



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

**Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024**

### **Statement from Kenya**

#### **Regional Intervention to enhance maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden**

The Government of Kenya recognizes the critical role of maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. As a coastal nation committed to the development of the maritime sector, Kenya is dedicated to fostering a secure maritime environment and strongly advocates for the comprehensive implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA).

Kenya is fully committed to regional cooperation and encourages close working relations with both regional and international partners. Kenya's decision to join the Combined Maritime Forces and its participation in multiagency maritime security exercises with EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, under the auspices of the DCoC/JA, stand as a testament to this commitment.

Kenya is encouraged by the declaration made by the chiefs of African navies during the 5th Sea Power for Africa Symposium (SPAS) 2024, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 14-17 October 2024, under the theme “*Good Order at Sea in the African Maritime Domain.*” The declaration reaffirmed their commitment to collective regional efforts to enhance maritime security through cooperation, innovation, and decisive action, as well as their support for implementing the DCoC. I urge regional navies to put this call into practice and request our international naval partners to explore ways of supporting region-led initiatives.

In this regard, Kenya calls for intensified efforts in the following areas: the speedy operationalization of the DCoC Information Sharing Network, the promotion of joint maritime patrols, better coordination of capacity-building efforts through effective use of the DCoC Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, and ensuring that maritime security operations do not merely disrupt illegal activity at sea—which is not a sufficient deterrent—but achieve a legal finish through closer collaboration between our international partners and regional states.

As you all know, the DCoC has evolved into the leading forum for maritime security coordination in Africa and across the region, and Kenya is very proud to be a member. As you know, Kenya hosts the IMO DCoC Secretariat at the Regional Presence Office in Nairobi and is very pleased with its excellent work. With minimal resources, the Secretariat team, working closely with the Steering Committee has worked tirelessly to make the DCoC what it is today, proving to everyone that with more funding, it can help us achieve much more. We would like to thank the Steering Committee and all the National Focal Points for their tireless efforts.

Kenya would also like to thank the IMO Secretary-General for his unwavering commitment to the DCoC. We also extend our gratitude to our donor partners, particularly the European Union, for its commitment to supporting the DCoC through the *Safe Seas for Africa* programme and the *Crisis Response Programme*, as well as to the Kingdom of Denmark for its steadfast support, including the renewed commitment to contribute USD 1 million to the DCoC for 2025 and 2026.

We call on more donors to consider contributing to the DCoC Trust Fund to bolster regional initiatives and enhance capabilities. Once again, Kenya reaffirms its commitment to the DCoC as a vital mechanism for regional maritime security and prosperity.

Thank you.