Indian Ocean Related International Organisations

The following is a list of international organisations that may have some relevance to Indian Ocean maritime security. The United Nations and many of its various sub-organisations (i.e. IMO, FAO, UNEP, UNSC) also clearly have roles to play. Only multi-lateral organisations have been listed here; there are also many bilateral arrangements. The list has been compiled from web-based sources. The completeness and accuracy of the information in this list cannot be guaranteed. Track I and Track II organisations are listed.

The Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

The Association will facilitate and promote economic cooperation, bringing together representatives of government, business and academia. In a spirit of multilateralism, the Association seeks to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through a consensus-based, evolutionary and non-intrusive approach.

Members are Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Seychelles announced its withdrawal from the Association in July 2003.

China, Egypt, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom are dialogue partners of the IOR-ARC. At present, only the Indian Ocean Tourism
Organisation (IOTO) has observer status.

http://www.iornet.com/iorarc/charter.htm

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The objectives of SAARC are:

a) to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;

b) to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realise their full potentials;

c) to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;

d) to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;

e) to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;

f) to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;

g) to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and

h) to cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan

Observers: China, Japan, European Union, Republic of Korea, United States of America, and Iran http://www.saarc-sec.org/
**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

The ASEAN Declaration states that the aims and purposes of the Association are:

1. to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and
2. to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The member states are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

ASEAN candidate state: Timor-Leste.

ASEAN observer state: Papua New Guinea.

ASEAN Plus Three: ASEAN plus China, South Korea and Japan.

East Asia Summit: ASEAN Plus Three and Australia, India and New Zealand.

http://www.aseansec.org/

**ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

The objectives of the ASEAN Regional Forum are:

1. to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern; and
2. to make significant contributions to efforts towards confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The current participants in the ARF are: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Republic of
Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, United States, Vietnam

http://www.aseanregionalforum.org/

**Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA)**

FPDA is a series of defence relationships established by bilateral agreements between the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore signed in 1971, whereby the five states will consult each other in the event of external aggression or threat of attack against Malaysia or Singapore. FPDA provides for defence co-operation and for an Integrated Air Defence System (IADS) for Malaysia and Singapore. FPDA conducts regular combined air and naval exercises.

No specialist website was found.

**African Union (AU)**

Formerly known as the Organization for African Unity (OAU), the African Union was established with a view, inter alia, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalisation.

The main objectives of the OAU were, inter alia, to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity among African States; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial
integrity of Member States and to promote international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.


http://www.africa-union.org/

**Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

The members largely aim to coordinate their foreign policies, and aim to harmonize their trade and economic policies with a view to one day establishing a common market with common regulatory institutions.

Member states: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Mauritius, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Seychelles.

http://www.sadc.int/

**Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** – also known as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

The stated objectives are:
• formulating similar regulations in various fields such as economy, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation, and administration;

• fostering scientific and technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources;

• establishing scientific research centers;

• setting up joint ventures;

• encouraging cooperation of the private sector;

• strengthening ties between their peoples; and

• establishing a common currency by 2010.

The member states are: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

http://www.gccsg.org/eng/index.php

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

Objectives are to promote sustainable development of its members that share similar geographical position, history and culture through:

• diplomatic cooperation;

• economic and commercial cooperation;

• cooperation in the field of agriculture, maritime fishing, and the conservation of resources and ecosystems;

• cooperation in cultural, scientific, technical, educational and judicial fields.

Members: Comoros, France (for Reunion Islands), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The Maldives is an observer.
Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)

The Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) aims to increase naval cooperation in the Western Pacific among Navies by providing a forum for discussion of maritime issues, both global and regional, and in the process, generate a flow of information and opinion between naval professionals leading to common understanding and possibly agreement.

Members: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United States, and Vietnam. Observers: Bangladesh, Canada, Chile and India.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

IONS provides a regional forum through which the 'Chiefs-of-Navy' of all the littoral states of the IOR can periodically meet to constructively engage one another through the creation and promotion of regionally relevant mechanisms, events, and activities. (Within the context of IONS, the term 'Chief-of-Navy' is used in a generic sense. Consequently, for such countries as do not possess a formally established 'navy', the term is applicable to the 'head of the principal maritime agency').

The primary aim of IONS is to sustain a regionally relevant, consultative forum within which the navies (and/or the principal maritime agencies responsible for maritime security) of the littoral States of the Indian
Ocean Region, along with such other relevant maritime entities as may be agreed upon from time-to-time by the members, can discuss issues and concerns that bear upon maritime security, with a view to arriving at agreed courses of action on trans-national issues, based upon a common understanding of the regional maritime security environment.

IONS Objectives are:

1. To promote a shared understanding of issues and concerns relevant to the Indian Ocean Region, which bear upon maritime security.

2. To strengthen the capability of all nation-states of the Indian Ocean Region to address present and anticipated challenges to maritime security and stability.

3. To establish and promote a variety of trans-national, maritime, consultative and cooperative mechanisms, designed to address and mitigate maritime security-concerns of the Indian Ocean Region.

4. To develop interoperability in terms of doctrines, strategies, procedures, organisational and logistic systems, and, operational processes, so as to promote the provision of speedy, responsive, and effective Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster-Relief (HADR) throughout the Indian Ocean Region.

The Indian Navy hosted IONS website does not currently list IONS members and/or observers.

According to the website http://www.indiannavy.gov.in/ion_ls_ior.htm 33 countries from Africa to Australia form the littoral States of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Media reports indicated that delegates from the following countries attended the inaugural IONS meeting in February 2008: India, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Eritrea, Brazil, Seychelles, Kuwait, Qatar, Mauritius, Malagasy, Myanmar, Oman, Sri Lanka, the UAE,
Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

CSCAP is a non-governmental (second track) process for dialogue on security issues in the Asia Pacific. CSCAP provides an informal mechanism for scholars, officials and others in their private capacities to discuss political and security issues and challenges facing the region. It also provides policy recommendations to various inter-governmental bodies, convenes regional and international meetings and establishes linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences in the area of regional political security cooperation. CSCAP is organised for the purpose of providing a structured process for regional confidence building and security cooperation among countries and territories in the Asia Pacific region. The functions of CSCAP are as follows:

(a) to provide an informal mechanism by which political and security issues can be discussed by scholars, officials, and others in their private capacities;

(b) to encourage the participants of such individuals from countries and territories in the Asia Pacific on the basis of the principle of inclusiveness;

(c) to organise various working groups to address security issues and challenges facing the region;
(d) to provide policy recommendations to various intergovernmental bodies on political security issues;

(e) to convene regional and international meetings and other cooperative activities for the purpose of discussing political-security issues;

(f) to establish linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences in the area of regional political-security cooperation; and

(g) to produce and disseminate publications relevant to the other purposes of the organisation.

CSCAP membership includes almost all the major countries in the Asia Pacific. It has 21 full members of the Council: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, Europe, India, Indonesia, Japan, DPR Korea, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam and one associate member: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

http://www.cscap.org