Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand would like to speak in support of granting the observer status in the General Assembly to the Indian Ocean Rim Association or IORA.

The General Assembly, in its decision 49/426, decided that the granting of observer status in the Assembly should be confined to States and to those international organizations whose activities cover matter of interest to the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The IORA is an intergovernmental organization established with the goal of fostering economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean region, and currently having 20 Member States and 6 dialogue partners. The six main priority areas of IORA, namely maritime safety and security, trade and investment facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk reduction management, academic science and technology and tourism and cultural exchanges demonstrates that IORA activities cover matter of interest of the Assembly. The above mentioned facts firmly substantiate our belief that IORA clearly satisfies the criteria for granting observer status as set out in the said General Assembly's decision. In fact, at this stage of development of international law, in particular, regarding conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdictions and considering the fact that the Indian Ocean contains sea-lock high seas, cooperation among coastal States of the Ocean as well as cooperation with other dialogue partners become increasingly and more relevant in the global context today than ever before.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand is therefore pleased to co-sponsor the resolution granting observer status to IORA and hopes that Member States in the Sixth Committee will be in favour of this resolution.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.