



EMBASSY OF DENMARK



Inaugural Workshop on the Establishment of the DCoC Working Group on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea

Serena Beach Resort & Spa, Mombasa, Kenya

1-4 September 2025

Closing Remarks by

Commander Senior Grade Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen

The Kingdom of Denmark

Fleet Commander Kenya Navy - Brigadier Shemote

Chair of DCoC, DCoC member States

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

JAMBO!

First of all, I would like to express my sincere congratulations and appreciation for the outcome of this meeting. I'm impressed with the dynamics, and the core will in this room to find a common solution. As my ambassador highlighted, the region must take the lead in finding enduring solutions to challenges in the region which are affecting all of us. We can help facilitate. You have combined, during this week, very much proved that you together are more than capable of taking the lead and find solution – In Navy term BZ - Well done!

Think big, aim high, but start small. The cooperation will develop further along the way. You have common challenges, and you have a will to work together. With reference to the SG IMO statement at last year's HL meeting in Dar es Salaam; make tangible results not only meetings. Make it happen, don't unnecessarily overcomplicate things, you are a coalition of the willing. And as said by Ambassador Ruge; *"Working together and sharing capabilities acts as a force multiplier,"* You will never have assets enough, nobody has, that's just a condition, but by working together, you can make 1 + 1 become more than two.

See the vision. A joint Western Indian Ocean Task Force. Ships from e.g. SA, Kenya, Tanzania, Yemen CG supported by a MPA from Seychelles or Saudi Arabia conducting joint counter drug operations in the WIO. I can tell you that it will create international attention. It will convince the international community that you, the region, take your Maritime Security responsibilities seriously. And as also said by Ambassador Ruge; *"When you take responsibility for your own region, it only encourages the international community to support you further."*

Congratulations and thank you to Kenya and Djibouti for taking the helm for WG 3. It is always tough to be the first one as there is no history to learn on, everything has to develop from scratch. But Kenya Navy you are more than capable to set the direction. Fleet Commander Kenya Navy, congratulation both with the commencing of the WS but also with the chairmanship. It will be hard work for your team from now on. You have made a comprehensive and ambitious Road Map. Rest assured that you can count on the support from Denmark. The crucial phase now is phase 0 – Because that's the one that will ensure that we create the momentum and that the ship will be able to set sail. Denmark is ready to support the facilitation of this phase so the ship can be seaworthy



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and by time ready for combat. Denmark will guarantee you sufficient support during phase 0 so you formally can constitute WG 3, finalize ToR and CONOPS, and approval of the workplan

Ladies and gentlemen

Coming to the end of this closing remarks

I would like to draw your attention to another important upcoming event. The FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SECURITY OFF AFRICAN WATERS, which will take place in Cape Town 2 – 3 Oct. The conference is organized jointly between Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Ghana, The Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa at Stellenbosch University and the Royal Danish Defence College in Copenhagen. The conference aims to highlight the three regions, GoG, WIO and Southern African Waters, as an African maritime landscape persistently exposed to various maritime security threats. Secondly, to present key maritime stakeholders from the West, South, and East coast with a platform to share perspectives, insights, and foster greater mutual comprehension on strategies to address maritime security challenges and capacity-building. In short, to enhance the Pan-African cooperation and collaboration.

Denmark has offered to sponsor a DCoC delegation, and I know some of your countries has received an invitation to participate, and I think it will be a good opportunity to present and build on the outcome from this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen

Let me end these remarks by reiterate a quote used by Mich earlier this week. President Harry S Truman: "It is amazing what can be accomplished when nobody cares, who gets the credit" Talking about quotes, my absolute favorite is the old Chinese war general Sun Tzu, he has said many wise words and during the week we have talked about trust. He said about trust; "Never trust a friend who is silent" – I have not seen any of the DCoC member states remain silent through this week – It promise for a good and trustful cooperation.

Thank you, God Bless and safe travel back to your homes.