



DCoC Donor Meeting

IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom

3rd October 2024

Remarks by the Chair of the DCoC/JA Working Group One on Information Sharing

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor to present the progress and key recommendations of Working Group One on Information Sharing as we continue to enhance the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) Information Sharing Network (ISN).

Initially, the DCoC Information Sharing Network was developed to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, a goal that was successfully achieved. Today, with the Jeddah Amendment, our scope has expanded to encompass a broader range of maritime challenges. Our objective is to deter, detect, disrupt, and prosecute these threats effectively. Thus, we aim to establish a robust regional ISN that will be instrumental in supporting joint efforts to conduct operations at sea, combat illicit activities, working closely with our international naval partners.

The strategy and roadmap for this network were developed in collaboration with the IMO. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been adopted by our participating states to foster a uniform approach and interoperability.

We have made significant progress. A number of countries have made good progress in establishing their National Maritime Information Sharing Centers (NMISCs). At least seven countries, including Ethiopia, Jordan, Madagascar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, and South Africa, have attained initial operating capability, while others are at different stages of development. These centers are critical for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating maritime security information.

The NMISCs serve as multi-agency Maritime Domain Awareness Centers, bringing together various stakeholders in each nation to create a whole of government setup. These centers also play a key role in preventing illegal activities, promoting collaboration, and coordinating efforts with international naval partners, supporting both regional security and the



sustainable blue economy. They also serve to enhance coordination at national level thereby building strong pillars for regional cooperation.

Applying the IMO Model on the 'whole of government' approach to maritime security is essential for ensuring an effective response to maritime threats. This therefore follows the need for the establishment of National Maritime Security Committees (NMSC), National Maritime Security Risk Registers (NMSRR) and National Maritime Security Strategies (NMSS). Your support in progressing this work is appreciated.

Regional partnership is foundational to our success moving forward. Through recent high-level meetings in Dubai and Jeddah, we resolved to integrate the RMIFC in Madagascar and RCOG in Seychelles into the DCoC Information Sharing Network for greater cooperation and to avoid duplication of effort. Resolution 2 of the Cape Town High-Level Meeting held in October 2023, called for the development of the Regional Maritime Security Strategy and Risk Register. This resolution, among other directives, instructed the DCoC Steering Committee to initiate a project that outlines goals (or 'ends'), objectives (or 'ways' to achieve those goals), and approaches (or 'means') to achieve our overall strategic objective. These needs and priorities have been highlighted in the DCoC 8-action plan that was crafted early in the year.

We owe our success thus far to key donors, including Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and others who have previously made substantial contributions to the DCoC Trust Fund. We are also encouraged by the ongoing dialogue with the EU to support our work through the Safe Seas for Africa Project and the Crisis Response projects, which are expected to play a pivotal role in enhancing intra-national and inter-regional coordination.

We are still facing many challenges that require your continued support. There is need to support the NMISCs to reach full operational capability by providing technical assistance, including equipment and infrastructure, and training aimed at enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness and response capability.

Furthermore, the DCoC intends to develop and maintain a regional database of vessels of interest, and to monitor and share details of their movements through the ISN.

We also need to harmonize SOPs across the region and establish a robust communication platform to facilitate real-time information exchange.



I am calling on all partners to help us fill the gaps I shared from the 8-action plan so that the DCoC Information Sharing Network can become fully operational. Together, we can achieve our shared vision of a secure and prosperous maritime region.

In summary, the immediate donor support needed for the work under Working Group one include:

- Support for the establishing and operationalizing multiagency NMISCs – including equipment and systems, training of operators.
- support for reestablishment of ReMISC in Aden, Yemen –including equipment and support to operations, Staffing support, and training,
- Implementation of a Regional training programme including exercises to enhance Maritime domain awareness and response capability.
- Development of a mechanism for coordination of operations at sea involving regional navies and international naval partners to combat illicit activities in line with the objectives of the DCoC/JA

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of our partners for their contributions so far. Your commitment is vital to our success, and we look forward to your continued support as we work together to make our seas safer and our maritime future brighter.

Thank you.