



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

12 DIALOGUE PATNERS

China, Egypt, European Union, 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	Present Chair

IORA SECRETARIAT


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Member States



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



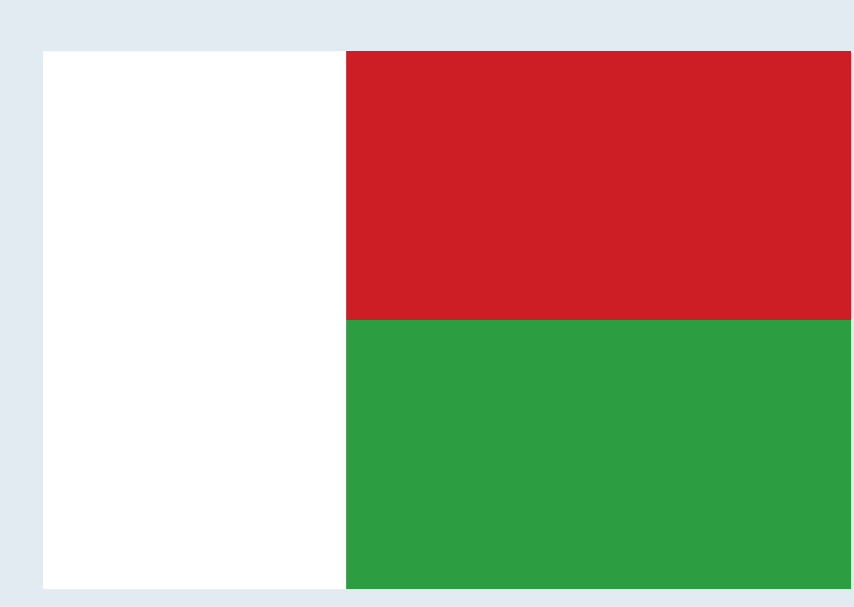
INDONESIA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capital: Jakarta
Languages: Indonesian, Bahasa, Indonesia
Currency: Indonesian Rupiah



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, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Sesotho
Currency: South African Rand



SRI LANKA
Joined IORA in 1997
Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
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

Dialogue Partners



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

