



DCoC Donor Meeting

IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom

3rd October 2024

Remarks by the Chair of the DCoC/JA Working Group Two on Capacity Building Coordination

It is my honor to present the progress and key recommendations from Working Group Two on Capacity Building Coordination, as we continue to strengthen the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) and ensure maritime security across the region.

Over the past year, Working Group Two has focused on implementing a number of priorities laid out in the DCoC 8-Action Plan. This includes the establishment of thematic sub-working groups on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, the protection of ships, ports, and coastal installations, and the protection of the marine environment. By developing concepts and terms of reference for each of these themes, we will enable the region to have a foundation by which we can identify relevant partners with and areas of support that will help our signatory states to better manage these pressing issues.

As the Chair for Working Group One said, we have also been working to develop the DCoC Regional Maritime Security Strategy and a comprehensive Risk Register. This effort, approved at the Cape Town High-Level Meeting in October 2023, aims to harmonize coordination across regional and national maritime security mechanisms. With support from the IMO and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a regional workshop on this strategy will be held in coming weeks and we look forward to an update at the High-Level Meeting in November, and a follow-up session in February 2025, to complete the framework.

In addition to enhancing governance and security measures, proposals from the action plan were made toward building regional coast guard capabilities in Somalia and Yemen. We are discussing with regional partners such as the EU to support technical assistance programs, to boost patrol activities and tackle maritime security threats in these areas. We are seeking more partnership from partners present to support this work.

The development of the DCoC Capacity Building Coordination Matrix hosted on the DCoC website was a crucial step in streamlining and aligning capacity-building efforts across the region. This matrix serves as a comprehensive tool for tracking ongoing initiatives, identifying



gaps, and ensuring that resources are effectively allocated to enhance maritime security capabilities. By fostering better coordination among stakeholders, we aim to maximize the impact of donor support and regional cooperation. Through that portal our partners can get information on the capacity-building needs and priorities of all the participating States, at the national level as well as regional priorities.

The DCoC Trust Fund is essential to the work of the DCoC by enabling the implementation of a regional programme that ensures that no state is left behind. However, as we approach the end of 2024, we are conscious that the Trust Fund will be depleted by the end of the year. and we urgently call for renewed financial contributions to keep our initiatives running. We need additional support to operationalize National Maritime Information Sharing Centres, establish effective National Maritime Security Committees, and implement our comprehensive strategies across the region.

It is also crucial that we continue to provide resources for training and enhance technical assistance to countries that are not currently covered under our existing projects. The DCoC Secretariat remains crucial to the work of the DCoC and plays a pivotal role in planning and organizing meetings, training activities, and workshops/symposiums and following up on the implementation of DCoC activities to ensure our progress continues seamlessly. We commend their excellent work and call on the SG to continue providing that support.

I would like to draw your attention to the printed document already shared with you showing highlight of our immediate needs and priorities, what we aim to achieve, and the support offered thus far. Please use it to identify areas that you can support.

Key capacity building priorities include:

- Support for the establishing of a robust DCoC information sharing Network and building its capacity to support the coordination of operations at sea
- Development of a DCoC Regional Maritime Security Strategy and Risk Register, based on Resolution 2 of the 2023 Cape Town High Level Meeting
- Support the development of national coast guard capabilities, particularly for Yemen, Somalia, and Djibouti.
- Development and implementation of regional mechanism for coordinating operations at sea involving regional navies and international naval partners to combat illicit activities in line with the objectives of the DCoC/JA coordinated under a proposed new DCoC Working Group 3 on coordination of operations at sea
- Development and implementation of the DCoC annual regional training programme



- To support the facilitation of meetings on the implementation of the DCoC/JA: The DCoC Steering Committee, WG1, and WG2 each meet at least four times a year. Additionally, there are meetings of the Friends of DCoC and an annual high-level meeting.
- Support to Regional States in Enhancement of Maritime Security Governance – NMSCs, NMSRR and NMSS
- Provide funding for the dedicated DCoC Project Implementation Team

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners for their dedication to maritime security in the region. Your financial, technical, and logistical support has been pivotal in allowing us to achieve the progress we have made so far. As we look to the future, I am confident that your ongoing contributions will enable us to tackle the emerging challenges in maritime security and ensure safe, secure, and prosperous waters for all.

Thank you.