



DCoC Donor Meeting
IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom
3rd October 2024
Opening remarks by the IMO Secretary-General

Distinguished participants,

I encourage you to take this meeting as a good opportunity that many stakeholders, signatory States and Friends of the DCoC, will discuss on how to advance the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA), whilst reinforcing the regional commitment and shared responsibility to find practical and sustainable solutions to pressing global maritime security challenges. The aim of today's meeting is to ensure further support to DCoC/JA.

The security of the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden is critical to ensuring the global smooth flow of goods and commodities. When compromised, as we are witnessing today, it can severely impact international shipping and commerce, affecting people, economies, and livelihoods in this region. The DCoC/JA can contribute to address these threats.

I encourage you to reflect on what has been achieved, and the progress made toward a sustainable future. This aligns with the recently adopted 'Pact for the Future 2024,' which will guide global and regional efforts on sustainable development, peace, security, innovation, youth and governance.

I would like to acknowledge the recent work that DCoC member States will undertake in Jeddah this month to develop a regional maritime security strategy, as resolved in the 6th High Level Meeting held last year in Cape Town. There will be 7th High Level meeting taking place next month in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. I look forward to its development, alongside national maritime security strategies which you have actively engaged to develop.

I welcome the prevailing theme of the DCoC/JA framework on regional cooperation that has pushed for collaboration between member States and its partners, Friends of DCoC, represented here today. The technical support of the IMO can continue with your long-term support, which has been implemented since the adoption of the Code in 2009.

The Red Sea attacks on global shipping for nearly one year exposed the contemporary vulnerability of the maritime industry. In addition, some recent piracy attacks suggest a worrying attempt to bring piracy back to the region, which highlights the importance of our collective efforts to address current and new challenges.

This meeting offers an opportunity for a call upon all partners to continue providing support in actioning national and regional efforts, that will contain the threat and ensure that the piracy decade does not reinvent itself in coming days.

We cannot overlook other critical challenges such as illegal activities and possible marine pollution, in addition to the use of drones and mines to target key coastal infrastructure, and these evolving risks require our continued vigilance and collective action.

As we work through solutions to all these challenges, I urge member states and partners to lean towards cooperation and supporting DCoC/JA initiatives.

For the Friends of the DCoC/JA, my encouragement is for you to maximize your capacity building support to align regional needs and priorities, without leaving any country behind.



The DCoC multi-donor Trust Fund has been depleting and will not be able to support activities after 2024. With the witness of evolving threats to maritime security that we have had over the last 12 months, steadfast support to the Fund is much needed.

The Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment remains vital in ensuring global maritime security and safety; and fostering prosperity for people, industry, and marine ecosystems in the region.

Thank you.

