

**FORUM:** General Assembly 1st Committee

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

**SUBMITTED BY:** South Africa

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** India, Seychelles, Afghanistan, Andorra, Ireland, Maldives, Zimbabwe, Gambia, Timor-Leste, Guinea Bissau, Holy See, Pakistan, Jordan, Indonesia, Togo, Palestine, Sweden, Hungary, Sao Tome & Principe, Dominica

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Recalling* the vitality of the Indian Ocean as a commercial trade route to the global economy, with 50 per cent of the world's oil passing through the Straits of Malacca and Hormuz and 40% of all offshore petroleum produced in the region,

*Acknowledging* the freedom of sea as a fundamental basis for international peace and cooperation, as established in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1973-1982,

*Deeply concerned* by the rise of piracy and criminal violence in the Gulf of Aden in the past decades, as Resolution 1816 (2008) attempted to combat,

*Alarmed by* the illicit, artificial expansion of member states' maritime territory through methods such as land reclamation and incidental isolation,

*Reminding* that in 1971 the original resolution (A/res/2832) was drafted at the request of Sri Lanka to declare the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, providing for consultation to prevent military expansion,

*Noting* the initiatives taken by participating countries of the region to promote economic cooperation in order to fulfill the initiative of reaching peace in the area,

1. Asks for the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace to be amended such that the extent of the Indian Ocean Zone of Peace (IOZOP), including the Exclusive Economic Zones, but excluding marginal seas, is defined as the area bounded by the nations of Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Australia, Antarctica, and the Arabian Peninsula in terms of its ocean floor and air space, but not including the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and the Persian Gulf, in order to make the declaration more fitting for the conditions of the present;
2. Encourages each Member State bordering the newly-established IOZOP territory to adopt at least one of the following patrol policies with the goal of eradicating piracy:
  - a) a special boat fleet, with the support of any willing Member States, funded by the World Bank, that will:
    - i. contain guards, who will be armed depending on the permission of their respective state
    - ii. escort the cargo ships that are used in trade to decrease the possibility of an attack directed to them
    - iii. include protective shields for the boats, detectors and defence technologies such as but not limited to turrets to fight against the pirates more effectively and to ensure the security of the personnel in the boats in the fleet
    - iv. focus on Gulf of Aden and Somalia since the prominent sites of trade are included within their proximity, while cooperating with the currently-existing operations
  - b) drone technology, that will identify known terrorists and criminals, as well as detecting the vehicles which are not permitted by either the vessel's country of origin or its destination, which will:
    - i. include face-recognition technologies and motion sensors
    - ii. be developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and will have its transportation expenses to the LEDCs covered by the

United Nations

- iii. have the recorded footage of the IOZOP collected and reviewed at the UNIDO headquarters with the presence of IOZOP Member States in order to prevent data manipulation;
3. Advocates for each Member State that currently uses IOZOP territory for their trade of arms, whether they be exporters or importers, with the exception of the situations where weapons are being temporarily traded to suppress internal conflicts as mentioned in clause 6, to pay an additional 2% in tariffs per vehicle that is used in trade in addition to the current amount they pay in tariffs for the continuation of their right to use the route that passes through the newly-established IOZOP territory;
4. Endorses the incorporation of a Peacekeeping mission by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) under the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Affairs, named the “Stabilization Mission in the Indian Ocean” (SMIO), in which:
  - a) the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are under the administration of India, will be treated as the base for the mission with India’s permission due to its central position in the Indian Ocean, otherwise, South Africa’s border to the Indian Ocean will be used
  - b) unarmed observers will be sent to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in order to inspect the effects of the conflicts in the IOZOP area alongside the bordering Member States and will report the occurring conflicts to the respective Member States in the form of annual written reports
  - c) peacekeepers will be encouraged to assist with the permission of Member States while eradicating the internal conflicts of the nations if it is determined that other bordering states are affected;
5. Supports the establishment of a program in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) that are under the threat of terrorism-related violence that border the IOZOP territory, in which:
  - a) the goal of eliminating the lack of resources while combating terrorism and preventing attacks against the national stability of a region while preventing external interference will be set
  - b) willing Member States will be encouraged to temporarily trade weapons with the LEDC where the internal conflict is occurring that are limited to:
    - i. non-nuclear, non-chemical and non-biological weapons in order to prevent the violation of human rights, as well as the creation of long term damage in the area
    - ii. non-lethal incapacitating agents, i.e. rubber bullets, batons, and tasers
  - c) the weapons will be traded temporarily and will be transported back to their respective states with their resources when it is determined that the terror-related violence in the LEDC has been suppressed
  - d) the observers from SMIO as well as the arm-providing state(s) will be asked to monitor the use of the arms mentioned in the sub-sub-clauses of clause b) to ensure that the use of non-lethal arms are within the guidelines of the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC)
  - e) the assistance of INTERPOL and United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will be asked in order to come up with an action plan regarding the aftermath of the conflict
  - f) UNSC representatives will have the right to constrain the measures of the program in the areas where the wrongful use of weapons or attempts of exploitation of the above-mentioned terms by each LEDC or the arm-providing state is detected by independent organizations, such as INTERPOL;
6. Further encourages all Member States that have nuclear weapons under their possession but have not ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to suspend nuclear and thermonuclear testing in the IOZOP territories;

7. Further asks for the creation of a council named “Fisheries for Economy” (FSE) where each LEDC Member State surrounding the IOZOP will be represented, will be asked to consult with industrial firms to come up with guidelines on opening tuna harvesting factories that will abide by their trade policies on opening fish harvesting factories that will abide by their trade policies that details:
  - a) the members will be dividing the sea-life harvestation in the Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction among themselves, excluding their respective Exclusive Economic Zones, while conserving at least 60% percent of the fertile population and all of the young population
  - b) the fishermen will be provided shelters funded by the United Nations in various coasts of the IOZOP territory and will be educated on the terms of the treaty
  - c) the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission will be consulted while constructing guidelines on tuna harvesting
  - d) the populations of the harvested species by the FSE-member nations will be biannually counted by UNEP and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in order to ensure the preservation of biodiversity
  - e) the treaty will be temporarily annulled if a significant decrease in the wildlife population is detected by the UNEP;
8. Recommends the establishment of the IOZOP as an area capable of contributing to the economic stability of its surrounding nations, and therefore, calls for the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) to increase their economic activities that use the resources provided by the Indian Ocean in a sustainable manner, in ways such as but not limited to:
  - a) creating an online platform which will be accessible worldwide with which the marine tourism opportunities in the LEDCs will be advertised
  - b) encouraging mineral extraction activities in their respective Exclusive Economic Zones;
9. Invites each IOZOP member state to come together in a convention named “Explosive Munition Restriction in IOZOP” (EMIR), which will engage the governments in further negotiations concerning issues such as but not limited to new internal conflicts that may pose a danger for another state, which will:
  - a) recur once every six months for the governments to stay on top of the agenda on the aforementioned topics and to reevaluate the declarations that were made and the solutions that were discussed in the EMIR convention if it is observed that these declarations and solutions did not make a change to the existing issues in IOZOP
  - b) be conducted in Nairobi, Kenya which simultaneously hosts numerous other UN based agencies and organizations
  - c) occur with the assistance of INTERPOL in order to maintain security and peace in the territories during the convention;
10. Suggests carrying out a cumulative study regarding the detection of usage of substances that are classified as chemical or biological weapons according to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in the newly-established territory of the IOZOP, which will:
  - a) be conducted by inspectors and scientists who will be selected by a commission of UN officials who are selected by UNEP and whose background checks will be conducted by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations (UNJIU) in order to:
    - i. ensure the neutrality of the inspectors on the discussed matter
    - ii. prevent the manipulation or the false reflection of the results of the conducted study
  - b) primarily focus on inspecting permitting Member States that have not ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) or the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
  - c) permit the inspectors mentioned in the previous sub-clause to take water and carrion samples from the Indian Ocean, the areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as allowing

Member States for inspection purposes in order to determine the extent of the effects of the weapons

- d) include the monitoring of significant changes in the number of individuals that have symptoms proven to be related to the usage of chemical and biological weapons, such as but not limited to:
  - i. blisters, burns, seizures, and muscle paralysis cases
  - ii. asthma and chronic bronchitis for children
- e) take place biannually in order to collect consistent data and to keep track of possible recently-occurring incidents
- f) have its results assessed by the UNSC in order to build an action plan to come up with preventative methods for the responsible state(s) to suspend its chemical or biological actions immediately, and to determine areas that will be taken under quarantine with the collaboration of the respective state in the area if permanent damage is detected;

11. Wishes to remain actively seized on the matter.