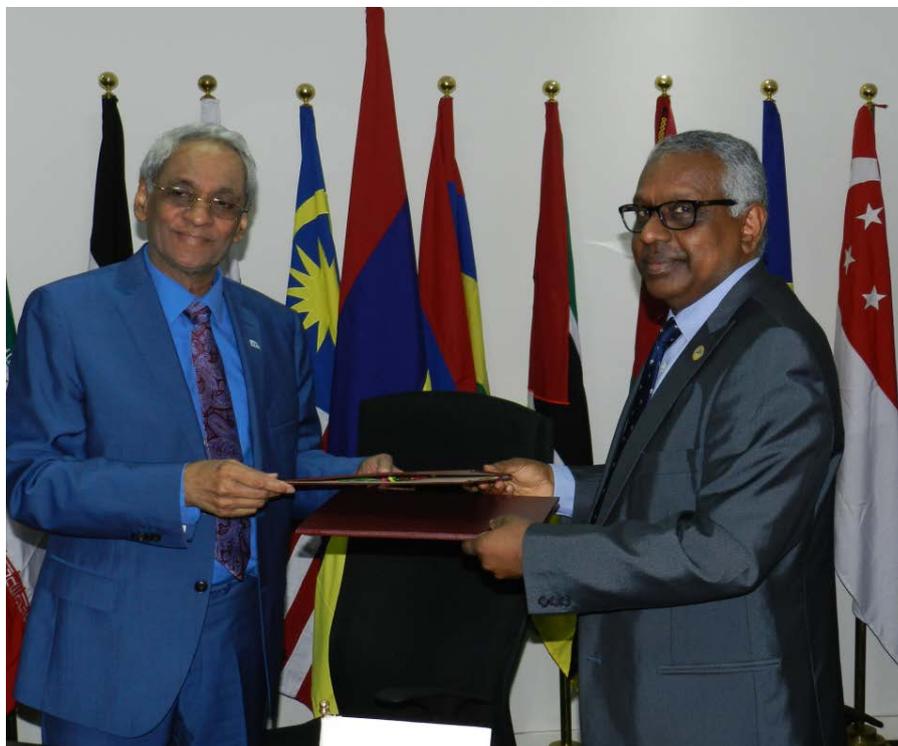




## IORA Secretariat, Republic of Mauritius, 21 July 2017



The Honourable Minister Seetannah Lutchmeenaraidoo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius visited the IORA Secretariat on 20 July 2017, Ebene, Mauritius. At this meeting, the Hon. Minister and Ambassador K.V Bhagirath, Secretary General of IORA, signed the Headquarters Agreement of IORA in the presence of other high ranking officials.

The Hon. Minister delivered remarks and stated "IORA is a masterpiece in terms of vision and ambition, any organisation that can survive and expand on twenty years is an organisation which will have a great future". The Minister also emphasised the importance of the ocean as the future for Mauritius and for IORA Member States, especially for those countries which have extensive waterbeds. He concluded the urgency for countries in the Indian Ocean Region to emphasise on Maritime Safety and Security for preventing and reducing maritime crimes.

IORA remains a dynamic platform for regional cooperation within the Indian Ocean Region, especially in developing strategies towards the safeguarding of our oceans for a harmonious region.