



DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT
HIGH LEVEL MEETING HELD IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
24 TO 26 OCTOBER 2023
COMMUNIQUE

The International Maritime Organization pursuant to the request of Signatory States to the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct and States eligible to sign these instruments, jointly with the Republic of South Africa and supported by the Indian Ocean Commission and CRIMARIO II Project, convened the Sixth High-level Regional Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA).

Representatives of signatory States (Participants) and attendees from partner organizations, thanked the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the European Union and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), for organizing and hosting the Meeting at the President Hotel in Cape Town; acknowledged the generous in kind support and hospitality extended by the Republic of South Africa for the Meeting, as well as other amenities provided; and expressed its sincere gratitude to **HE Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga, the South African Minister of Transport for their gracious hosting and support to the success of the meeting.**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mr Sobantu Tilayi, (RSA) and co-chaired by Rear Admiral Najj Al-Juhani (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

The primary objectives of this High-Level Meeting were to identify means to operationalize the DCoC Information Sharing Network, address evolving maritime challenges and security priorities of Signatory States, and agree on the concrete measures to be adopted by Signatory States in implementing Article 2 of the Jeddah Amendment.

In support of these objectives, the Participants considered and adopted the following three resolutions:

Resolution #1 OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE DCoC/JA INFORMATION SHARING NETWORK

Through adoption of the mission and vision of national maritime information sharing centres (NMISCs) it was agreed to adopt the DCoC SOPs annexed to the resolution as a means to facilitate coordinated, timely, and effective information flow among the Participants to promote communication, coordination and cooperation, both civilian and military; and further instruct Working Group One to keep the SOPs under review and to report on their status to the next High-level Meeting.

Resolution #2 DEVELOPMENT OF A DCoC SIGNATORY STATES' MARITIME SECURITY STRATEGY



The Participants agreed that effective national organization is critical to addressing evolving maritime challenges and security priorities of signatory States and that consideration needs to be given for the review and/or development of their national maritime security strategy, within the context of the broader national maritime strategy. Therefore, in order to bring together agencies with a stake in maritime security to work effectively together within a coordination mechanism, there is a need to establish National Maritime Security Committees (NMSC) and to coordinate the activities of competent agencies with inter-agency cooperation being facilitated through a National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC).

The Participants further committed to the development of a Regional Maritime Security Strategy to steer implementation of the DCoC/JA and to further develop maritime governance capacity and capability of DCoC signatory States including promoting the enhancement of regional operational coordination, cooperation, and communication.

Resolution #3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THEMATIC SUB-WORKING GROUPS FOR WG 2 ON CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATION

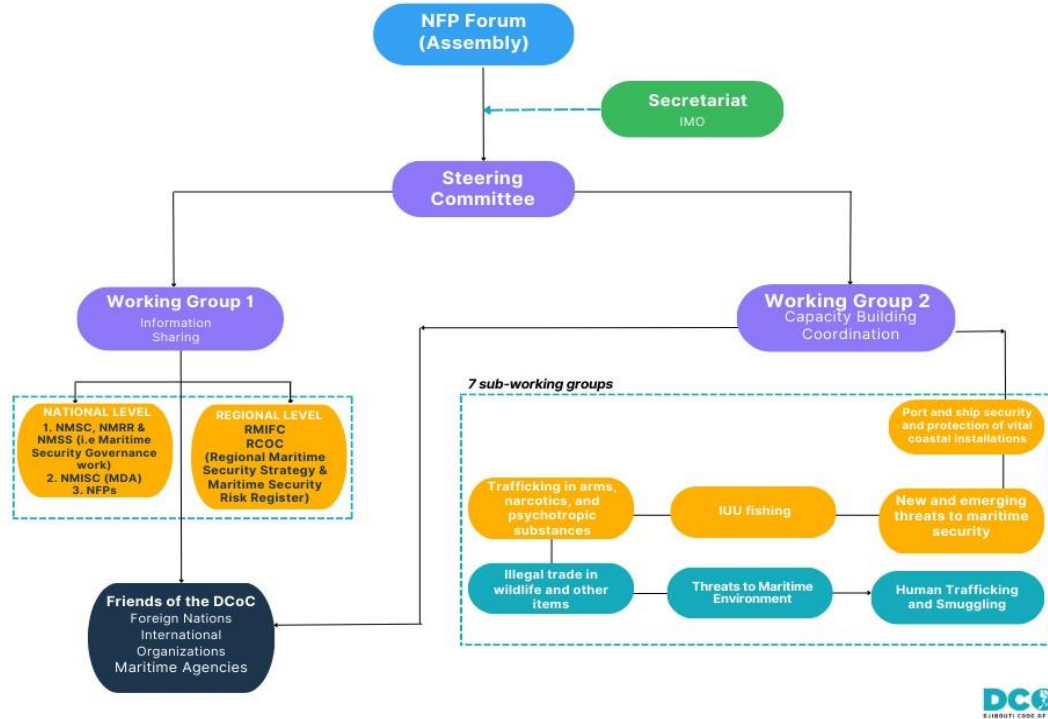
Acknowledging the need to strengthen the DCoC Capacity Building and Coordination component, the Participants agreed on the establishment of sub-working groups (sub WGs) responsible for coordinating various thematic areas encompassed in Article 2 of the Code of Conduct. This expansion aims to integrate existing mechanisms, thus avoiding any redundant efforts and are hereby listed as Sub-Working Groups on:

1. IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing) to be chaired by Tanzania
2. Port and ship security and protection of coastal installations to be chaired by Ethiopia
3. New and emerging threats to maritime security to be chaired by (chairmanship vacant)
4. Trafficking in arms, narcotics and psychotropic substances to be chaired by Madagascar
5. Illegal trade in wildlife and other items in contravention with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to be chaired by Kenya
6. Threats to maritime environment to be chaired by Mauritius
7. Human trafficking and smuggling to be chaired by Maldives

The sub-working groups will assume a central role in facilitating effective communication, collaboration, and harmonization of regional endeavors under the DCoC/JA. They will act as intermediaries between participating States, the secretariat, and relevant stakeholders. By capitalizing on their knowledge and proficiency, these subgroups will ensure the coordination of ongoing projects, the dissemination of best practices, and the optimization of overall impact. Their position in the DCoC/JA Organizational Structure is illustrated below:



DCoCJA Organizational Structure



Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct convened a meeting of the DCoC National Focal Points on 26 October 2023.

Results of the National Focal Point Meeting

The Steering Committee was elected, and all elected States accepted the nomination. The new Steering Committee is as follows;

1. Chairperson- Republic of South Africa
 2. Deputy Chairperson-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 3. Chair Working Group 1- Yemen
 4. Deputy Chair-WG1- Comoros
 5. Chair Working Group 2 -Seychelles
 6. Deputy Chair Working Group 2-Somalia
- ❖ It was resolved that the members of the DCoC continue working closely with the two regional centres (RMIFC and RCOC) pending legal advice and agreement on the best way forward regarding the signing of the MOU.



- ❖ Consensus on the continued collaboration with IFC-IOR was reached and Working Group 1 was tasked with mandate on developing terms of reference for the secondment of a Liaison Officer.
- ❖ NFPs resolved to request Friends of the DCoC to provide technical support on the various thematic areas as identified in the expanded structure. The secretariat was tasked to work closely with the Friends to coordinate their calendars and schedules of events to ensure enhanced coordination and avoid duplication of effort. The Secretariat and WG2 will continue to actively engage the partners to seek donations to the Trust Fund and provide technical assistance in implementation of the DCoC/JA objectives.
- ❖ The meeting noted the need for continued fundraising, continued coordination, and the importance of countries sharing information about their engagements to ensure coordination and capacity building. The Steering Committee will consider establishing a dedicated focus on resource mobilization and actively engaging with the FoDCoC amidst the geopolitical changes in the region and the world at large.
- ❖ The meeting agreed in principle the need to develop a regional maritime security strategy. IMO was tasked with developing a concept paper on laying modalities of the same and the same will be shared through the Steering Committee.
- ❖ Participants appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of CRIMARIO II to date and their support to the DCoC. The Participants also acknowledged the support of other interventions of the maritime domain awareness systems including IORIS, SEAVISION, SKYLIGHT, NISHAR among others. It was noted that signatory States have a sovereign right to choose whatever systems they want to use as the principle under the DCoC, and that the focus in establishing the ISN is on complementarity, connectivity and interoperability.

Results of the Friends of the DCoC Meeting

The focus of the meeting was to generate ideas for joint action to support the implementation of the DCoC/JA and tracking progress of the CB Coordination. It was agreed that support would be given to the development of a regional maritime security strategy and in this regard a DCoC Point of Contact should be appointed to coordinate strategy development.

The Friends acknowledged the new thematic areas and offered to assist in building capacity as follows:

IUU Fishing

- FAO
- UNODC
- OP ATALANTA
- USCG
- SkyLight



Emerging threats

- CMF

Trafficking

- UNODC GMCP
- UNODC Border Management Branch

Environment

- USCG
- SkyLight

Illegal Wildlife Trade

- SkyLight
- UNDP

Organized crime and terrorism

- UNDP

Other proposals

- ISS to assist with organized crime and terrorism
- Encourage resurgence of African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP) and the African Partnership Station (APS)
- Offer training on planning, concept building and strategy development.
- CRIMARIO is prepared to support all Thematic/Sectoral working Groups, with a focus on exercising.

The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Republic of Tanzania to host the next High-Level Meeting and invited offers from the FODCoC to co-sponsor the event. The next Plenary session will take place in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 22-24 October 2024 but meetings by the Steering Committee, Working Group 1 and Working Group 2 will continue to be held in line with the DCoC laid down protocols for meetings.