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## **Inaugural Workshop on the Establishment of the DCoC Working Group 3 On Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea,**

**Serena Beach Resort & Spa, Mombasa, Kenya  
1-4 September 2025**

**Acceptance Address by Brigadier Mohammed Shemote,  
Commander Kenya Navy Fleet (KNF)**

His Excellency Nicolai Ruge,

Rear Admiral Du Toit,

Representatives of the International Maritime Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Kingdom of Denmark, and the Indian Ocean Commission,

Esteemed colleagues from DCoC signatory states and friends of the DCoC,

Distinguished delegates,



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Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and thank you very much.

I am Brigadier Mohammed Shee Shemote, Commander Kenya Navy Fleet.

On behalf of the Commander Kenya Navy, we are greatly honoured and humbled by the confidence you have placed in Kenya through our election as chair of working group 3 on Operations Cooperation and Coordination at sea. We are thankful for this role, and we assume it with a solemn commitment to serve the interests of our region and all signatory states.

This working group is special under the Djibouti Code of Conduct framework. As you may recall, the 2024 Dar es salaam 7<sup>th</sup> high-level regional meeting (HLM) on implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA) decisions, addressed issues relating to the escalating maritime security risks in the region, and in particular, civil / military cooperation. In pursuit of these objectives, the participants debated and approved its **resolution 1** on the establishment of working group 3 on **operational cooperation and coordination at sea**. It is at this level, the operational level, that our shared commitments to maritime security are converted into concrete and practical activity at sea.

We further recognize that the threats we must contend with are evolving, whether through new criminal networks, emerging technologies, or climate-driven challenges. Working group 3 must align to both



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working groups 1 and 2 on information sharing, capacity building, and coordination, thus ensuring a regional response that is coherent and effective.

As chair, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of inclusiveness, transparency, and collaboration. Our strength lies in the diversity of experience and expertise within our member states. The work we will do together directly impacts the security, prosperity, and stability of our nations and provides safe maritime passages within the western Indian Ocean.

I therefore call upon each and every one of you, our governments, navies, coast guards, public and private agencies, and our partners to continue to maintain your expertise, resources, and commitment to this worthwhile endeavour. Together we can make our seas safer, our trade routes more secure, and our maritime space more robust.

Once again, I thank you sincerely for the trust you have placed in Kenya. Let us now embark on this journey with determination and unity of purpose.

Thank you.

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