



# **High Level Meeting of Interior Ministers of the Indian Ocean Region to Counter Drug Trafficking**

29 October 2016

Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo, SRI LANKA

## **Colombo Declaration**

The High Level Meeting of Interior Ministers of the Indian Ocean Region was convened in Colombo on Saturday 29 October 2016. The meeting was co-hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The meeting was attended by 18 littoral states of the Indian Ocean region which included seven Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Interior/Home Affairs while other states were represented by special envoys and senior officials. The meeting was also attended by seven international organizations/partner agencies and UN agencies engaged in counter narcotics initiatives in the region.

The Ministers discussed the need to develop a regional approach and cooperation to combat the growth in drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean region. During the high level meeting a conference paper was presented, whereby the threat posed to Indian Ocean states by drug trafficking was assessed. Special attention was also paid to the threat of narco-criminality infiltrating Indian Ocean States.

The Ministers;

*Noted with concern* the growing level of drug trafficking on the Southern Route proliferating in the Indian Ocean, the disruptions of other trafficking routes, the linkage to other forms of crime, and the destabilising effect not only on individual states, but the wider region of the Indian Ocean, where an estimated 9,300 kg of high purity drugs has been seized within the past three years,

*Noted with concern* the health risks associated with local drug use due to increased drug trafficking, specifically the correlation between high opiate abuse and HIV/Hepatitis C transmissions,

*Further noted* that the key attraction of the Southern Route for narcotic trafficking is the lack of jurisdictional authority for enforcement activity on the high seas and/ or difficulty to enforce an effective deterrence mechanism through a legal finish or punitive sentence.

*Stressed* the need for coastal states to cooperate more closely on enforcing maritime law, sharing information, and providing mutual legal assistance, including the expansion and development of communication through UNODC'S Indian Ocean Prosecutors Network,

*Recognized* the work already undertaken by various international partners to disrupt illicit trafficking networks in the region,

*Recognized* the need for a coordinated approach through the Southern Route Partnership (SRP) of the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC) convened by the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to improve maritime law enforcement effectiveness and cooperation,

*Called on* littoral states of the Indian Ocean to work towards making the Indian Ocean a "Drug Free Zone".

*Called on* the littoral states of the Indian Ocean to identify priority areas and aim at enhanced regional cooperation to develop appropriate measures to counter illicit drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean.

*Determined* that narcotic drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean poses a threat to peace and security in the region and its possible link to organized crime and funding of terrorism.

*Called on* the littoral states of the Indian Ocean to meet on an annual basis within the framework of the Southern Route Partnership (SRP) of IOFMC to assess and report on the drug trafficking threat in the Indian Ocean and develop a coordinated approach to counter such threats.

## Indian Ocean States Represented at the High Level Meeting



### Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Interior/Home Affairs

<b>Bangladesh</b>	Hon. Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Minister of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.
<b>Comoros</b>	Hon. Mohamed Daoudou, Minister of Interior, Information and Decentralization, Union of Comoros.
<b>India</b>	Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India.
<b>Maldives</b>	Hon. Azleen Ahmed, Minister of Home Affairs, Government of Maldives.
<b>Mozambique</b>	Hon. Jose dos Santos Coimbra, Deputy Minister of Interior, Government of Mozambique.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Law & Order and Southern Development, Government of Sri Lanka.
<b>Tanzania</b>	Hon. Hamad Masauni, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Government of Tanzania.

### Special Envoys Representing Interior Ministers

<b>Australia</b>	H.E. Mr. Bryce Hutchesson, High Commission of Australia to Sri Lanka.
<b>Iran</b>	Mr. Masoud Zabetian, Chief, Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran.
<b>Mauritius</b>	H.E. Mr. Jagdishwar Goburdhun, High Commissioner of Mauritius to Sri Lanka.
<b>Qatar</b>	Maj.Gen. Saad Bin Jassim Al Kholifi, Director-General of Public Security, State of Qatar.
<b>Pakistan</b>	Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, Government of Pakistan.

## **Heads of Delegation from Indian Ocean States Attending the High Level Meeting**

- Indonesia** Mr. Ronny Rosfyandi, Director (Interdictions), National Narcotics Board, Government of Indonesia.
- Kenya** Mr. Evans Kyule, Senior Assistant Secretary, National Counter Terrorism Centre, Government of Kenya.
- Madagascar** Mr. Dimby Noelson Hama, Secretary General, CICLD, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Madagascar.
- Seychelles** Mr. William Quinn, Chief Officer, National Drug Enforcement Agency, Government of Seychelles.
- South Africa** Brig. Ahmed Kadwa, Section Head, Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, South Africa Police Service.
- Thailand** Mr. Thaworn Niamnam, Advisor to the Director, Office of Narcotics Control Board, Government of Thailand.

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