



## **DCoC Donor Meeting**

**IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom**

**3rd October 2024**

### **Remarks by the Delegation of India**

**Commodore Nitin Parvataneni, Director Military Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs**

Thank you, respected Chair.

Secretary General IMO

Director Maritime Safety IMO

Distinguished delegates, Friends

At the very outset, the Indian delegation wishes to express gratitude for this opportunity to collaborate with all our friends in the region. India considers the Member States of DCOC-JA to be close friends and therefore takes its relationship with the DCoC very seriously. The composition of the Indian delegation comprising representatives from our Ministry of External Affairs, High Commission of India at London, Ministry of Defence, National Security Council Secretariat, Indian Navy and IFC-IOR, for today's Meeting, is an indicator of India's 'Whole of Government' comprehensive approach towards this precious friendship, co-operation and collaboration.

We recognize that no one country/Service or agency can ensure regional maritime security. It has to be done in collaboration and with credible and trusted partnerships. 69 Mn Sq Kms of the Indian Ocean region has to be secure for any portion of it to be secure since threats are omni present, emanate from various corners of the globe and do affect different geographies which may not seem interconnected at first glance. Therefore, India is fully cognizant of the mutual benefits of this engagement with DCOC and the great value this holds for the region. We joined DCOC as an Observer in 2020. COVID and other associated issues precluded us from engaging with DCOC actively in 2021 and early 2022. But over the past two years, we have made concerted efforts and significant progress in supporting the DCOC-JA. These are evident particularly through efficient and expeditious information sharing, facilitating DCOC-JA ISN Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) formulation and conducting the first DCoC-JA Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW) in India in September 2023, which is now intended to be held every two years, next being in 2025. Additionally, we undertook a detailed study into the CB Matrix of DCOC to assist the States that have indicated requirements. Towards this support, and to realize the focus area results of the DCOC, India has undertaken NMISC Scoping delegation visits to three DCoC countries already and plans to visit Tanzania and Comoros next, aiming to assist in setting up NMISCs 'funded by India' to minimize financial implications for the DCoC.



India also invited a first ever DCoC IFC-IOR ILO from Kenya, supported by India, and plans to increase the number of ILOs from 14 to 40 to enhance knowledge-sharing and increase the analytical capability of IFC-IOR to contribute with even more actionable intelligence. The ILO would be rotated among DCoC countries as decided by the Member States. We commit to supporting the development of Regional Maritime Security Strategy and confirm our participation in the upcoming Jeddah workshop.

Since November 2023, to ensure safety and security, India has increased the deployment of ships in the region, reaching the highest level ever, and has been actively involved in rescue and counter-piracy operations with utilization of all types of IN and IAF assets ranging from ships, maritime patrol (as well as strategic lift) aircraft to Marine Commandoes and UAVs. The role played by Indian Navy and IFC-IOR in thwarting and mitigating threats in the region as well as active IMA (Illicit Maritime Activities) operations far from Indian mainland are well known. We captured the pirates of MV Ruen by air dropping our Marine Commandos, from an Indian Air Force C-17, close to the pirated ship which was 1400 nautical miles from Indian Mainland. We complemented that with ship action and information from overhead UAVs and efficient information sharing from IFC-IOR.

Indian Navy has carried out more than 1000 boardings since November 2023, facilitated rescue of more than 400 sea farers, captured numerous pirates and have also taken actions for effective legal finish. Additional efforts undertaken by us are the recent collaboration of IFC-IOR with RCoC and RMIFC to enhance MDA in the region. As member of CMF, QUAD, IORA and IONS (founding member) to name a few; and with various bilateral engagements in the region, we contribute actively to regional security and seek to collaborate further with all relevant regional constructs to reduce 'duplication of efforts' and 'support complementarity'.

We continue with these efforts tirelessly to ensure maritime security of the region and cooperate with our Friends/like-minded partners to create a safer, more secure and prosperous region for all.

The Indian delegation assures you of India's active support to the DCoC-JA and continue to cherish this precious partnership.

Thank you Chair.