



High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCOC/JA

Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024

Day 1 - National Intervention by Head of Delegation, India

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

Excellencies, Dear DCoC-JA Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you, Chris and thank you, Mitch for the opportunity to give a brief intervention on certain observations so far.

“Strategic opportunities knock only on the doors of people who have a strategy in the first place”, and India is very happy to be sitting together in this group of friends to refine our strategy and make things happen. We requested this intervention purely to respond to some comments made by our very close friends, agencies, offices and organisations before this.

Let me first start by thanking the Chair of WG1 for bringing out the fact that you have a very strong coordination with our IFC-IOR. We are very enthused by that and as you know we are ready to welcome the very first DCOC-JA ILO with open arms and we're very happy to contribute to the ISN. We also would like to thank IMO Secretary General and the comment he made about making the best use of the CB Matrix which India has used effectively to reach out to DCOC-JA Member States requesting assistance.

We thank the WG2 Chair and project head Mr Kiruja Micheni for giving us the opportunity to have access to the CB matrix after which we've been able to do a significant amount of work with DCOC and enhance our engagement. We also agree with the way forward put forth by WG 2 Chair and we assure you of India's support in taking those measures forward.

May I thank honourable Geoffrey Kaituko, PS Maritime Affairs, Kenya for having brought out the fact that Kenya supports the DCOC architecture so well. We have seen that first hand. We had the pleasure and honour of meeting the officials at IMO Nairobi and the effective way you're working to make things happen. As you know, we engaged very closely at our Leaders' level with Kenya to ensure that the DCOC forum was discussed at the India-Kenya Leader's Summit and that is a milestone we could achieve last year. Through India-Kenya joint BAHARI document, DCOC-JA was given the importance it deserved by a formal invite to Kenya, from our Hon'ble PM himself, to kindly nominate a DCOC-JA ILO to IFC-IOR. Very grateful for your support in that and we would be very happy to work with you in setup of the NMISC and efficient functioning of DCOC ISN.

We would also like to respond to the comment by CMF. Thank you very much Commodore for your comments. As you all know, India joined the CMF in November 2023 to contribute to greater regional security and we're very happy to contribute to CMF as we go by. Also, thank you very much Commodore for mentioning the MV Ruen incident. As you know, Indian Navy intercepted the pirated MV Ruen when it left the East African shores as mother ship of the pirates. We could have done it the first time as well, when the pirates were trying to take charge, if not for the absence of necessary permissions from the Flag State and the States that have the crew on board. These were the only limitations barring which we were all set to



alleviate the situation before it became what it did. As you know, we intercepted the mother ship 1400 nautical miles away from our mainland, sent our Marine Commandos in an Air Force transport aircraft, dropped them close to the ship and it was an independent Operation all the way from information receipt up to Legal finish – a truly complete operation rarely seen in these waters!

Thank you so much Admiral Villanueva, EUNAVFOR Atalanta, for having brought out the 35 Pirates India has been able to put out of this scenario. With that, may I thank Op Atalanta Commander for having brought out your relationship with Indian Navy. We assure you that we shall work closely as we go by to ensure greater maritime Security in the region.

The last comment I'd like to make is a response to what Commander EUNAVFOR Atalanta said "The presence of Indian Navy is comforting. We are all small hands in comparison to Indian Navy". I beg to disagree, Sir. In our perspective, there are no 'small hands and big hands'. There are only 'small hearts and big hearts.' India is honoured to sit in this room with fellow large hearts and we intend to work together towards safe and secure global commons.

They say Hope has two beautiful daughters - Anger and Courage. 'Anger' at the way things are and... 'Courage' to change them the way they ought to be. India is glad to be working with all of you in this noble endeavour. India is wedded to DCOC and when you go in for a wedding you say "I do", not "I'll try". India assures DCOC that we are going to continue our cooperation with you and support to you to ensure that the job is done the way it must be!

Thank you for your time and patience.