Statement by H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly 70th Session

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

19 October 2015

Sri Lanka is pleased to join Australia and the other co-sponsors of the resolution A/C6/70/L8 in supporting the observer status of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in the General Assembly.

Sri Lanka is a member State of IORA, a regional organization formed to harness the economic potential and ensure greater cooperation among States in the Indian Ocean region. IORA also has particular significance in enhancing cooperation in maritime safety and security and provides a potential mechanism for cooperation to combat transnational crimes, such as the trafficking of drugs, people and wildlife.

Sri Lanka remains committed to strengthening Indian Ocean regional cooperation, peace and security through bodies such as IORA. Sri Lanka proposed the IOPZ initi96 S3