



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

and

THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered between the Indian Ocean Rim Association (hereinafter referred to as “IORA”), based in Ebene, Mauritius, and the International Seabed Authority (hereinafter referred to as “the Authority”), located in Kingston, Jamaica.

IORA, which was established on 7 March 1997, is an inter-governmental organization and comprising of 22 Member States, ten (10) Dialogue Partners, two (2) Observers and two (2) Specialised Agencies. The aim of the organization is to promote the sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of the Member States, and to create common ground for regional economic co-operation.

The Authority, established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) signed in Montego Bay on 10 December 1982, is the competent organization through which States Parties to the Convention will, in accordance with Part XI of the Convention and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention adopted on 28 July 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly, resolution 48/263 (“the 1994 Agreement”), organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the mineral resources of the Area, as defined in article 1, paragraph 1 (1) of the Convention.

The Authority promotes and encourages the conduct of marine scientific research with respect to activities in the Area and the collection and dissemination of the results of such research and analysis, when available, with particular emphasis on research related to the environmental impact of activities in the Area in accordance with article 143 of the Convention and section 1, paragraph 5 (h) of the 1994 Agreement.



The Authority is competent to take necessary measures in order to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from activities in the Area as set out in article 145 of the Convention and section 1, paragraph 5 (g) of the 1994 Agreement.

The Authority seeks consultation and cooperation with, inter alia, international organizations on matters within the competence of the Authority.

RECOGNISING the importance in the protection of the marine environment, sustainable development of deep seabed minerals and marine scientific research as critical elements in support of the implementation of Blue Economy;

AWARE that increased cooperation between IORA and the Authority will help ensure appropriate coordination of measures to achieve this common objective;

IORA and the Authority have reached the following understandings:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration between IORA and the Authority in the areas of common interest.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants mutually consent to encourage and develop collaborative and reciprocal activities in the following areas of mutual interest:

- i) To consult, where appropriate and practical, on matters on mutual interest with a view to promoting or enhancing a better understanding and coordination of their respective activities in respect of such matters;
- ii) To develop joint capacity building programmes related to seabed exploration, legal and policy formulation, environmental management planning;
- iii) To cooperate, where appropriate and practical, for the sharing and managing of information and non-confidential data related to offshore hydrocarbon and seabed mineral deposits;
- iv) To promote, where appropriate, exchange of information and sharing of technologies related to seabed exploration and mining; and
- v) To promote and encourage marine scientific research.



3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The implementation of each Area of Cooperation in this MOU may be carried out through supplementary arrangements regarding programmes of cooperation for the implementation of the present MOU.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

The cooperation between the organisations referred to herein is subject to the requirement of confidentiality of data and information imposed upon the Authority by the Convention in respect of data and information submitted to it by applicants and contractors for activities in the Area.

5. AMENDMENTS, VALIDITY AND DURATION

The MOU may be amended at any time by the mutual consent, expressed in writing, of the signees. Any such amendment will come into effect three months following the consent by the two organisations. The MOU will come into effect when signed by both Participants and will have a duration of five (5) years, after which any extension or amendments may be made as understood by both organisations. Either Participant upon 90 days' written notice to the other Participant may terminate the MOU.

6. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.

The Participants mutually decide to resolve any disagreements or disputes that may arise in relation to this MOU in a mutually agreeable manner.

7. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE ORGANISATIONS.

Nothing in this MOU will be considered as a waiver of the privileges and immunities of IORA and of the Authority, in accordance with the MOU between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and IORA relating to the rights, privileges and immunities of IORA Secretariat in respect of the IORA, and in accordance with the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority of 27 March 1998 and with subsection G of Part XI of the Convention, in respect of the ISA.

8. USE OF NAME AND LOGO

The Participants will not be entitled to use or display each other's name or logo without the prior consent of the owner of the said name or logo.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have signed the present MOU in duplicate, in English and French languages, all originals being equally valid.

For the International Seabed Authority

For the Indian Ocean Rim Association

Michael W. Lodge
Secretary-General

Signed in Kingston,
Jamaica

Date: 17 March 2022

Salman Al Farisi
Secretary-General

Signed in Ebène,
Mauritius

Date: 17 March 2022