

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE IORA COUNCIL MINISTERS MEETING
MARCH 6, 2017**

Members of the media,

1. I would like to begin by introducing my two co-chairs:
 - ➔ Foreign Minister Julie Bishop of Australia, and
 - ➔ Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.
2. Together, we are the Troika of the IORA
 - ➔ This is a unique occasion, where three women lead the Council of Ministers of IORA.
 - ➔ This is also very fitting, considering that the issue of women empowerment has been taken up as one of the priorities of IORA.

3. Today, we had a very good and productive meeting with a number of objectives.
4. The **first** is to prepare for the Leaders' Summit tomorrow...
 - ➔ a historic occasion where Leaders of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will gather in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of IORA.
5. **Second**, Ministers and Heads of Delegation of IORA have endorsed the **Jakarta Concord** to be signed by our Leaders tomorrow...
 - ➔ The Jakarta Concord is a strategic and visionary document that will further enhance cooperation for IORA as well as strengthen the Association
 - ➔ In addition to strengthening the 6 priority issues, the Jakarta Concord also develop 3 new, cross-cutting issues:
 - blue economy;
 - gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; as well as

- promotion of democracy, good governance, combating corruption and protection of human rights.
6. **Third**, Ministers and Heads of Delegation have adopted the **IORA Action Plan**...
- ➔ as a living document that provides concrete steps and measures to implement the Jakarta Concord; and
 - ➔ establishing 4 working groups to further cooperation in
 - maritime safety and security,
 - tourism and cultural exchange,
 - blue economy, and
 - women empowerment.
7. **Fourth**, we have also adopted the **Declaration on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism**
- ➔ as a joint commitment of IORA member countries to cooperate in facing the threats of terrorism and violent extremism

- ➔ by enhancing cooperation and coordination of efforts through dialogue and sharing of expertise, best practices and lessons learned;
- ➔ as well as promoting the messages of moderation, tolerance, diversity and social cohesion.

Members of the press,

8. This is part of our joint efforts to ensure the Indian Ocean rim region as a **secure, stable, safe and prosperous region**.
9. Tomorrow, Heads of State and Governments, Vice Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers, as well as a number of Foreign Ministers, Vice Ministers and high officials will gather at the Summit
 - ➔ to further deliberate on the future of the Indian Ocean, as well as of the world.
10. Later on today, we will also be having the IORA Business Summit...
 - ➔ which will gather business leaders and Chambers of Commerce and Industry from IORA member countries

➔ to discuss ways and means to further promote concrete, mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

11. Next I invite Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane of South Africa to deliver her remarks.

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