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
Context

- 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
Context

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
Context

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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