

## **Eighth High-Level Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct**

**Held in the Republic of Mauritius**

**at the Hilton Resort and Spa**

**12 – 14 November 2025**

### **Communiqué**

Pursuant to Article 14 of the Jeddah Amendment, the 8th High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA) was held from 12 to 14 November 2025. The meeting was jointly organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Republic of Mauritius, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and was sponsored by the European Union through the Safe Seas for Africa programme, following the request of the Signatory States and States eligible to sign these instruments.

Representatives of Signatory States (“Participants”) and attendees from partner organizations thanked the Republic of Mauritius, the European Union, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the International Maritime Organization for organizing and hosting the Meeting at the Hilton Mauritius Resort and Spa from 12 to 14 November 2025. Participants acknowledged the generous in-kind support and hospitality extended by the Republic of Mauritius, and expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K, Minister of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries of the Republic of Mauritius, for his gracious hosting and support to the success of the Meeting.

The Meeting was chaired by Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K and co-chaired by Mr. Metse Ralephenya (Republic of South Africa, Chair of the DCoC/JA Steering Committee). The IMO Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, represented by Dr. Jose Matheickal, delivered a keynote address during the opening ceremony, making a strong call for the region to pivot from creating frameworks to achieving tangible and measurable results in maritime security and the Blue Economy. Additionally, Ambassador Oskar Benedikt, Head of the European Union Delegation to Mauritius and Seychelles, presented the EU role, instruments and support, altogether worth EURO 80million annually, to strengthen maritime security in the region and regional cooperation among the participating states.

Participants welcomed France as a full member after her formal adhesion the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct on 11 November 2025, and thanked her continuous commitment to support maritime security in the Indian Ocean.

The primary objective of the meeting was to deliberate on progress in implementing the DCoC/JA, including updates on projects such as the EU-funded Safe Seas for Africa, while identifying challenges and exploring collective solutions. Additionally, the meeting reviewed recommendations from the inaugural workshop of Working Group 3 on Operational Coordination and Cooperation at Sea, provided updates on the development of the Regional Maritime Security Strategy, and shared progress on the operationalization of the Information Sharing Network and establishment of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres. The meeting also showcased developments under Working Group 2 on capacity-building, highlighted achievements of thematic sub-groups and facilitated dialogue with Friends of DCoC to align their support with regional priorities.

## Participants therefore:

**Reiterated** our shared commitment to maritime security, safety, and environmental protection in the Western Indian Ocean region;

**Observed** advancements since the 7th High-Level Meeting, particularly in strengthening regional coordination, information sharing, operational cooperation, and capacity building;

**Recognized** the importance of collaboration with international organizations, regional organizations, navies, law enforcement agencies, and the private sector in achieving the objectives of the DCoC/JA and in this regard acknowledged the recently developed DCOC Engagement Strategy;

**Emphasized** that maritime security remains the foundation for the Blue Economy, calling for a decisive shift from frameworks to tangible, measurable results agreeing on the need to combat illegal activities including piracy, armed robbery at sea, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and maritime trafficking;

**Noted** the important role of the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN), the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centres (RMIFC), the Regional Coordination Operations Centres (RCOC), the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), and other national and regional mechanisms in enhancing maritime situational awareness;

**Took cognisance** of the Proposed MSC paper by the DCOC Member States that seeks to inform the IMO on the progress made by the DCOC Working Groups and updates on the newly established Working Group 3 on operations at sea;

**Welcomed** the IMO's pledge to streamline its regional programme to align all related resources under the DCoC/JA framework and to avoid duplication among regional mechanisms;

**Endorsed** the Working Groups' reports, including WG3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea, and updates to the Assistance Matrix for partner capacity-building and engagement.

## Key Resolutions Adopted and Actions Agreed Upon:

### 1. Strategic Policy and Coherence

- .1 Commit to shifting “from dialogue to delivery”, ensuring measurable, results-based maritime security outcomes.
- .2 Avoid duplication and enhance coherence among all regional and international maritime security frameworks.
- .3 Adopt and implement the DCoC/JA Engagement Strategy, anchored in regional ownership, inclusivity, sustainability which calls for among others:
  - .1 Establish a Public-Private Maritime Security Forum to formalize cooperation with the maritime industry and risk management providers.
  - .2 The operationalization of the DCoC Assistance Matrix within 90 days to align partner support with verified national needs.
  - .3 Increase women's participation and leadership in maritime security to 30% by 2028.
  - .4 Institutionalize annual donor roundtables to coordinate assistance and ensure transparency

## **2. Strengthening Information Sharing (Working Group 1 Focus)**

- .1 Accelerate the establishment of multi-agency National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) and National Maritime Security Committees (NMSCs) across all DCoC Signatory States.
- .2 Adopt and harmonize Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and protocols between national and regional centres to enhance interoperability.
- .3 Develop and operationalize a regional Vessel of Interest (VOI) database.
- .4 Expand technical collaboration with IFC-IOR (India), UNITAR/UNOSAT, EU CRIMARIO, and other partners for satellite imagery, data management, and joint training.
- .5 Strengthen the DCoC Trust Fund to ensure long-term sustainability of the ISN and NMISC network.

## **3. Enhancing Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea (Working Group 3 Focus)**

- .1 Endorsed WG3's Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and the transition from strategic cooperation to operational delivery. The Meeting noted the reservation expressed by the Republic of Mauritius.
- .2 Adopt the Whole-of-Government approach to integrate civil military cooperation and prosecution authorities in all maritime operations for unified command and control.
- .3 Develop standardized procedures for arrest, evidence collection, and prosecution to ensure the Legal Finish with the support of UNODC.
- .4 Support continued joint training, exercises, and simulations among Member States and partners.
- .5 Establish a regional roster/pool of specialized forensic, legal, and translation experts to support maritime law enforcement and judicial processes with the support of UNODC.
- .6 Institutionalize the use of simulation and gaming techniques for joint operational planning and realistic training.
- .7 Strengthen linkages between the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN) and operational mechanisms under the RCOC/RMIFC/IFC-IOR to ensure a seamless flow of intelligence to action.

## **4. Legal and Institutional Strengthening**

- .1 Accelerate the domestication of national legislation to define and prosecute maritime crimes including piracy, trafficking, and IUU fishing with the support of UNODC.
- .2 Encourage early engagement of prosecutors from the pre-warning phase of operations to ensure evidence admissibility and successful prosecutions through UNODC support.
- .3 Develop with technical assistance of the UNODC a regional legal toolkit and model laws for IUU fishing, environmental crimes, and transnational maritime offences.

## **5. Thematic Priorities: IUU Fishing, Port and Ship Security, and Marine Environmental Protection**

### **.1 Combat IUU Fishing:**

.1 Address corruption and enforce evidence-based prosecutions aligned with UNCLOS Article 73 with the support of UNODC.

.2 In enhancing legal capacity and mechanisms for IUU at National level with support of UNODC:

.1 Encourage Member States to consider the signature and ratification of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), in order to enhance safety standards and professional competencies in the fisheries sector.

.2 Promote the implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) as a critical tool to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing through effective port controls and international cooperation.

.3 Support the adoption and implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), to safeguard the rights, welfare, and working conditions of fishers in line with international labour standards.

### **.2 Marine Environmental Protection:**

.1 Establish a regional coordination centre for oil pollution contingency planning.

.2 Develop national oil pollution funds and integrate MARPOL preparedness into national and regional frameworks.

### **.3 Port and Ship Security:**

.1 Promote a unified enforcement model for MARPOL and ISPS codes to balance trade facilitation with security.

.2 Strengthen cyber resilience in port systems and logistics chains.

## **6. Partnerships and Recognition**

.1 Expressed appreciation for the continued engagement of partners and Friends of DCoC, including IMO, EU, UNODC, UNITAR/UNOSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, and IFC-IOR (India).

.2 Acknowledged European Union (Safe Seas Program and Crisis Response Programs), Denmark, UNITAR, IOC and India's contribution to DCoC/JA, including funding Working Group 3 inaugural Workshop, NMISCs, technical design for the Assistance Matrix, and seconding an International Liaison Officer to the IFC-IOR.

## **7. Follow-Up, Monitoring, and Next Meetings**

.1 Member States committed to implementing all resolutions and reviewing progress at the next High-Level Meeting.

.2 The Meeting took note of a proposal submitted by the Republic of Mauritius for the inclusion of the Republic of India as a Member of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA), for further consideration by Signatory States.

.3 A virtual DCoC meeting will be convened on 15 December 2025 to finalize outstanding agenda items.

The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sponsor and host a regional workshop for DCoC during the year 2026. The next Plenary session will take place on 15 December 2025 but meetings by the Steering Committee, Working Group 1, Working Group 2 and Working Group 3 will continue to be held in line with the DCoC protocols for meetings.

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