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

Day One Recap

Session 1 summary

The opening session of the Eighth High-level Regional Meeting on the DCoC-JA in Mauritius established a clear mandate: the region must pivot from creating frameworks to achieving tangible, measurable results in maritime security and the Blue Economy.

The session began with the **Chairperson of the DCoC, Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada (South Africa)**, who welcomed new member states and stressed the interconnectedness of modern threats. She underscored that maritime security mechanisms must be enhanced to foster the Blue Economy and ensure stable conditions for investment. Ms. Nepfumbada called for tangible outputs over mere plans and reaffirmed the DCoC's commitment to implementing coherent security measures, urging cooperation with naval forces and Coast Guards to maintain visibility and readiness in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden (WIO/GoA).

Mr. Raj Mohabeer, Officer in Charge of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), followed by issuing a critical plea for coherence and complementarity among the region's diverse maritime security architectures. He warned against the unnecessary duplication of efforts, emphasizing that limited resources must be used efficiently through unified action across the entire Indian Ocean region.

This call was strongly supported by **Dr. Jose Matheickal, Director of the IMO**, who declared that the region needs "more results, not more frameworks," urging a necessary shift "from dialogue to delivery" and "from intentions to impact." He called for immediate, measurable commitments to real-time information sharing, insisting that Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) data be treated as a regional public good. Dr. Matheickal also announced that the IMO is streamlining its entire maritime security program to align all resources directly under the DCoC and Gulf of Guinea frameworks for greater accountability and impact.

The **European Union's Ambassador, H.E. Oskar Benedikt**, reaffirmed the EU's deep partnership, highlighting its substantial financial support and operational commitments, including naval operations. Critically, he brought attention to emerging threats, such as the dangers posed by

substandard, uninsured oil tankers and the vulnerability of submarine communication cables, calling for joint action to address these new risks to critical infrastructure and the environment.

The host nation's representatives concluded the keynotes. **Junior Minister Hon. Gilles Fabrice David (Mauritius)** emphasized the nation's vision to transition from a Small Island Developing State to a "Big Ocean State." He stressed that the DCoC-JA must now confront a wider spectrum of transnational crimes beyond piracy, fundamentally arguing that security is the necessary foundation for sustainability in the Blue Economy. Finally, Minister Hon. Dr. Arvin Boolell G.O.S.K (Mauritius) delivered a stirring call for unity, urging nations to "set aside differences" and form a common front to "wage war on transnational crime." He highlighted Mauritius' legislative efforts to empower cross-border enforcement and appealed once more against the debilitating effect of "multiple layers of multiple organizations" duplicating critical work.

Session 2

Enhancing the Information Sharing Network (WG1 Focus)

Session 2, led by Working Group 1 (WG1), centred on accelerating the development and operationalization of National Maritime Information Sharing centres (NMISCs) across the DCoC region. The session highlighted successful models, strategic partnerships, and the crucial technology needed to improve regional Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).

Key Progress and Mandates

The session began with an update confirming that while the high-level goal of establishing NMISCs in all 21 member states remains urgent, progress is limited. It was noted that only five signatory states have fully established their National Maritime Security Committees, and only Kenya and Tanzania have completed roadmaps toward NMISC operationalization.

- **Mauritius Elected Chair:** Mauritius was formally elected as the Chair of the High-Level Meeting Steering Committee, with South Africa assuming the role of Deputy Chair, to ensure strategic oversight and continuity.

- **NMISC Roadmap & Pillars:** The DCoC Roadmap for NMISCs was presented, built on three pillars to guide national implementation:

  1. **Institutional Strengthening:** Establishing clear governance and communication mechanisms among national agencies.

  2. **Technical Integration:** Developing interoperable information sharing systems linked to regional centres (RMIFC, RCOC, IFC IOR).

  3. **Capacity Building:** Ensuring operators and analysts are well-trained in information management and risk assessment.

- **Mauritius Update:** Mauritius provided a positive update, confirming it has secured funding, created a roadmap, and appointed a consultant to fast-track the establishment of its NMISC, designed as a dedicated multi-agency hub linked to regional and international partners.

- **Vessel of Interest (VOI) Database:** The EU's CRIMARIO project presented a concept for developing a regional Vessel of Interest database. This dynamic intelligence repository would collect vessel, activity, and legal data to support analysts in detecting, classifying, and

monitoring suspicious vessels. The platform IORIS was highlighted as a tool capable of hosting this integrated VOI database and enabling partner countries to tag vessels in a common operational picture.

Role of Regional and International Partners

Collaboration with regional centres and technical partners was underscored as essential for translating frameworks into operational success.

- **IFC-IOR (India):** The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region shared its tangible contributions, including supporting the design and architecture of NMISCs in Mauritius and Kenya, streamlining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across the network, and conducting joint Maritime Data Management Courses and workshops to empower regional officials. The IFC-IOR provided examples of successful operational coordination, including search and rescue operations and the interception of illicit vessels.

- **RMIFC and RCOC:** The two primary regional centres (based in Madagascar and Seychelles) detailed their joint coordination efforts, emphasizing their role in information analysis, maintaining situational awareness, and generating actionable results to support operational planning. They provided statistics on regional threats, noting that Methamphetamine remains the highest trafficked drug in the region.

- **UNITAR/UNOSAT:** Presented the use of satellite imagery and geospatial products for enhancing MDA, particularly noting their effectiveness in detecting "dark" vessels (ships with AIS turned off). UNITAR confirmed they provide training along the full chain—from satellite detection to decision-making—to help partners build long-term, autonomous capacity.

Key Decisions and Way Forward (on Information Sharing Network)

The discussions cemented the following next steps, focusing on overcoming the hurdles of national buy-in, data sensitivity, and financial constraints:

Action Item	Target
Accelerate NMISC Establishment	Member States urged to establish fully operational NMISCs and National Maritime Security Committees in line with the DCoC roadmap (target urged within 12 months).
Enhance Interoperability	Finalize and adopt common SOPs and information-sharing protocols between national and regional centres to enable seamless exchange and joint coordination.
Deploy Regional VOI Database	Develop and deploy a regional Vessel-of-Interest database (including defining governance and access controls) and integrate its tagging and repository features into shared platforms like IORIS.
Capacity and Training	Continue and expand technical assistance to design and operationalize NMISCs and schedule regular joint trainings and table-top exercises to build trust and common culture among agencies.
Financial Sustainability	Strengthen the DCoC Trust Fund and partner support to ensure the long-term operational sustainability of NMISC systems and skills, moving beyond project-based funding.

Summary

Session 2 concentrated on the urgent implementation and operational enhancement of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs), which is the core mandate of Working Group 1 (WG1).

The session established the DCoC Roadmap for NMISCs, comprising Institutional Strengthening, Technical Integration, and Capacity Building. While progress remains slow—with only a few states demonstrating successful roadmap completion (e.g., Kenya, Tanzania, and Mauritius) —the meeting set an ambitious goal: NMISC full operationalization within 12 months.

Key technical discussions focused on leveraging high-end intelligence systems:

- The EU's CRIMARIO project presented the concept for a regional Vessel of Interest (VOI) database, integrated into the IORIS platform, to dynamically track suspicious vessels.

- Partners like IFC-IOR (India) and UNITAR/UNOSAT demonstrated their role in providing technical architecture, streamlined SOPs, and training in satellite imagery analysis to detect "dark" vessels and support law enforcement.

The session concluded by stressing that future efforts must finalize common SOPs and secure the DCoC Trust Fund to ensure the long-term, sustainable operation of NMISCs

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