

## **In the name of God The most compassionate the most merciful**

And it is he who subjected the sea for you to eat from it tender meat and to extract from it ornaments which you wear and you see the ships plowing through it, and [he subjected it] that you may seek of his bounty; and perhaps you will be grateful. (Holly Quran; An-Nahl: 14)

### **1. Introduction:**

Gentlemen's

Upon the humanity history, revenue from all its kind was occasion configuration of different coalition to achieve and getting revenue of common benefits. Anywhere common benefits were secure needs of larger groups and collections, collaboration milieus were formed more sustainable and stronger. Where limited and valuable benefits exists and players or stakeholders more than existent benefits are paying role, competitive milieu will take place for achievement of rival groups to limited resources and benefits. Insofar as, because of infrequency beside of avarice and authoritarianism, coalition milieu will degrade to level of conflict milieu. This milieu will develop context of divergence and lack of synergy in use of existing capacities. This means creation of crack between competent players in coalition milieu to gain from existing capacities and opportunities and it is also obstacle for synergy and capacity building. It is evident this crack will provide milieu of Indian Ocean for others (ERFs) to gain valuable capacities of this region which are under conflict of regional actors.

Indian Ocean with ambit of more than seventy million square kilometer has 36 littorals and 11 hinterlands including approximate one third of the world's population on its outskirts. Among of 204 countries of the world, 44 countries are land lock and the rest of remain (160) has direct or indirect maritime access through oceans and free waters of the world that are covered tow third of the world surface. This connectivity means is existence of opportunities for utilization gaining capacities and resources which incredibly are able to increase possible production frontier of countries insofar as through increasing of gross domestic product (GDP) of them and thereafter income per capita, providing more desirable relative welfare for the neighbors of open seas. But this requires providing factors that will mention later.

### **2. Existence opportunities of Indian Ocean:**

Although Indian Ocean is taking third place between the world's oceans, but following properties is providing privilege for the Indian Ocean:

- 2.1. Twenty seven countries outskirts of this ocean is accommodate one third of world human resources that from economy point of view is important for optimum employ in order to produce of commodity and services.
- 2.2. Considerable share of world fossil based energy resources including 60% of oil and 45% gas resources are located in Persian Gulf which is one of two bifurcation of Indian Ocean.
- 2.3. Indian Ocean offers connectivity between strategically important coasts, ports, harbors and is justifiably called the 'Transit Lounge'. It connects five geo-strategically important choke points including Strait of Malacca, Suez Canal, Bab-El-Mandeb, Strait of Hormuz and Cape of Good Hope. These maritime routs as a pulse of world maritime transport are paying strategic role in this industry. These major choke points are providing connectivity between centers of resources consumption and commodity produce. Today 75 percent of oil produced by Persian Gulf countries is exporting through the Strait of Hormuz which is about 17 million barrels per day. It is estimated export of oil through the Strait of Hormuz will touch up to 35 million barrels per day in 2020 which will be more than twice of today. Now more than 50% of oil demand by China and India and about three fourth of oil demand by Japan is secured via this choke point.
- 2.4. According to international monetary fund (IMF) 2012 report, India, Iran and Australia are placed respectively in third; seventeen and eighteen rank of 20 top large economy of the world between 204 countries. According to outlook of this report, India will remain as well as 20 top large economy of the world in 2020.
- 2.5. Nearly One Third of the total world trade passes through Indian Ocean. A large volume of International long haul maritime cargo from the Persian Gulf, Africa, East Asia and Europe transits through this Ocean. This sea borne trade, primarily oil, virtually affects every aspect of the daily lives of most people of the world.
- 2.6. Existence of economical, cultural, social and military potential capacity in the Indian Ocean rim.
- 2.7. Existence of veteran navies capable of strategic influence on undergoing trends in Indian Ocean.

### **3. Existence challenge factors and threats of Indian Ocean:**

**3.1. Population:** Some of the world countries are considering large value of population as strength to counter possible threats effecting their borders or national interests. But from the global and regional point of view, any increase in population meaning is more increase of demand for limited resources. Therefore, by consideration maxim of infrequency, increase in population because of increase in demand for limited common resources, lonely can degrade collaboration milieu to competitive and conflict milieu.

**3.2. Non Regional Actors:** Because of Inconformity of supply, demand and distribution of critical resources especially fossil resources of energy over the world and situating considerable amount of those in Indian Ocean, non regional actors in dimension of state or non state are looking for their own strategic interests and gaining more benefits in Indian ocean.

Therefore by application of shabby policy of balance of power, they are looking for prevention establishment of collaboration milieu, forming coalition effective on their strategic interest and replacement of conflict milieu in the Indian Ocean region. Therefore whilst non regional actors are looking for having control on produce and distribution of fossil energy resources, some of the Indian Ocean countries by missing regional undergoing strategic change and under influence of super powers balance of power policy, are engage with political games on national border disputes, illusive regional threats made by non regional actors, national insecurity and political parties dispute. In this condition, it is very difficult to establish collaboration milieu in Indian Ocean region.

**3.3. Gross domestic product:** Defense expenditures and its budget allocate part of GDP of countries to itself. Non sufficient GDP in some countries of Indian Ocean rim which can be considered as result of old exploitation of so called north world countries on countries called as south caused non sufficient defense budget allocation in these countries. Accordingly reasonable military forces especially naval forces are not developed in such countries to secure borders specifically at sea. This is mater for creation of insecurity centers in some parts of Indian Ocean like Somali littorals which is applying excessive pressure over the other navies of this ocean to secure their critical SLOCs. Definitely this will increase cost of military expenditure and will impose negative effect on national

development, regional progress and increase of relative welfare of regional citizenry in Indian Ocean.

**3.4. Lack of development:** Development means is transition from the current state to a more desirable state in which man is more gladsome and has a greater ability to control his own destiny and life. According to this definition, the national development is a comprehensive process, which includes different aspects of the social, political, economic, cultural, security and defense developments and their interactions and their interactions. So that each aspect of the process has been in regular contact with other dimensions; so that each dimension of this process is has continues communication with other dimensions and via reciprocal interaction will complete each other and create single figure by the name of national development. But stability important matter of development. In accordance with definition of stable development by UNESCO, it is a development that will secure today demand of the world without put in danger ability of future generation of mankind to secure their demand. Stable development is reciprocal relations of man and nature all over the world. International committee of environment has definition for stable development; according to this definition, it is process of change in use of resources, lead of investments, direction making of technology development and major changes that is compatible with today and future demands. despite of mentioned definitions and global apprehension specially international organizations from development, during last decades, because of same definition of south countries that is expressed by world swagger, not only development by previously mentioned definition is not formed in some countries of Indian ocean, but also quest of global community and international organizations for establishing minimum level of development in such countries still remained in letter because of political games. So that dissymmetric development of Indian Ocean countries is a major factor for shaping threat centers in less developed countries and littorals. This will impose multiple expenses on other countries of this region toward quest of resources and benefits in Indian Ocean.

**3.5. Lack of reasonable navies:** lack of reasonable navies capable to control territorial waters and maritime borders in some countries of Indian Ocean has been provided possibility for development of threat centers in this region.

**3.6. Absence of organized information sharing centers:** Absence of organized information sharing centers for situational awareness and lack of existence infrastructures for development of such centers in Indian Ocean.

#### **4. Role of navies in development and secure of collaboration milieu in Indian Ocean:**

Unlike consideration of many statesmen from military forces as a mean of doing policy in some way else, but according to maritime international common law, especially in navies with historical background, following roles and capabilities is expected from a navy in scale of blue water:

- Military role: that exclusively is focused on deterrence in peace time and capability of fighting at sea and littorals in war time.
- Policing or constabulary role: that is mostly focused on security building in territorial waters and high seas via anti piracy and anti terrorism operations.
- Benign role: That is concentrated on use of armed forces solely for the capabilities not directly associated with combat that they can provide like as nation building and international humanitarian assistance.
- Diplomatic role: That is main business of major navies to use warships to support foreign policy by less violent methods. This role is concentrated on ruling national foreign policy by taking advantage of maritime opportunity and sea power to support it and also demonstration of national power via maritime advantage. Flag show, compliance coercion, power projection, alliance building, international maritime assistance are some instance of this role.

But navy's scenes of action will not limited to roles mentioned above. Supreme leader of Islamic republic of Iran has a devisal for navy. He said and I quote "I hope our powerful navy be able to put effect on major national policy" I unquote. This wise devisal accepts strategic and key role of navy in countries enjoying maritime blessing and accepts that national policy of such countries should not be focused on their national borders and land but rather than they should be focused on maritime policies. Whereas navies are most apprised elements in sea and maritime subjects from both aspects of military and non military, they are obligated paying role in determination of major national policies.

#### **5. Conclusion:**

Because of Inconformity of supply, demand and distribution of critical resources, balanced relation in form of trade and commerce at regional and global level will be continued till far future. Meanwhile Indian Ocean and its state and non state key actors likewise will pay essential role in such milieu.

Also jobbery look of super powers to strategic advantage and existing potential profits of Indian Ocean specially its role as a key lifeline of global maritime trade, will tie presence of super powers to Indian Ocean and this presence will change security orders of this region to secure their interests.

There are several arguments for presence and paying role by regional countries in scene of Indian Ocean that is full of strategic interests which by enough attendance, establishment of reasonable navy in each countries of Indian Ocean will be necessary. May be eventuality for increase in possible production frontier through applying galore recourses of Indian Ocean to possible production of countries can be considered as a most important reason for effective presence of them. By consideration infrequency of recourses, countries specially those have direct access to free waters of the world, have fortune to enjoy additional resources available via access to free waters. So littorals of regional countries are golden gate that provides increase in their possible production frontier in order that be able by producing more capital and consumer commodity through increase in GDP, provide increase in GDP per capita and finally more welfare of their nation.

Therefore, enjoying fortune of Indian Ocean will make mandatory having reasonable sea power in balance with strategic interest of Indian Ocean countries. Insomuch, power, policy and geography are means to pay role in geopolitics of region, therefore it is requires that nation states of Indian Ocean in accordance to their expected geopolitics weight, has reasonable power.

As mentioned before, sea power is a dimension of national power in Indian Ocean geopolitics milieu. Sea power as total nation state ability in attainment of his interests from sea and oceans by use of territorial waters for political, economical and military activities in peace and war to obtain national goals and objectives has three essential dimensions includes military fleet, merchant fleet and science, infrastructure and maritime industries.

Therefore navy is paying strategic role in nation states that are not land lock. But sea powers of regional may not act like separate islands. Indian Ocean as a scene of action for regional sea powers and its non regional stakeholders should act like an integrated system which therein relations of key players

and stakeholders is define and clear that while obeys nation states, regional and international rules and regulations, provides collaboration milieu for players and key stakeholders to maximum enjoyment from existing strategic interests.

So, establishment of positive relations between players and key stakeholders is main point to establish such order. Whereas navies are paying role as a main elements of developing sea power, in peace they have to pay expected roles such as diplomatic, policing and benign that is relegated to them in highest possible level. Beside of previously mentioned roles, navies of this region should be impressive on major national policy of their countries and pay attention of statesmen's on necessity of sea oriented development toward creation of maximum welfare for nations of the Indian ocean through development of coasts and establishment of reasonable sea power balanced to their geopolitics weight .through this, appropriate condition for creation of collaboration milieu will provide.

So, it is anticipated if reasonable sea power develops by regional countries, desirable security will provide for littorals, SLOCs and free waters this region. Insomuch Indian ocean countries are not looking for dominance and impose of their power on others, reduce in military expenditures via developing reasonable navy, will be minimum consequence for development of national sea powers in Indian Ocean region.

## **6. Recommendations:**

According to subjected matters, to secure collaboration milieu and maximum enjoyment of Indian Ocean regional sea powers and its stakeholders from existing benefits, following solutions for development of mentioned terms is recommended to regional sea powers by Islamic republic of Iran navy:

- Recognition of existing capacities that consolidates common interests and will stabilize collaboration milieus.
- Sharing capacities in national level to reinforce Indian Ocean security.
- Collective planning for general enjoyment from open resources in Indian Ocean.
- Establishment of naval force however at scale of coastguard by countries still doesn't developed reasonable navy to secure their national borders and littorals.
- Information sharing to increase situational awareness from paying role milieu of regional sea powers.

- Utilization of existing capacities and resources in Indian Ocean rim toward interest of regional countries national development.
- Establishment of joint Future Building Center in Indian Ocean rim by IONS to recognize even small environmental changes, recording changes trend, analysis of environmental changes trend, determination of possible scenarios for future of Indian Ocean and development of common vision for Indian Ocean future to prevention of environmental surprise.
- Replacement of balance of power policy by balance of security.
- Increase collaboration of Indian Ocean navies via reciprocal ports visit, trainee exchange, arrangement of technical services, exchange of major and strategic points of view, bilateral and multilateral military naval exercises for conducting collaboration milieu and preventing from dominance of super powers balance of power strategy which has illegitimate interests.