

## DCoC Donor Meeting IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 Closing Remarks by the Director MSD

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to sincerely thank you for your active participation and the commitment you have shown in making this meeting a great success. I am greatly encouraged by your invaluable contributions, which have reinforced the spirit of cooperation that the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) represent, underscoring the importance of collective efforts in addressing the escalating threats to maritime security in the western Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea area.

The discussions today have provided clarity on the way forward, reaffirming that regional collaboration, coupled with the steadfast support of the international community, is crucial in maintaining the security and stability of the Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden, and beyond. The challenges we have highlighted—whether they be piracy, armed robbery, or emerging threats such as drone and mine attacks—require sustained and coordinated action. It is through our united front that we can mitigate these risks and secure a safer maritime environment for all.

We have also been reminded of the importance of continued support to the DCoC multi-donor Trust Fund, which plays a pivotal role in sustaining the initiatives that have contributed to the success of the Code. Your ongoing support, as donors and friends of the DCoC, is vital to ensuring that the progress we have made does not falter and that we remain well-prepared for the evolving security landscape.

As we look ahead to the upcoming High-Level Meeting in Dar es Salaam, there is much to anticipate, especially as we work toward the development of a regional maritime security strategy. I am confident that the outcomes of this meeting will build on the momentum we have generated here today, driving further action and ensuring that no country is left behind.

I invite you to use the next hour for any clarifications you may need and to discuss areas in which you may be interested in providing support, so we can come up with a good way forward.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to the member States, partners, and Friends of the DCoC for your unwavering dedication to this cause. The IMO remains committed to supporting your efforts, and together, we will continue to strengthen maritime security, safeguard global trade, and protect the livelihoods of those who depend on it.

Thank you.

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