



## **DCoC – RMIFC – RCOC Statement on the Duplication of Efforts along the Western Indian Ocean Region**

Since 2009, the DCoC has done considerable work through the Coastal and Island States in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden to develop national and regional maritime security architecture, capacity, and capability to address piracy and other illicit maritime activity. It is important to refrain from taking initiatives that may undermine the sovereign will of the States of the region and to replace the region's own institutions with externally designed and externally controlled mechanisms. The external efforts shall ultimately fail if they do not gather the necessary support and engagement/endorsement of the sovereign States.

Duplication of efforts by various stakeholders will undermine the region's mechanisms, and negatively impact regional security. A multiplication of regional mechanisms addressing specifically one crime or threat such as piracy shall dilute the current existing effort to mobilise regional States, international partners and other stakeholders to tackle the maritime security challenges in a holistic approach. This collective and integrated approach is of utmost importance at a time when global maritime trade and global food supply chains are already facing historic challenges.

We therefore ask any partner interested in advancing maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean to work with and through the region's States and existing mechanisms such as the regional Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, which is hosted on the DCoC website. We all share the desire to secure the waters of the region, and everyone should share the desire for the States of the region to maintain their sovereignty.

The Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) support the DCoC architecture and implement some initiatives of the programme. DCoC is a regional body with a full mandate given by member states. Efforts by our friends and other interested parties, with proper consultation, will surely receive support and be endorsed from/by the DCoC.

Non-Governmental entities, Donors, International organizations/partners, are requested to note this statement as the DCoC would like to work with everyone and be part of decision making on matters that affect the region.

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