

**High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCoC/JA,
Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024**

Keynote from the IMO Secretary-General

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates ladies and gentlemen, It is a real pleasure for me to be here and as it has been said already, we are among friends.

I think that has been one of the most common words used this morning and it is that friendship that allows us to recognize the progress that we've made - but also further challenges that we are facing and the actions that we need to take.

It is my pleasure to take part in this High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

And the presence of many partners today reflects our shared commitment to work together and to find practical and sustainable solutions to the global maritime security challenges.

The safety and security of shipping and the maritime environment in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden region are critical to global trade, as particularly demonstrated over the past year.

Any gaps in the region's maritime safety and security can have damaging impacts on the lives, economies and livelihoods of those who depend on maritime safety and security.

About 10% of the world maritime trade by volume and 22% of containerized trade crosses the Suez Canal. We are all very much aware of the disruption that has been caused in the region over the last year. Re-routing vessels around Africa increases global demands by 3% and containership demand by 12% and of course these have been temporary measures that the shipping industry has been forced to adopt. This also goes against the progress that we are making at the International Maritime Organization when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge the progress that you have made collectively. You have cultivated a strong culture of regional cooperation, as you have heard already, exemplified by training over 1,800 beneficiaries under the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC).

I also understand that the DCoC has been instrumental in establishing the regional maritime information-sharing centres in Dar es Salaam - where we are very kindly being hosted today and for the rest of the conference - Mombasa and Sana'a, which played a pivotal role in suppressing piracy from 2009.

I had the opportunity recently to visit the one in Aden. It has been operating from there and I was very impressed with the actions that they have taken and of course I encourage them to continue to enhance the connectivity between the three centres and with all the Friends of the DCoC.

Member States have been encouraged to update national laws to criminalize piracy, reinforcing a sustainable maritime future.

My appreciation goes in particular right now to our host, the United Republic of Tanzania, and also to the Tanzania's ministries of work and transport for their excellent logistical and

administrative planning, which has set the stage for a productive gathering and of course for the great hospitality.

I mean they picked me up at 3:00 in the morning today so I'm actually feel sorry that I also keeping you working into the early hours and then coming here today.

I want to take this opportunity to appreciate my team because they have worked tirelessly in supporting this conference.

Maritime Safety and Security are of paramount importance to the global economy, environmental sustainability and to the welfare of communities worldwide.

My dedication to supporting the safety security of seafarers everywhere stems from understanding that without these hardworking men and women, we will not receive the essential float of goods, services, market access and humanitarian efforts.

We need to sustain safe and secure shipping channels to ensure continuity of global trade and interconnectivity for billions of people around the world.

In light of the ongoing attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea, I must express my deep concern over the critical vulnerabilities that these incidents reveal in our global shipping networks.

These attacks pose a serious risk to the safety of seafarers, the stability of maritime trade, and the security of the region.

I welcome the DCoC steering committee approach in seeking a regional solution to these urgent issues.

Their actions in coordinating activities and engaging International Partners exemplify the collaboration needed to tackle these escalating threats.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our partners for their commitment and then strongly encourage them to continue and expand the support for these regional activities.

We must ensure that these collective efforts are sustained and strengthened to safeguard our maritime corridors and avoid the resurgence of instability, reminiscent of the past piracy crisis in the region.

In addition to piracy, we must not overlook other significant crimes, such as smuggling, marine pollution, human and wildlife trafficking.

Emerging threats such as cyber-attacks, the use of drones and mines to target coastal infrastructure, and other evolving risks demand our ongoing vigilance and collective solutions.

And as you heard earlier, the Jeddah Amendment already covers transnational organized crimes in the maritime domain, something that affects the global supply chain and this is why next year at the Facilitation Committee, and following the actions of the IMO Assembly last year in adopting the assembly resolution addressing the dark and shadow fleet, all the work that you are carrying out in the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment, directly contributes to the work of IMO.

I commend the ongoing work undertaken by Member States towards developing the regional maritime security strategy for the DCoC, as you agreed to do in last year's high-level meeting in Cape Town, as well as the efforts at the national level to implement the provisions of the Jeddah Amendment.

As the Danish Ambassador mentioned, we have developed several strategies around the world.

My focus is on implementation. And as you finish the work on developing these regional and national strategies, you have my support and that of the Secretariat to continue to strengthen the implementation.

The focus must be on the actions that we take and on tangible results. And that's why I hope that in the future, the near future, these strategies can be completed - and implemented alongside the national maritime security strategies which Member States have been actively developing to promote a sustainable maritime sector in the region.

I already mentioned that we remain very much committed in providing technical support, but I want to appreciate those who continue to be Friends of the DCoC and the Jeddah Amendment, particularly the European Union - through projects like the Port Security and Safety and Navigation in Eastern And Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea project.

These initiatives reinforce a whole-of-government approach, helping establish National Maritime Security Committees that support a cohesive secure and pollution free maritime environment.

At the recent DCoC donor meeting held at IMO headquarters in October, I was encouraged by the commitment shown by partners to support the work of the DCoC, including regional efforts to coordinate operations at sea in addressing maritime security threats.

I am also appreciative of the African Chiefs of Navies, who reaffirmed their support to the Djibouti Code of Conduct at the 5th Sea Power for Africa Symposium last month, urging Member States to uphold the objectives of the DCoC Jeddah Amendment.

As we move forward, I urge all partners to coordinate their efforts to maximize efficiency, minimize duplication, and ensure that our maritime sector provides tangible benefits for all.

As we explore solutions within the key themes of this meeting, I want to call on you, the Member States and partners, to make full use of capacity-building tools and insights drawn from previous initiatives and also encourage the Friends of the DCoC/JA to make the most of the Capacity Building matrix, designed to prioritize and address regional needs comprehensively.

The DCoC Multi-Donor Trust Fund relies on contributions and considering the escalating maritime security threats over the past year, I call on all partners for support - both financially and in-kind - to sustain the expanded mandate.

Returning to these contributions. I encourage the DCoC to focus on tangible results through the implementation of the projects, through the eight-point action plan, in order to demonstrate that all the effort and contribution that is provided, result in benefits for the maritime domain.

I look forward to the exchanges this week and let me reiterate that every effort that you put in implementing the Djibouti Code of Conduct and Jeddah Amendment enhances the maritime security domain of the region but also has a greater impact in the global trade.

Because what happens here, as you have seen through the Red Sea crisis, has a global impact.

And with that, thank you for your attention and I look forward to your proactive results and the continuous implementation of all the actions that have been put forward on the table.

Thank you.