

## **PADANG CONSENSUS**

1. The Third Indian Ocean region Dialogue (3<sup>rd</sup> IOD) was held in Padang, Indonesia on 13-14 April 2016. The Dialogue was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and The Habibie Center (THC), with the support of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat. The Dialogue was attended by 80 government officials and representatives of think tanks and civil society from 18 Member States of the IORA (Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates) and 6 dialogue partners (China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, United States). The Dialogue was held in conjunction with the 2nd Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo (2nd MNEK), the 16th Western Pacific Naval Symposium and the 2nd International Fleet Review hosted by the Indonesian Navy.
2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> IOD discussed issues that were taken up at the 1<sup>st</sup> IOD in Kochi, India and the 2<sup>nd</sup> IOD in Perth, Australia. It emphasized the importance of strengthening regional architecture and addressing current maritime challenges through greater cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
3. The participants of the Dialogue discussed five major themes: (i) strengthening rules-based regionalism in the Indian Ocean region; (ii) piracy and armed robbery, illicit trafficking and maritime terrorism; (iii) regional cooperation in combating IUU fishing; (iv) the role of naval powers in enhancing security in the Indian Ocean region; and (v) energy security in the Indian Ocean region.
4. It was noted that there is a need to define regionalism based on IORA interests, because there is no single model of regionalism that fits for all. On this note, the participants supported the IORA initiative to strengthen regionalism in the Indian Ocean region through a process toward the adoption of an IORA Concord by the IORA leaders. This Concord would be a milestone reflecting 20 years of IORA achievements and serve as a foundation for future concrete cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
5. The participants highlighted the importance of promoting connectivity in the Indian Ocean region to facilitate economic exchanges and to

enhance trade and investment within the region. They also cited the importance of people-to-people contact to develop mutual understanding in the effort to build shared identity among the people of the region. In this regard, maintaining open communication, enhancement of mutual cooperation and sharing of information and knowledge will strengthen IORA partnership.

6. The participants noted that illegal activities at sea have become a significant problem in recent years and thereby negatively impacted economic development. They stressed that measures to solve the problem should be based on relevant international laws and conventions.
7. Member states noted the complexity and inter-relatedness of non-traditional security threats in the region, including piracy and armed robbery, illicit trafficking and maritime terrorism. The participants underscored that effective measures to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea, illicit trafficking and maritime terrorism entailed comprehensive and holistic partnerships. They therefore deemed it imperative that IORA Member States strengthen their cooperation to ensure regional safety and security. The participants acknowledged the need to bridge the gap in capacity among coastal states in the Indian Ocean region in tackling non-traditional security threats.
8. The participants recognized illegal fishing as a major cause of the massive depletion of fish stocks and other marine resources in the Indian Ocean region. They stressed that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing had severely undermined regional efforts to conserve and ensure food security and had impeded endeavors of Member States to achieve long-term sustainability. They cited the need to enhance regional efforts to build and strengthen fisheries management systems, including through improving coordination and information-sharing, joint inspection and surveillance schemes and the provision of training and capacity-building programs for small-scale fisheries and local communities. In addition, it was suggested for IORA Member States to initiate regional concerted efforts with, among others, the Indian Ocean region Tuna Commission (IOTC) in combating IUU fishing.

9. Considering the harsh impact of IUU fishing on marine resources, the participants stressed the importance of concerted efforts by IORA Member States to conserve these resources and to achieve food security. In this regard, the Blue Economy approach will be beneficial to all IORA Member States, particularly for the development of aquaculture in enhancing food security in the Indian Ocean region. They also urged that all measures be consistent with international commitments.
10. The participants recognized the importance of not only navies but also coastguards and other agencies in the Indian Ocean region to explore every possible cooperation to tackle traditional and non-traditional threats in the region. Such cooperation, they stressed, should be based on shared interests and mutual benefit. They urged member states to encourage greater cooperation between maritime and law enforcement agencies.
11. The participants highlighted the importance of confidence-building measures as a way of cultivating trust among regional navies so they could work more effectively together to maintain maritime security in the region. They acknowledged the need for joint field exercises and other capacity building programs as a complement to diplomatic initiatives. They therefore recommended that marine and coastal patrol capacities be enhanced and interconnected to issues of sea, air-space and land, especially in the context of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions. It was suggested that there be more interaction and communication between IORA and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), particularly in the area of maintaining maritime security towards more practical measures.
12. The participants recognized the positive impact of regional energy cooperation on national endeavors towards sustainable and eco-friendly energy exploration, production and distribution. They suggested for IORA to formulate common approaches to secure and conserve energy resources for future generations. They stressed the importance of sharing best practices and experiences among IORA Member States.

13. The participants highlighted the importance of promoting sustainable practices of energy exploration and production, including by harnessing renewable energy for the benefits of all people in the Indian Ocean region. They underlined the necessity of maintaining peace and security in the region to ensure the safety, security and sustainability of energy resources across the Indian Ocean region. They highlighted the importance of engaging multiple stakeholders to secure future energy resources.
  
14. Participants recognized the strategic role of the IOD in promoting new ideas and constructive recommendations for the consideration of all stakeholders with a view to strengthening and improving cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

14 April 2016