

DCoC/JA High-Level Meeting - SC Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Chairman of the DCoC Steering Committee, I would like to report on the progress of our work in driving forward the implementation of the code of conduct and to shed light on our key priorities and the progress we've made in advancing the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment (JA). It's a privilege to address this esteemed gathering and discuss the significant efforts undertaken by our committee, as well as the critical role played by our working groups.

The success of the work of the DCoC/JA is a reflection of our shared responsibility to protect the vital maritime trade routes that are the lifeline of our economies and a demonstration of the commitment of the DCoC member states to work together to enhance maritime security in the region. As you know, over the years, the DCoC has evolved to be the leading regional forum for coordination of maritime security initiatives and continues to adapt to meet the ever-changing challenges of maritime security.

One of our top priorities of the Steering committee has been to support the work spearheaded by our two working groups on information sharing and capacity building coordination. These working groups are at the heart of our collective efforts, and their work is instrumental in achieving the objectives of the JA.

The last Steering Committee (SC) meeting took place on 1st March 2023. The meeting deliberated on the follow up actions from the High-Level Meeting held in June and November 2022 and agreed on the following:

1. Noting that most signatory States have already identified their training needs through the DCoC Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, the SC agreed to develop a regional training programme and requested IMO to coordinate the support needed with willing international partners to support the various trainings activities. Unfortunately, IMO has been unable to develop the programme owing to lack of funding. We therefore request our donor partners to support this endeavour by contributing to the DCoC Trust Fund.
2. KSA agreed to host sponsor one workshop on development of SOPs for the DCoC information sharing Network. It took place from July 30 to August 10, 2023. I would like to thank the following friends of the DCoC for contributing to the delivery of the workshop by providing subject matter experts: India (MEA and Navy), United Kingdom (JMSC), RMIFC Madagascar, IMO (MED), UNODC Maritime Crime Programme, European Union (CRIMARIO 2), INTERPORTPOLICE and the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, the United States Coast Guard, IFC-IOR and INTERPOL Maritime Security Unit.
3. In accordance with the roadmap for operationalization of the regional on the improved regional information sharing Network, all participating States are required to have established multi-agency National Maritime Inform

4. Considered and agreed the need to streamline collaboration on information sharing with MASE through an MoU following deliberations and concurrence of the combined WG1 and WG2 meeting.
5. To establish a strong partnership with the RCoC Seychelles, whose main mandate is the coordination of actions at sea. Given that the Jeddah Amendment provides for joint efforts in dealing with illicit maritime activities, the DCoC signatory countries can explore opportunities for collaborative efforts in coordinating actions at sea, particularly in addressing illicit activities at sea. This recommendation will be tabled at the High-Level Meeting for final decision.
6. Follow up has been made on the recommendation to invite Bahrain and Qatar to sign the DCoC/JA with promising outcomes. This will be fast tracked as soon as formal communication is received from the two countries regarding the same.
7. SC chair has coordinated, contacted and discussed with Transport General Authority (TGA) in KSA concerning supporting the DCoC Trust Fund. We advise the Secretary of DCoC/JA to continue contacting the friends of the DCoC, international bodies and donors for contributing to support the DCoC Trust Fund.
8. In conclusion, I want to stress the importance of our collective efforts within the DCoC framework. Our maritime security is not a task for one nation alone but a shared responsibility that transcends borders. We must continue to support the vital work of our two working groups, foster collaboration among member states, and uphold the commitments made during the Dubai and Jeddah high-level meetings.

Together, we can ensure the safety and security of our maritime trade routes and protect the prosperity of our nations. Let us remain resolute in our mission, for the future of our region depends on our dedication to maritime security.

Thank you.