

Ebène, this 15th October 2013

Professor G.L. Peiris, M.P.
Minister of External Affairs
Democratic Socialist Republic of
Sri Lanka

Our ref: 2048.-SG-COI/RM/hc

Honourable Minister,

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 15 May 2013 pertaining to Sri Lanka's wish for partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

As mentioned in our letter, Sri Lanka's request was discussed at a meeting of high officials of the IOC which took place in August 2013 in Moroni, Comoros.

It was pointed out that the current rules of our organisation do not provide for new membership. The IOC high officials thus decided to submit a general framework to examine requests for membership to the next council of ministers, due to take place early next year. The proposal of Sri Lanka's can, then, be discussed again.

However, the high officials have mandated the General Secretariat to explore avenues of partnership with Sri Lanka. In this regard, I should be grateful for suggestions at your end.

I avail myself to renew the expression of our appreciation regarding your interest in the Indian Ocean Commission and its activities.

Please accept, Honourable Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Jean Claude de l'Estrac
Secretary General

