



**DCoC Donor Meeting**  
**IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024**  
**Remarks by the Director,**  
**CRIMARIO II**

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

And thank you Chair for offering me the floor.

For the sake of the newcomers present I wanted to inform you that CRIMARIO has been supporting DCoC member states for close to a decade and become a Friend in 2021, to reinforce our commitment to region.

The word CRIMARIO, was actually an abbreviation for CRITICAL MARITIME ROUTES INDIAN OCEAN, but is now a name as we have expanded to the whole of the Indo-Pacific.

Ever since 2015, we have been supporting DCoC member states enhance their information-exchange and operational coordination capabilities, and the good news is that lessons learnt are now being exported to Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

Nevertheless, CRIMARIO's main focus remains the Red Sea and its approaches, and Somali basin where the threats are highest. Most of our efforts are centred around the EU-funded IORIS information-exchange tool, which I am sure most of you have heard of. Acknowledging that IORIS requires regional ownership to propagate, we have established the IORIS Steering Committee now comprising of over 100 organisations using the system, with 42 organisations from 15 DCoC countries, sitting at the table - primarily navies, coast guard and maritime authorities. The most recent members to join the IORIS Community Is Coalition Maritime Forces Task Force 150.

In order to make sure that we are addressing regional needs, we do our best to organise exercises under the political umbrella of the DCoC and IOC. And as my friend Giovanni mentioned, the DCoC and the Commission are now working towards delivering a NEW CRISIS RESPONSE project which would strengthen connectivity and information-sharing amongst regional players, the focus being the Red Sea and its approaches, for obvious reasons.

CRIMARIO will be supporting this initiative by delivering in a number of areas, much based on the IORIS tool. The tool, as a matter of fact, is currently serving its purpose, especially in the Red Sea where the Yemeni based REMISC - the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre – is ensuring that a common operational picture is shared with regional players, and allow me to take my hat off, and praise, the Yemen Maritime Affairs Authority, who is doing a marvellous job.

And to Somalia which is a leading user of the tool.



Recently the tool was used in conjunction with industry, to support the towing operation of MT Sounion through EUNAVFOR ASPIDES, which is taking the lead in providing protection. But back to the new CRISIS RESPONSE project, which will focus enabling DCoC's 8 point-plan in the following areas:

- Supporting the DCoC design and implement the Regional Maritime Security Strategy;
  - Undertaking Legal, Policy, operational and technical assessments of the National Maritime Information Sharing Centres, including the acquisition of equipment.
  - Supporting the DCoC conduct national inter-agency workshops to implement Information Sharing SOPs;
  - Conducting a regional workshop to develop a framework to operationalise the coordination between NMISCs, RCOC and RMIFC
  - Undertaking a national workshop to further operationalise the ReMISC in Aden, which includes funding staff to man the centre.
  - Organising and conducting DCoC exercises in close collaboration with EUNAVFOR ATALANTA
  - Of high relevance, is support to create new DCoC Working Group, Working Group 3,
  - To address operational coordination with Regional Navies, EUNAVFOR and CMF.
  - About 40% of the 4 million euros of EU funds will go to acquire much needed equipment for the Djibouti and Yemeni Coast Guard.
- Finally, of value for the global maritime community, is support to develop a first common Maritime Security Lexicon, to improve communication, coordination, and effectiveness among participating states, regional and international partners, and the maritime industry.

Cognizant of the fact, of the growing need to enhance connectivity between the merchant shipping community, coastal states and military operations, our ambition remains to offer IORIS

To interconnect all THREE communities in a compartmentalised manner, to safeguard commercially sensitive information.

This is actually, already happening, as the French Navy is using IORIS as the prime communication tool between its frigates and merchantmen navigating through the Red Sea, because IORIS offers real-time, discrete and secure communications.

Hopefully this work strand will expand globally in time, as it is a cost-effective solution which comes at no cost to industry.

Bottom-line, CRIMARIO and its IORIS tool, are nothing but enablers, and the philosophy behind this project, is to promote safe and secure trade routes, because all win at the end of the day.

Thank you for your attention

**Martin Cauchi-inglott**