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Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in Mauritius and has the honour to refer to its interests in joining the Indian Ocean Commission.

In this regard, this Ministry takes pleasure in reiterating that Sri Lanka wishes to be a full member of the IOC. Sri Lanka believes that engagement with other island nations of IOC would be mutually beneficial to all member states of IOC. In addition to Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean and being a country that has good relations with all neighbouring countries which is manifested through its engagement in several regional mechanisms such as SAARC and BIMSTEC as well as Sri Lanka's leadership in the Mangrove Ecosystems and Action Group (MELAG) of the Commonwealth Blue Charter and leading the Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSSS) of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) would bring collaboration opportunities to IOC membership.

The Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in Mauritius, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Colombo, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)  
Mauritius

