

13 November 2023

The Director
Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC)
Madagascar

The Director
Regional Coordination Operating Centre (RCOC)
Seychelles

RE: INTENTION OF DCoC/JA SIGNATORY STATES TO COLLABORATE WITH RCOC AND RMIFC - INTERGRATION OF MASE CENTRES INTO DCoC ISN

By signing the Jeddah Amendment, Signatory States agreed to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in Information Sharing. Signatory States have been working to enhance DCoC Information Sharing Network to meet the requirements of the Jeddah Amendment. Pursuant to that, the Dubai and Jeddah High-Level Meetings in June and November 2022 respectively resolved to have the two Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) integrated into the DCoC ISN. The specifics of the modalities to achieve this proposed integration were left to the WG1 which deals with information sharing. The main purpose for collaborating on information sharing and coordination at sea against illicit maritime activities is to enable the region to enhance Maritime Situational Awareness, Maritime Threat Awareness and be able to take the necessary response to ensure a legal finish.

In addition, Working Group 1 (WG1) conducted various discussions on cooperation modalities with the two Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) and the outcomes were presented at the High-Level Meeting of 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

DCoC acknowledges the commendable work and success of the two Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) and recognises the importance of leveraging on these Centres instead of duplicating the effort. Furthermore, the DCoC recognises the contribution of the MASE program to Information Sharing in the Western Indian Ocean. By leveraging the efforts of the two Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) through linkages, emphasis is placed on the need to strengthen the capacity Building of all National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs). This underscores the necessity to establish modalities for coordination between NMISCs and Regional Centres as robust multi NMISCs form the foundation for strong Regional Centres.

The DCoC also recognizes that the MASE Agreements serve as the baseline for collaborations with neighboring countries and partners as the two centres have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with IFC-IOR, EUNAVFOR, UK NMIC. Consequently, there is a compelling justification for officially integrating the two Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) into the Information Sharing Network (ISN) of the DCoC. This integration aims to eliminate potential technical hindrances that may impede cooperation.

In light of the above context, DCoC wishes to confirm and communicate the following resolution with the two Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) believing that it will establish a strong foundation for cooperation and relationship building between the DCoC Signatory States and the two Centres.

“The DCoC Steering Committee agreed that the DCoC Signatory States support the collaboration of the two centres (RMIFC and RCOC) which are available for service of the region. The aim is to work in conjunction with the DCoC and progress towards their inclusion as acknowledged DCoC Regional centres. This collaboration is intended to

facilitate the achievement of mutual objectives related to development of a robust information sharing Network and operational coordination at sea in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. DCoC will further deliberate on modalities for collaborating with RCOC on coordination of operations at sea.”

We believe that with the above we are setting pace towards collaboration as we strive to ensure a robust Regional Information Sharing Network in the West Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden as a foundation for enhancing maritime security.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and look forward to continued interaction.

Yours Faithfully



Metse Ralephenya
DCoC-Steering Committee Chair

13/11/2023

Cc; The Secretariat
Indian Ocean Commission
Mauritius