

30 January 2024

**CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO
THE DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Signatory States to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) and the Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) extend heartfelt congratulations to the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) Special Forces and Seychelles Coast Guards for their outstanding success in [reclaiming control of the Sri Lankan vessel](#) from armed pirates.

The bravery and unwavering commitment of the Seychellois special military forces aboard the Coast Guards vessel Topaz exemplify exceptional professionalism and courage. Their daring actions not only secured the vessel but also ensured the safe rescue of our Sri Lankan comrades, highlighting the depth of solidarity and cooperation within our maritime community.

On behalf of the DCoC Signatories, the Chair of the Steering Committee extends appreciation to the Seychelles Defence Forces for their meticulous execution of the mission, setting a commendable example for the entire region.

In the face of adversity, the Seychellois nation has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding our shared waters, demonstrating that strength knows no bounds when defending our collective interests. The ethos of professionalism, courage, and bravery displayed by the Seychelles Defence Forces resonates deeply with the principles enshrined in the Jeddah Amendment, playing a vital role in ensuring the Indian Ocean remains safe and peaceful for all.

In this context, the region is proposing the need for an urgent DCoC/JA Maritime Security Conference to foster regional collaboration and formulate effective strategies to counter the ongoing threat to international shipping in the Red Sea. The conference will bring regional States, industry, and international partners together to discuss how best to work together in protecting international shipping in the region.

May the success of the SDF serve as inspiration to maritime forces worldwide as we continue our collective efforts to maintain security, stability, and prosperity across the seas.

Yours sincerely



Metse Ralephenya
DCoC Steering Committee Chair