



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

Mr. Kiruja Micheni

Project Manager, International Maritime Organization

The Kenya Navy Commander – Major General Paul Otieno Owuor  
Representatives from our Sponsors – Denmark, UNITAR, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

Distinguished Representatives from DCoC Signatory States  
Esteemed International Partners  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Good afternoon.

It is my distinct honour to deliver the closing remarks at the conclusion of this Inaugural Workshop of Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea, under the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment.

I wish to begin on behalf of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to again extend our deepest appreciation to the Kingdom of Denmark, UNITAR, and the Indian Ocean Commission for their generous sponsorship and unwavering support. We are equally most grateful to the Kenya Navy for their exceptional hospitality and logistical coordination, which made this workshop not only possible but highly productive.

Kindly allow me also at this early stage to take this opportunity to congratulate Kenya and Djibouti on their nomination as Chair and Co-Chair of Working Group 3, respectively. This is a well-deserved recognition of their leadership and commitment to advancing operational coordination and cooperation at sea. We look forward to their stewardship in guiding this Working Group toward tangible outcomes and lasting impact.

I cannot forget to appreciate our partners and Friends of the DCoC- thank you for your active participation and continued commitment to regional maritime security. Your engagement has enriched our discussions and reaffirmed the importance of international collaboration in addressing transnational maritime threats.

As evidenced in the discussions in the past few days, this workshop marks a significant milestone in our collective journey, stemming directly from Resolution One of the High-Level Meeting held in Dar es Salaam in November 2024. Over the past few days, we have laid the groundwork for a future of enhanced regional maritime cooperation—one that is anchored in shared responsibility, mutual trust, and the strategic vision of the DCoC Signatory States.

I am glad that during this workshop, we successfully developed the **Concept of Operations (CONOPs)** and **Terms of Reference (TORs)** for Working Group 3. These foundational documents will be formally submitted for consideration at the **8th DCoC High-Level Meeting**,



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scheduled for **12–14 November 2025**. Additionally, the **roadmap** we have begun to shape will be **refined further** and will **set the pace for the next phase of engagement** for Working Group 3.

As I conclude, I wish to kindly rally us to not forget the spirit of this week and of the need for collaboration. As we close, let us carry forward the momentum built here. Let us continue to view Navies and Coast Guards not only as defence entities but as key actors in maritime governance—capable of contributing to law enforcement, humanitarian response, and environmental stewardship. Let us also explore innovative approaches to enhance interoperability and build trust among our maritime forces.

I leave you with a quote that reflects the spirit of unity and purpose that has defined this workshop:

**“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – African Proverb**

Let us move forward together unified in purpose, coordinated in action, and committed to building a safer and more secure maritime domain.

Thank you all for your dedication, insights, and collaboration. I wish you safe travels back home and continued success in your respective endeavours.