

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

Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024

Day 2 – Panel Discussion 3

“Aligning International efforts with regional Needs and Priorities”

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Thank you, Sasha!

I thought I will broaden the question, but you’ve already done it for me, so that's not an issue anymore. Thank you so much for your kind words of India and its position in the world today. But we truly believe that that its performance... and not position that matters!

No matter how kind your words are Sasha, it is really performance of our country that would make the difference and not just our position. We entered DCOC four years ago, not very active for two years hence because of COVID. But thereafter we've taken it head on and I intend to talk to you about how international actors need to collaborate with DCOC under five pillars of international cooperation and not just limited to CB matrix. But before that I want to also refer to my good friend Sasha who spoke yesterday, on behalf of UNITAR, about ‘ownership’. We also believe that in line with the famous quote, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail”, we can also say that “**If you fail to own... you own the failure!**” So no matter what the international community does for DCOC, it is really the Member States who have to own that project and make it work. That's our **first message of international cooperation**.

The **second message** is that international cooperation as we see it in India, can be broken down into five categories - Information sharing, Capability Development/ Enhancement, Capacity Building, Operational coordination and Public Messaging (to dissuade or deter) - and let me talk about how the international community can help DCOC member states in all these five pillars.

The foundational pillar, of course, as you all know, is **Information sharing**. It is the first pillar, and as the South African Admiral spoke yesterday, “What you don't see you can't act upon”. Let me expand on that. We believe that “What you don't know.. you don't see. What you don't see..you don't measure; what you don't measure.. you don't analyse and what you don't analyse ...you don't act upon.” Therefore information sharing - knowing and seeing is the number one requirement and that is where we need to collaborate.

But to collaborate, you need to be able to **categorize in what you want to collaborate** in and that is why we have handed out the IFC-IOR Reports yesterday which categorized the threats in these regions as - piracy and armed robbery, contraband smuggling including drug smuggling, arms smuggling, etc., Irregular human migration, IUU fishing and poaching, maritime security threats (hybrid) and maritime incidents. If we can work under these pillars in a joint manner. I think we can achieve much more.

The next point I want to make is that there is a very distinct **difference between ‘data fusion’ and ‘information fusion’**. Data fusion is about getting dots from all places and putting it in one place and showing a whole lot of dots without much meaning. That can be done by a smaller centre, a smaller setup, less analysts, etc. But information fusion requires different perspectives, greater analysis to put that into perspective and get the trends into place, get

'actionable intelligence' out of it for a 'surgical operation' for 'effective outcomes. But I also want to caution you that intelligence is just a story, made sometimes out of incomplete facts. The question is who buys it and what they do with it? Lives and deaths depend on it, so we need to be very careful.

This is where I want to bring forth that an IFC like IFC IOR or IFC Singapore are fusion centres that have adequate analysts in place. We have 14 ILOs at the moment in IFC IOR, we're increasing to 40 to get the entire Indian Ocean Rim Association countries and more in because we believe that just an Indian perspective would be biased in analysis. It is only when you have an **unbiased analysis of perspectives** that you have information fusion in its essence. That is my point on information sharing.

So, India decided in Information Sharing pillar that just funding DCOC is not the answer. That's not the way we're going to proceed. We're going to proceed by setting up structures and putting procedures in place that will help DCOC Member States help themselves. So we went ahead and assisted DCOC in making the **Information Sharing Network (ISN) SOP** at Jeddah to start with. Then India went ahead and conducted the **first Indian Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW) for DCOC-JA States** at IFC-IOR Gurugram, India. We started with knowledge sharing, ended with an exercise on our indigenous platform **NISHAR**. And then we went on to a very important step of developing and setting up **NMISCs** in the nations that required it as per the CB matrix, and those nations are all along the eastern South African coast plus two more. So, in a sense, we are going to help about five DCOC states, make their NMISCs and we moved it at a very good speed in the last one year to get approvals for it. The last scoping delegation to the last country will be going in December, the other four have been done. One consultant is already sitting in one DCOC State to start the process of NMISCs setup. That's a speed at which we are moving, and that is why we've invited a DCOC ILO to IFC IOR the first multilateral ILO were invited so that whatever information you have get it to us, let us analyze it together and we will give you information that you can disseminate to the DCOC states. And we are waiting for the first IFC IOR ILO from DCOC probably from Kenya.

The **second pillar** is "**capability development and capability enhancement**" that I will break down into two topics - organization and strategy.

We believe that organization is very important. An organization like a National Maritime Security Coordinator (**NMSC**) who can get all the wings of the nation together and for greater effectiveness is the number one requirement without which you cannot move forward. So, we helped DCOC engage with our own NMSC, and we are willing to help you on that as long as it takes.

But then ladies and gentlemen, a shoe is just a shoe. I don't know if you've heard NIKE's pitch to Michael Jordan. Nike wasn't doing too well so they made a pitch to Michael Jordan. When they called Michael Jordan and he gave them just one appointment, they said to Michael Jordan, "A shoe is just a shoe till somebody steps into it... then it has meaning. The rest of us just want a chance to touch that greatness! We need you, Michael, in these shoes, not so you have meaning in your life...but so that we have meaning in ours." So, whatever the organization is, the issue is how many people step into that shoe to be able to help and do you step into that shoe and make it work? That's what is more important, so I can give you a great organization, I can give you a great strategy. Will you really step into that shoe and make it work? That's up to the States on their own.

Also important are the infrastructure, brick and mortar systems, human resources and technology. **Human resources** is the most important aspect! The next point I want to talk about is strategy. Chris has already spoken about it and let me quote US CNO, I think first woman CNO - Admiral Lisa Franchetti when she said, "Agility comes from good thinking done in advance". We also believe that poetry just makes the world bearable while it is the engineering that gets us to the moon and the engineering of this strategy is the ends, ways and means which Chris, Mich and the team is working on and India is committed to help you in making this **regional maritime security strategy**. Unfortunately, in the last workshop we couldn't come because we didn't get the visa and even in the VC, we were disconnected after we spoke. So we couldn't engage in the conversation. But I'm sure we will have more opportunities and we will certainly help you out and that is our promise to you. In strategy, the one advice that I would have from our nation is we need to work on procedures for two things - **Standardization** and **Speed**. Without standardization of categories of threats and Standardization of understanding; the lowest common denominator will always be left behind.

The next point I want to make on strategy regarding procedures is 'speed'. Why do procedures help - because it gives you speed of action when you're dealing with illicit maritime activity (IMA). The OODA (Observe Orient Decide Act) loop of the illicit maritime activity perpetrator is always going to be faster than a State which can take action. We will always be more bureaucratic, much slower, so this has to work faster. That's our advice in terms of capacity, Capability enhancement and development.

Finally, the **CB Matrix**. Thanks to Mich, Winnie and the team at IMO Nairobi, we got the CB matrix last year and we worked on it. But India does not believe that 'capacity building' covers the entire gamut of information sharing, capability development, capacity Building, Op coordination and Public Messaging. I think it should be '**assistance**' matrix and I think you should break it down into the five pillars so that we know exactly where we can step in into help rather than calling it Capacity Building Matrix.

Finally, **Op Coordination**. I'm very glad somebody here brought out that it is not just the navies but the shipping should also come support. I think it was Richard who brought that out and Sasha you said that too. Completely agree with you both there. Op coordination cannot be just between navies. It cannot be just between coast guards. You need to **let the agenda drive the forum rather than make a forum and then prepare an agenda for it**. So, I would say that Op coordination should include all the aspects of shipping, Navy, Coast guard, maritime authorities and so on and so forth. So if and when you decide to make a working group on Op coordination, I would suggest that you do not limit it to any one agency.

Let me give you an example of how Op coordination can help you in legal finish as well. The G7++ FoGG, I believe have a good setup in which the **legal finish** is pretty much sorted out. Chris, you've been a part of Yaounde code of conduct. So, I guess that maybe taking some advice from G7++ FoGG on this could be great to ensure the legal finish of DCOC states is better taken care of. India came out with the **Maritime Anti-piracy Act (MAPA)** and we are very clear about this. You mess around in our waters, we will get you. The first time we will show you that this is not an experiment, the second time we will establish proof of concept and the third time it will become a new normal. So don't even dare to do something that could affect our interests. And similarly when we partner with a nation or with an organization like the CMF or EUNAVFOR Atlanta and so on. We will pass on that attitude to the perpetrators of maritime security that we are partners- this is our public messaging. Do not mess with us! So we are also here for collaborative public messaging to deter and dissuade. That is exactly



what we did in the **MV RUEN case** - 1400 nautical miles is not a joke and we sent an aircraft with Marine commandos and we said we are going to get you! You made a big mistake capturing a legitimate MV, coming out without a flag and we're going to get you. We got all 35 pirates, released the hostages and we are going forward with legal finish. We are very clear about what we intend to do. We are not going to put people back in the system where they can affect you.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen. Let me conclude by saying that, “accelerate change or lose”. “Good partners provide choices. Smart partners take some of those choices.” So, I would leave it upto DCOC to make the choices and like my MoD colleague said yesterday, “every bird has to fly with its own wings” and we are very happy that DCOC takes great pride that national priorities are on top of the list. National perspective is first priority and we support that.

India is here to stay. India is here to assist. India is here to partner. India is here to compliment. Our Hon'ble Prime minister's vision is SAGAR -Security And Growth for All in the Region. We believe in “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” - one earth, one family and that is how truly see the world. We hope you do too. Thank you.