

High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCoC/JA,

Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024

Opening Remarks for Mr. Sascha Weh

UNITAR

Excellencies,
Honorable Ministers,
Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for inviting UNITAR to participate in this high-level conference. This invitation underscores the strong partnership between our institutions and highlights the importance of collective efforts in advancing maritime security and cooperation in the region.

The Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) and its Jeddah Amendments are central to this conference, serving as a prime example of successful multilateral collaboration. Since its inception in 2009, the DCoC has made significant strides in addressing maritime security challenges in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. From combating piracy to tackling broader issues such as human trafficking, illegal fishing, and the protection of maritime infrastructure, the DCoC demonstrates that regional cooperation and political commitment are fundamental to achieving security and stability.

This conference sends a clear message: implementing the DCoC requires not only political will but also strong local ownership by member states. Ownership is the key to developing sustainable, tailored solutions that address the unique needs of each country.

UNITAR is proud to be a trusted partner in these efforts. Together with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), we provide targeted training programs for coast guards to strengthen their operational capacities.

A particularly successful example of this collaboration is our work in Tanzania, where ongoing training programs for the coast guard are equipping them with essential skills. Additionally, we are planning specialized diving courses focused on underwater forensics to enhance capabilities in maritime law enforcement. These successes serve as a model, and we invite all member states to engage with us to explore how similar measures can be implemented in their countries.

To better coordinate these initiatives and steer global approaches in maritime governance, UNITAR has established an office in Brussels. This office serves as a strategic hub for advancing multilateral cooperation, harmonizing global standards, and developing long-term solutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Government of Germany for its generous support, which has made this conference and many of our projects possible. This partnership exemplifies the importance of international collaboration in achieving sustainable and effective outcomes.

UNITAR's role extends beyond offering short-term solutions; we are committed to building long-term capacities that foster security, stability, and sustainable development. Our goal is to establish the Djibouti Code of Conduct as a beacon of resilience, cooperation, and progress in the maritime sector.

I thank you all for your participation and dedication. Let us use this conference to work together toward a secure, stable, and sustainable future for this region.

Thank you.