



## **DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP 3 ON OPERATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AT SEA**

**1 TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2025**

#### **COMMUNIQUE**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), 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 Kenya and supported by the Kingdom of Denmark, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Indian Ocean Commission, convened the Inaugural Workshop on the Establishment of Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea. The meeting was held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the Serena Beach Hotel and Spa in Mombasa, Kenya.

Representatives of signatory States (Participants) and attendees from partner organizations, thanked the Kingdom of Denmark, UNITAR, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Secretary-General of IMO, for organizing the workshop; acknowledged the generous in-kind support and hospitality extended by the Republic of Kenya; and expressed its sincere gratitude to the Commander of Kenya Navy, Maj. Gen. PAUL OWUOR OTIENO, MGH, EBS, 'ndc' 'psc' (K) for hosting the event.

In keeping with the goals of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment, the Workshop observed that the establishment of Working Group 3 was a major step towards bolstering regional maritime security and improving collaboration among Participants. Working Group 3 will act as a specific forum for operations at sea; for the creation, planning, and execution of cooperative maritime operations; information exchange; and capacity-building initiatives meant to combat armed robbery, maritime terrorism, smuggling, human trafficking and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

The Workshop agreed on the following Key Resolutions:

#### **Resolution #1 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUP 3**

The Terms of Reference (TORs) attached as **ANNEX 1** provide guidelines and an operational framework for conducting regional maritime security operations. These operations will be aimed at ensuring the safety and security of maritime routes, protecting vessels from threats such as piracy, smuggling, maritime terrorism and other illegal maritime activities.

The objectives of WG3 were proposed as follows:

- i. Contributing to safety of vessels and seafarers operating within the designated maritime zones.



- ii. Preventing and responding to maritime threats such as piracy, maritime terrorism, smuggling, human trafficking and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.
- iii. Safeguarding national and international shipping lanes.
- iv. Providing assistance in maritime search and rescue (SAR) operations when required.
- v. Fostering regional and international cooperation in combating maritime threats and enhancing maritime security.

## **Resolution #2 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR WORKING GROUP 3**

The Concept of Operations (CONOPS) attached as **ANNEX 2** serve as a comprehensive framework for the Participants to counter collaboratively maritime security challenges in Western Indian Ocean Region (WIOR) and the Gulf of Aden (GOA), with an aim to foster a secure and stable maritime environment by strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing operational capabilities of member states through coordinated efforts based upon the core pillars, namely, information sharing, capability development /enhancement, capacity building, operational coordination and public messaging that assist in forging stronger and cohesive region partnership.

It was agreed that the CONOPS covers the operational environment for:

- i. **Enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** through the promotion of sharing of maritime security information among members, including the means to monitor and assess maritime activity aimed at timely response to threats. This will be implemented through National and Regional Information Sharing Centres.
- ii. **Building National, Regional Capacities and Capabilities** by identifying relevant training and assistance required to raise the competency of maritime security staff and agencies.
- iii. **Coordinate Operational Responses** by setting up mechanisms for common operations and deconfliction to deal with maritime threats in a more effective way.
- iv. **WG3 will develop means to enhance an effective “legal finish” between participating Signatory States.** The Working Group 3 will operate within the mandate of involved agencies and will not be an executive agency in its own right.

## **Resolution #3 ROADMAP FOR WORKING GROUP 3**

The Workshop considered and adopted the Roadmap for Working Group 3 as follows:

The Outline of this Roadmap includes:

- 1. Phase 0: Establishment (0–2 months)
- 2. Phase 1: Framework Development (2–12 months)
- 3. Phase 2: Capacity Building and Pilot Operations (12–24 months)
- 4. Phase 3: Full Operationalization (24–36 months)
- 5. Phase 4: Consolidation and Sustainability (36+ months)



## **Resolution #4 FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY**

1. The Republic of South Africa and Republic of Kenya offered to draft and submit a document on the Status of the Establishment for Working Group 3 to the upcoming session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 111) and to request for support.
2. Kenya as Chair of WG3 and South Africa as Chair of the DCoC Steering Committee will initiate dialogue with the IMO Secretary-General for his support in fund raising for WG 3.
3. The DCoC National Focal Points will provide naval and/or coast guard focal points to the Chair of WG3 to progress the objectives of the Working Group.

## **Results of the Election of Chair and Deputy Chair of WG3**

The Workshop received nominations of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Working Group and the following were elected:

1. Chairperson- Republic of Kenya
2. Deputy Chairperson – Republic of Djibouti

In conclusion, closing remarks and commitments (also provided here as **annexes**) were made by the Republic of South Africa as Chair of the DCoC Steering Committee, Denmark, UNITAR and the Kenya Navy.

The next in person WG3 Meeting will take place in the margins of the DCoC High-level Meeting that will be held in Mauritius from 12-14 November 2025.

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