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**UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SIXTH COMMITTEE
26 October 2015**

**Agenda item 172: Observer status for the Indian
Ocean Rim Association in the General Assembly**

**Statement by Gillian Bird
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(Check against delivery)

Mister/Madam Chair

We thank the Bureau of the Sixth Committee for scheduling action on the draft resolution on the question of observer status for the Indian Ocean Rim Association today, relatively early in the session.

We are also grateful for the strong support which Sixth Committee delegations have demonstrated for the Association to be granted observer status.

Since tabling the draft resolution in UN document A/C.6/70/L.8, Italy, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles and the United States have become co-sponsors of the resolution, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 23.

As we outlined in our previous statement on this item, the Indian Ocean Rim Association is an independent intergovernmental organization which can make a strong contribution to the General Assembly's work.

Adoption of the draft resolution by consensus would be a positive step towards ensuring the Indian Ocean region can play an important role with the United Nations for the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda.

Thank you.