



Friend of the DCoC

Long-term strategic framework

Friends of the DCoC: mandate and purpose

The Friends of the DCoC(JA) shall serve as a platform for organisations and partner states to exchange information and agree on coordinating initiatives by its members to support DCoC(JA) objectives.

Purpose:

- **to make a platform for communication and coordination between donors and implementing agencies**
- **to capture regional needs and priorities**
- **to maximise the impact of technical assistance to the DCoC member states**

- **Regional Capacity Building Coordination Matrix – the primary tool**

- **The nature of maritime security challenges in the region is becoming increasingly complex**
- **New maritime threats emerging:**
 - Maritime crime and unregulated activities at sea
 - Spill over of land-based conflicts into the maritime domain (Yemen/Mozambique/Somalia)
 - Growing geopolitical competition
 - Violent Extremist groups using the maritime domain

Growing competition in the region between external powers:

- The legacy of the counter-piracy regional framework
- The role of the Indian Ocean in the broader Indo-Pacific geopolitical space
- Proliferation of mechanism and institutions with a maritime security component

There are many factors that can undermine the effectiveness of a capacity-building project

- **For the recipient:**
 - Lack of political will
 - Changing political priorities
 - Limited human resources
 - Lack of institutional capacity
 - Duplication of effort from 2 or more donors

- **For the donor:**
 - Lack of transparency
 - Lack of flexibility
 - Flawed assessment of recipient's needs and political context

Strategic consideration 1: Eliminating duplication of effort

- **Donor states need to ensure coordination of efforts to avoid duplication**
- **Silos and inefficiency will reduce the ability of the DCoC member states to fully benefit from the**
- **E.G. Nairobi Convention's ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region**

Strategic consideration 2: Ensure long-term sustainability

- **The recipient country should be able to maintain the capacity after the donor had exited**
- **While maritime threats are transnational, maritime security requirements and challenges are unique to each state**
- **Historic legacy and institutional capacity are important factors**

Strategic consideration 3: Empowering women in maritime training and capacity-building

- **Women remain underrepresented in the maritime sector**
- **Empowerment of women is proven to lead to more positive and sustainable outcomes in terms of peace, security and development**
- **Women empowerment and gender equality should be considered during the development stage of a capacity-building project**

Strategic consideration 4: maritime awareness and research

- **Academic institutions can support the DCoC:**
 - by contributing to awareness-raising
 - by identifying best practices
 - by conducting threat analysis
- **The DCoC can rely on academic institutions for targeted research and knowledge generation**
- **The region would benefit from strong local research and analysis, conducted by the institutions in the region**

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