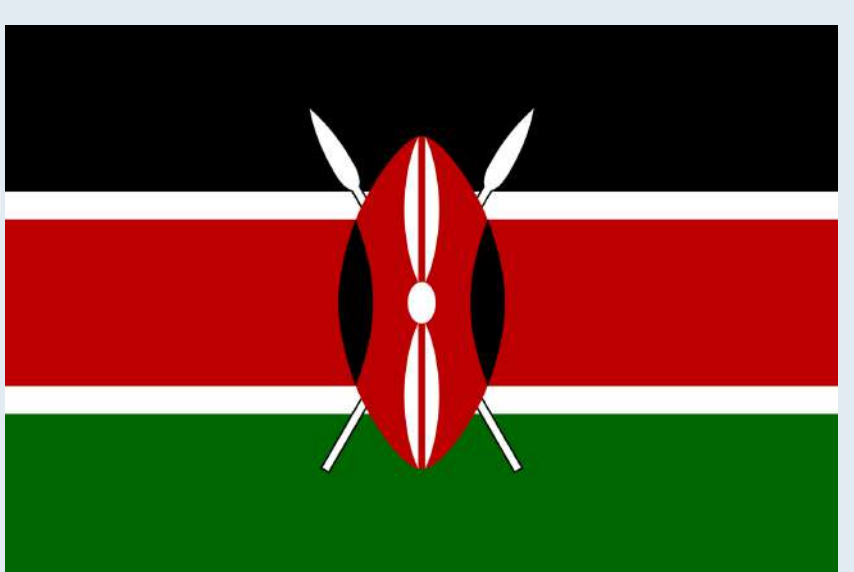
**INDIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: New Delhi  
 Languages: Hindi, English  
 Currency: Indian Rupee



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



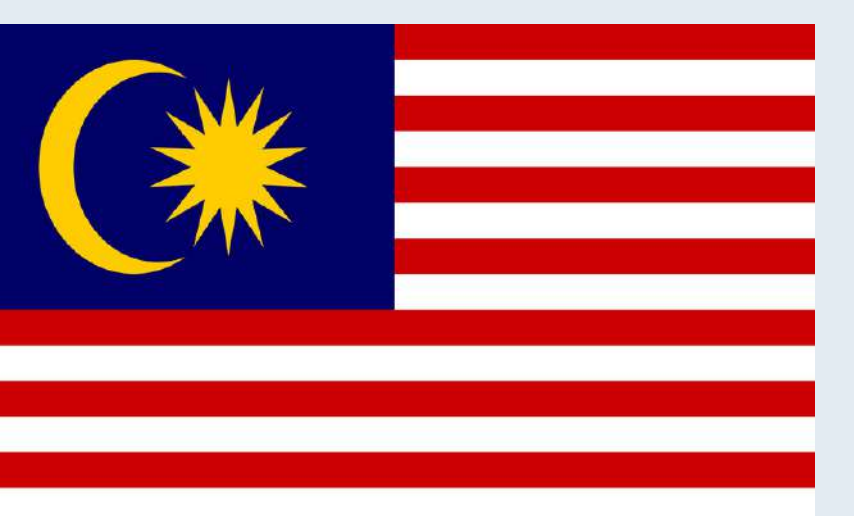
**IRAN**  
 Joined IORA in 1999  
 Capital: Tehran  
 Language: Persian  
 Currency: Iranian Rial



**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  
 Languages: Bahasa Malaysia  
 Currency: Malaysian Ringgit



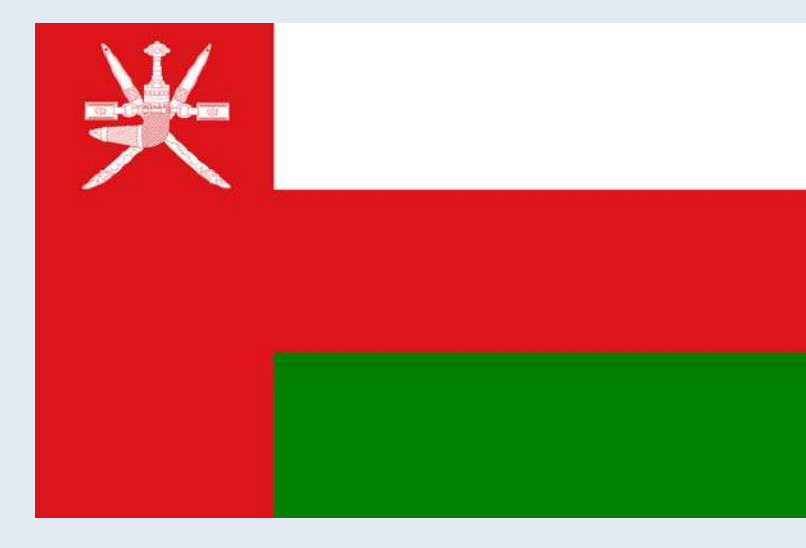
**MALDIVES**  
 Joined IORA in 2018  
 Capital: Male  
 Language: Dhivehi  
 Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa



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



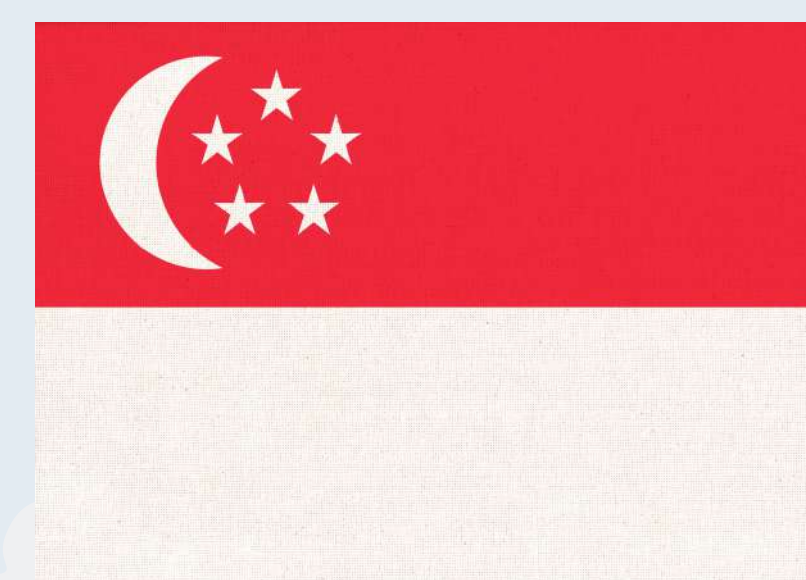
**MOZAMBIQUE**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Maputo  
 Language: Portuguese  
 Currency: Mozambique Metical



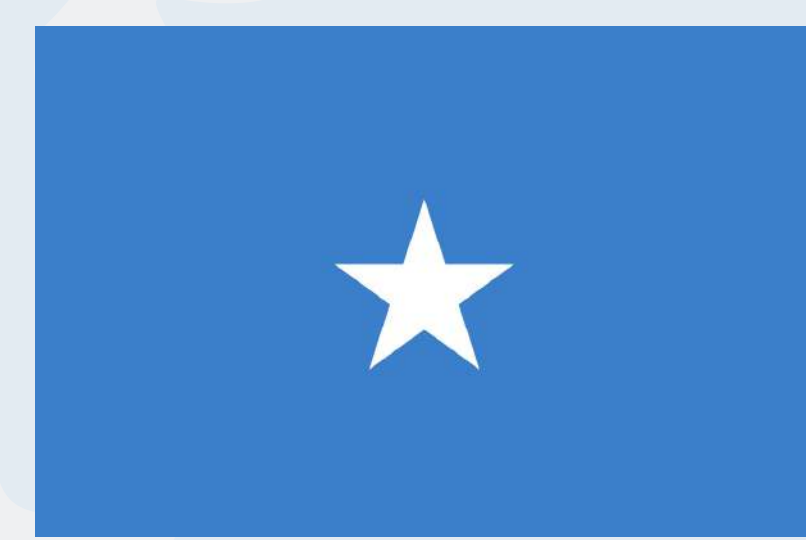
**OMAN**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Muscat  
 Language: Arabic  
 Currency: Omani Rial



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



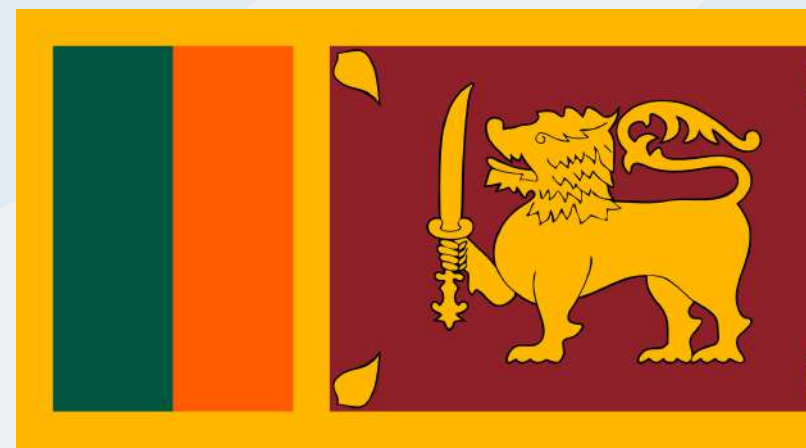
**SINGAPORE**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Singapore  
 Languages: English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil  
 Currency: Singapore dollar



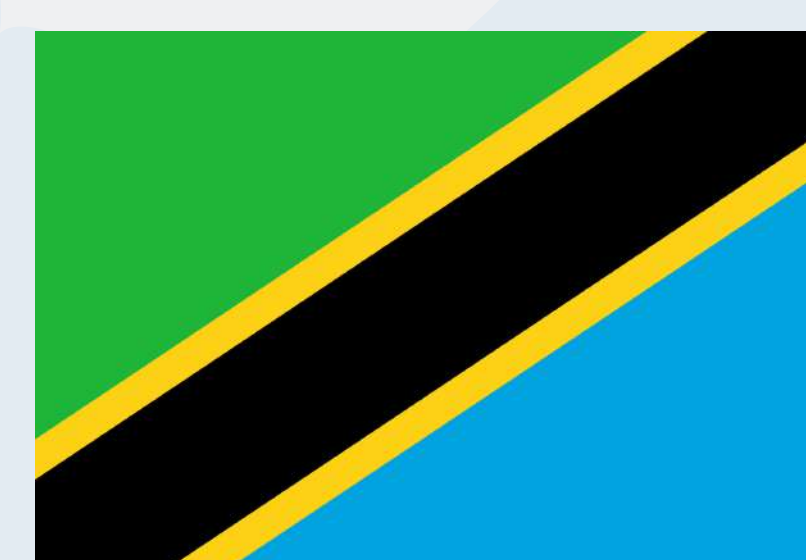
**SOMALIA**  
 Joined IORA in 2014  
 Capital: Mogadishu  
 Languages: Somali, Arabic  
 Currency: Somali Shilling



**SOUTH AFRICA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Pretoria  
 Languages: English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Sesotho sa Leboa, Setswana, isiNdebele, isiTshivenda, Xitsonga, Sesotho sa Bole, and Southern Sotho  
 Currency: South African Rand



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



**TANZANIA**  
 Joined IORA in 1997  
 Capital: Dodoma  
 Languages: 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: UAE Dirham



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



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



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



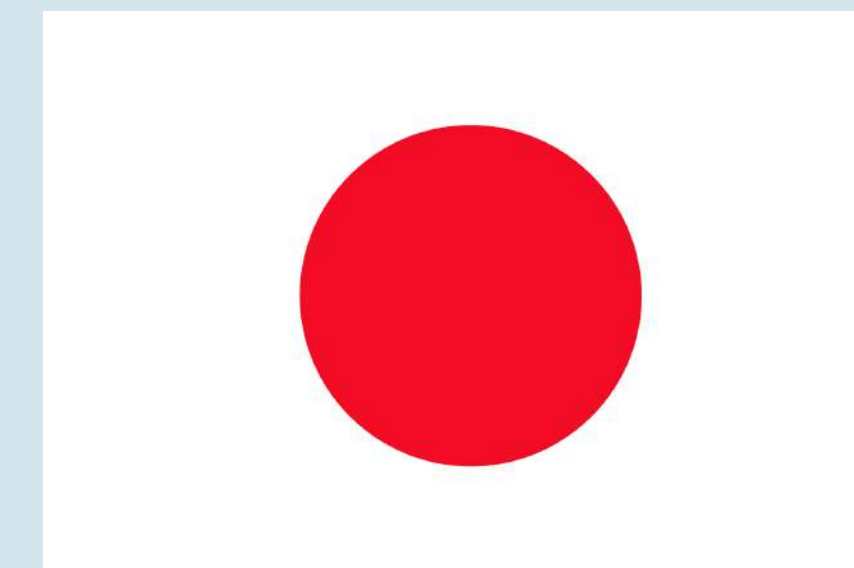
**EUROPEAN UNION**  
 Joined IORA in 2023



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



**ITALY**  
 Joined IORA in 2019  
 Capital: Rome  
 Language: Italian  
 Currency: Euro



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



**KOREA**  
 Joined IORA in 2018  
 Capital: Seoul  
 Language: Korean  
 Currency: South Korean Won



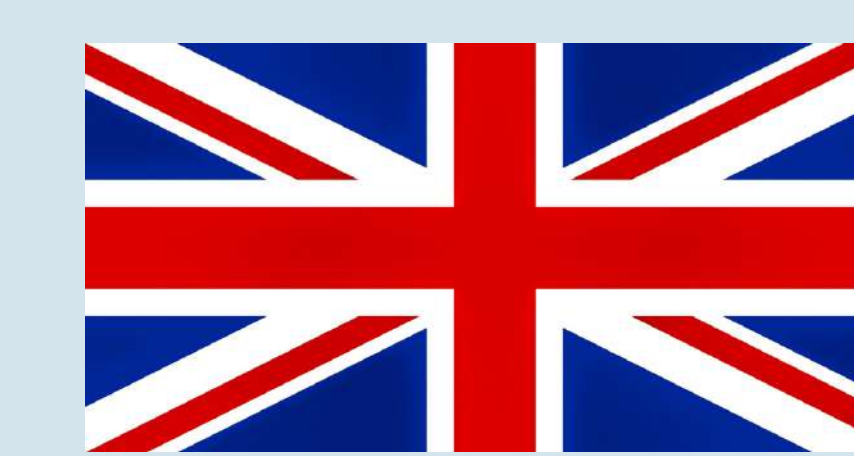
**RUSSIA**  
 Joined IORA in 2021  
 Capital: Moscow  
 Language: Russian  
 Currency: Russian Ruble



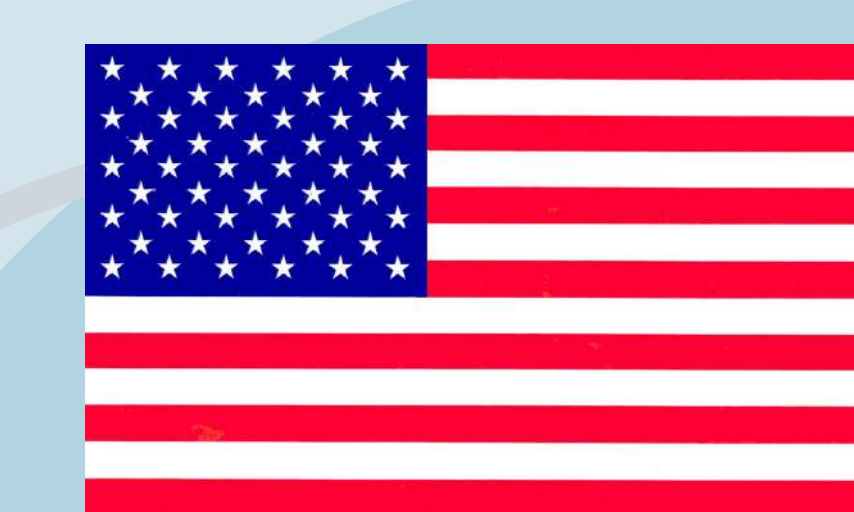
**SAUDI ARABIA**  
 Joined IORA in 2023  
 Capital: Riyadh  
 Language: Arabic  
 Currency: Saudi Riyal



**TURKIYE**  
 Joined IORA in 2018  
 Capital: Ankara  
 Language: Turkish  
 Currency: Turkish Lira



**UNITED KINGDOM**  
 Joined IORA in 2000  
 Capital: London  
 Language: English  
 Currency: U.K Pound



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
 Joined IORA in 2012  
 Capital: Washington DC  
 Language: English  
 Currency: US Dollar

Dialogue Partners

