

Unofficial translation from Russian

His Excellency  
Mr. Hamada Madi  
Secretary General  
Indian Ocean Commission  
Port Louis

Dear Secretary General!

Hereby I would like to confirm the intention of the Russian Federation to join the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as an observer-state.

Russia is observing attentively the activity of the Commission. We hail the constructive role of the IOC in solution of important tasks in such fields as the strengthening of cooperation in trade, financial sector, ocean economy and agriculture, in the development of telecommunications and regional transport infrastructure, in the fight against new challenges and threats, assistance to broaden regional integration processes.

The Russian Side notes the growing authority of the Commission and its increasingly visible role in handling of matters, linked to maritime security in the South-West part of the Indian Ocean, including the fight against piracy, cross-border criminality and drug-trafficking.

The Russian Federation, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and many other multilateral institutions is ready to facilitate the constructive efforts of the IOC in the region and to consistently strive for progress in solution of actual issues, falling under the Commission's competence. We are convinced that the joint efforts will facilitate the strengthening of peace and stability in the region and will actively promote regional integration cooperation.

In this regard, we hope that the decision of the Russian Federation to join the IOC as an observer-state will be considered by the Commission in a positive way to provide further development of dialogue and cooperation between Russia and the IOC.

Please accept, Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation

S.Lavrov

Moscow, 12 July 2019