**[Eighth Bi-annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)](http://www.iora-rcstt.org/iora/news/22-eighth-bi-annual-meeting-of-the-committee-of-senior-officials-cso)**

The Republic of South Africa, the current Chair of IORA, will convene the Eighth Bi-annual CSO meeting on 30 – 31 July 2018 in Durban, with the support of the IORA Secretariat. The meeting brings together the 21 Member States and Specialised Agencies to take stock of the progress and to chart the way forward, with a special focus on the implementation of the IORA Action Plan 2017-2021.

Member States will exchange views on the strengthening of the IORA Secretariat; engagement with Dialogue Partners, international and regional organisations; new project proposals by Member States; and financial management including the IORA Special Fund. IORA’s partners, which include its Specialised Agencies and the Chair in Indian Ocean Studies, will also have the opportunity to present reports of their activities as well as their future programs.