

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. SCOPE

These Rules of Procedure for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will apply to the organisation of all levels of the IORA meetings, as well as for the meetings of the IORA Organs and Specialised Agencies established under the Association (herein referred to as Council meetings) and will remain effective until amended by the Council of Ministers.

2. CHAIR

2.1 The Council of Ministers will, on voluntary offer by Member States, elect a Chair of the Association for a period of two years. If there is no voluntary offer, the Chair will be elected on a basis of geographical consideration.

2.2 The term of office of the incoming Chair will commence at the beginning of the meeting of the _____, as well as any other meetings as mandated by the Council.

3. VICE-CHAIR

3.1 The Secretariat will announce the vacancy for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council of Ministers in writing to all Member States. Announcement will be made at least six months before the year prior to the handover of the Chair of IORA and will be included as an agenda item for consideration and approval by COM.

3.2 If there is no candidate, the Chair will consult with Member States with a view to encouraging a process of geographical consideration.

3.3 Where more than one Member State offer to assume the Vice-Chair of the IORA, the Council will decide on the Vice-Chair by consensus.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The election of the Member States of the Sub-Committee on Finance will be on a voluntary basis and will comprise of the Chair and Vice-Chair and at least five other Member States for a period of two years and a new Committee will be appointed at the CSO meeting for approval of the COM.

- 5.2.5 Dialogue Partners as well as Observers, may participate in sessions on specific IORA projects on a case by case basis, on a decision of Member States by consensus.
- 5.2.6 Representatives of international and regional organizations may be invited to the open sessions of the Council Meetings upon the initiative of the Chair with prior notification to all Member States.
- 5.2.7 Dialogue Partners will be encouraged to participate actively in the meetings of the Academic Group, Business Forum and Working Group on Trade and Investment, as well as on specific projects and activities which should be identified prior to these meetings. Dialogue Partners will participate in the discussions of the above meetings, but not in the decision-making processes. The result of Dialogue Partners' participation could be highlighted in the open session of the Council of Ministers.
- 5.2.8 Dialogue Partners may be invited collectively to the post-Ministerial meeting to interact with the leaders of IORA Member State delegations. The post-COM dialogue session will involve the IORA Chair or troika and other interested Member States.
- 5.2.9 Dialogue Partners may also be invited to the post-CSO briefing session.
- 5.2.10 Dialogue Partners will be represented at the appropriate senior levels at the annual (or biannual) IORA meetings by senior capital-based officials or, should that not be possible, by the resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners in the host Country.
- 5.2.11 Dialogue Partners and Observers may be invited to social events organized by the host country in connection with the COM.

5.3 Quorum

At least two thirds of the Member States entitled to participate in the Council meetings, will constitute a quorum.

5.4 Conduct of Business

5.4.5

6. VENUE

The venue for the Council meetings will be in the Member State holding the IORA Chairmanship. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, a new venue will be chosen in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) Offer from the Vice-Chair;
- (b) Offer from other Member States on a voluntary basis;
- (c) In those cases where there is no voluntary offer, the meeting may be hosted in Mauritius, seat of the Secretariat.

7. FREQUENCY

- 7.1 The host country will decide on the tentative dates for the Council of Ministers meeting which will take place annually or as often as mutually decided. Arrangements for each Council meeting will be the responsibility of the Member State where the meeting will take place. The Secretariat will assist the host country in this task.
- 7.2 The Committee of Senior Officials and the three Working Groups will meet annually or as often as mutually decided and in the same location as the meeting of the Council of Ministers or any other mutually agreed venue.
- 7.3 The Working Group of Heads of Mission (WGHM) will meet as often as mutually decided.

8. TROIKA

- 8.1 Troika meetings and their outcomes will be communicated to Member States in a timely manner.
- 8.2 The venue for all meetings of the Troika will be in the Member State holding the IORA Chairmanship or at any other venue mutually agreed upon by the Troika.
- 8.3 Any expenses connected with attending these meetings will be borne by the respective Member State.

9. GENERAL

9.1 Admission of new Member States

The instrument of acceptance will be transmitted officially by the Chair of the Council to the new members for their signature, and for them to deposit it with the Secretariat within a period of two months.

