FINAL REPORT FOR
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING
PROCEDURES (SOPS) FOR THE DCoC/JA INFORMATION SHARING NETWORK
DATES: 30 JULY 2023 – 10 AUGUST 2023
EVENT SUMMARY

Host: KSA Border Guard.

Venue and dates: Jeddah Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies, 30 July 2023 – 10 August 2023

Type: Information Sharing workshop

Organized by: IMO/DCoC enabled by KSA Border Guard

No of participants: [18] participants from 11 Signatory States of DCoC/JA (Comoros, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, and Yemen. Participants from the host country were in addition to these numbers and were at least 4 at any time. A list of participants is attached [annex 1].

IMO team; Kiruja Micheni-Project Manager, DCoC, Winnie Maina, DCoC.

Summary: A 10-day workshop aimed at developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for national maritime security information sharing centres within the DCoC/JA Information Sharing Network.

Publications Provided: Presentation materials developed by IMO.

Key words: National Maritime Information Sharing Centres, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centres, Maritime Domain Awareness, Capabilities Assessments, Whole of Government Approach, National Maritime Security Committee, Maritime Security Risk Register and Maritime Security Strategy, Information Sharing, Information Sharing Network.

Implementing Officer; Kiruja Micheni, Project Manager, DCoC

Facilitators: Mr Chris Trelawny, INTERPORTPOLICE
               Capt. Graham Harrison (UNODC MCP)
               Mr. Thomas Frear (UK JMSC)
               Mr. Greg Clifford (EU CRIMARIO)
               Commodore Nitin Parvataneni (Indian MEA)
               Cdr. Kulveer Singh Khatri (Indian Navy)
               Cdr. Alok Gaurav (Indian Navy)

Context

1   In January 2017, DCoC participating governments developed and adopted the revised Code of Conduct, referred to as the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA), which expanded the scope of the DCoC Agreement beyond its initial focus on counter-piracy and measures to address the economic root cause of insecurity. The revised DCoC/JA includes the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships and broadened the maritime security scope to include the combating of transnational crimes and illicit maritime activity in the region. These crimes include crimes such as IUU Fishing, Maritime Terrorism, trafficking in arms, trafficking in narcotics, illegal trade in wildlife, piracy and armed robbery against ships, illegal oil bunkering, crude oil theft, human trafficking, human smuggling, illegal dumping of toxic waste.

2   The DCoC Regional High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment, was held at the Jeddah Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies in Jeddah, from 22 to 24 November 2022 (the Jeddah High-level Meeting). Its aim was to help signatory States to the DCoC and DCoC/JA to implement strategies and workplans that have been developed recently in order to strengthen maritime security in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Specifically, the High-level Meeting was to focus on developing an improved, region-led Information Sharing Network (ISN); an effective Capacity Building Matrix (Matrix) based on signatory States' needs and priorities; and a more effective support network of regional and international partners that make up the "Friends of the DCoC/JA".

3   The Jeddah High-level Meeting, inter alia, adopted two resolutions: Resolution One on *Enhancement of the DCoC (JA) Information Sharing Network*; and Resolution Two on *Responding to evolving maritime challenges and security priorities of Signatory States to the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017*. The text of these resolutions can be found at https://DCoC.org/wp-content/uploads/Resolution-1-and-2-DCoC-HLM-Jeddah-KSA-22-24-Nov-2022.pdf

4   Through its Resolution One, the Jeddah High-level Meeting agreed that the Mission of the ISN is "to improve national and regional Maritime domain awareness (MDA) and maritime safety and security through sharing of reliable information, including, but not limited to, on incidents of maritime crimes such as piracy and armed robbery; IUU fishing; illicit trades; human smuggling/trafficking of persons by sea; and maritime terrorism; intentional and unlawful damage to the maritime environment" in order to facilitate effective and timely operational response in accordance with international laws and standards".

5   The Jeddah High-level Meeting agreed that the Vision for the ISN is:

.1   "Every DCoC-JA signatory State has established its National Maritime Security Committee structure which oversees the work of the operationalised National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC) and effectively utilises the information it provides in national maritime security decision making";

.2   DCoC signatory States' national agencies cooperate in sharing information through NMISCs;

.3   The Friends of the DCoC cooperate in sharing information, including, where appropriate, through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) established with NMISCs and regional centres; and

.4   Analysis of incidents by regional centres distinguishes patterns in illicit maritime activities and supports disruption of maritime crime by guiding regional policy decision".

Aims and Objectives

6   The aim of the workshop was to bring together National MDA leads/Managers of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) from all the participating States and subject matter experts to work together in developing SOPs that can be used by all the participating States in operating their Regional and National Maritime Information Sharing Centres.

7   The workshop was designed to follow up on the resolutions of the Jeddah High-level Meeting with a specific focus on the development of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) in order to promote interoperability and develop a regional network that is fit for purpose. The workshop was also intended to crystalise the need for a whole-of-government approach to effectively develop the NMISCs, as well as examine how regional and international cooperation can enhance the effectiveness of responses.

8   The overall objective of this activity is to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden through the operationalization of the DCoC Information Sharing Network.

9   The outcomes of the workshop will be presented at the next high-level meeting to be held in Cape Town from 24 to 26 October 2023 for endorsement and implementation.

Content

10   The meeting was opened by the Rear Admiral Naji Al-Juhani the Commandant of the Jeddah Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies. The meeting was closed by Major General Muhammad Abdullah Al-Shehri, Director General of the Border Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who [congratulated the participants for the excellent outcomes.]

11   The workshop built on preceding DCoC events and work. Facilitators and resource persons from Ghana (Regional Maritime University), India (MEA and Navy), United Kingdom (JMSC), RMIFC Madagascar, IMO (MED), UNODC Maritime Crime Programme, European Union (CRIMARIO 2), INTERPORTPOLICE and the Allen Institute for AI highlighted and promoted information sharing networks and methodologies. The United States Coast Guard, IFC-IOR and INTERPOL Maritime Security Unit added value through remote presentations. The lectures and exercises were supplemented by a visit to the Jeddah Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (JMRCC).

12   The workshop comprised formal lectures, tabletop exercises, group discussions, group presentations, homework assignments and the site visit. Copies of the slides and supporting documentation were supplied to all attendees of the workshop.

13   A copy of the workshop programme is attached [annex 2].

Observations and Analysis

14   The attendees were engaged and actively participated throughout the workshop.

15   Concepts discussed during the workshop included:

- Who, what, where, when, why, what can I do about it, what am I going to do about it, and how?
- Jeddah High-level Meeting, resolution 1 as a basis for the work to be done;
- Whole of government approach;
- Cooperation, coordination, and communication;
- Requirement for a national maritime security coordinator and robust inter agency cooperation within country;
- Maritime strategy including maritime development and blue economy, underpinned by maritime security strategy ("Ends, ways, means");
- Maritime security as an enabler for maritime development (see Jeddah High-level Meeting, resolution 2;
- Target, Analyse, Respond and Exchange for MDA;
- Community engagement programmes work (Usalama Baharini in Kenya / SeeSayAct (INTERPORTPOLICE));
- Need to build trust;
- Need for standardisation of definitions, forms for incident reporting, requests for information etc;
- Need to develop and implement legislation;
- Need to exchange information on legislation;
- Women in security (SDG5);
- The Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic 1965;
- Challenges for land-linked countries;
- Practical challenges (electricity supply, Internet access, lack of qualified personnel
- Joint patrols;
- "You can't control what you can't patrol".
- New and emerging threats to maritime security (underwater threats to cables and pipelines, cyber, drones, submersibles, etc);
- Analysis requires collaboration;
- Need to produce actionable information;
- Periodic review of strategies and procedures;
- Protocols for information sharing;
- Feedback loops
- Reports and analysis tailored for target audiences;
- "Battle rhythms"
- Use of "quick reaction cards"
- Distinction between roles of NMISC and NMSC;
- Use of outside resources e.g. INTERPOL, UN Country Teams, GISIS, RMFOs etc;
- Observe, Orient, Decide, Act (the "OODA loop");
- Communication is a two-way process;
- Data fusion (NMISC) vs Information Fusion (regional ISC or IFC)
- Comprehensive maritime picture (CMP) and common operational picture (COP)
- Requirement for high tech in development of MDA;
- Pillars of international maritime cooperation: information sharing, capability and

capacity building, operational coordination, and public messaging;

- Need for both capability and capacity building; and
- Need for free text boxes in reporting forms as not all information fits neat classification.

16   The workshop considered the structure of the SOP, recommended by India, and agreed that it should be:

1. MDA an overview. Regional perspective
2. Vision and Mission. Roles and tasks of NMSC and NMISCs
3. Organisational structure and ISN architecture
4. Categorisation of Illicit maritime activities and definitions.
5. National VOI lexicon
6. Data fusion procedures.
7. Analysis and reporting procedures
8. Daily battle rhythm.
9. Appendices- forms for RFI, REPORTING ETC.

17   Noting that South Africa was in process of acceding to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL) 1965 and that nine other DCoC signatory States were not parties to the FAL Convention, an additional presentation highlighting the aims, content and tools associated with the FAL Convention was given to participants.

Outcomes

18   The workshop agreed mission and vision statements for NMISCs:

Mission:

The multiagency National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC) shall collect, analyse, and share maritime safety and security information in order to enhance maritime domain awareness and understanding. This will empower national maritime stakeholders and facilitate inter-agency cooperation to ensure safety, security, and economic prosperity in the maritime domain.

Vision:

1. *All national agencies with responsibility for aspects of maritime security actively collaborate and engage in seamless information sharing through the NMISC.*

2.   *The NMISC actively facilitates inter-agency coordination, cooperation and communication and supports the implementation of the National Maritime Security and Facilitation Committee's policies through information exchange and the adoption of best practice.*

3.   *The NMISC facilitates effective operational responses through the timely provision of accurate, actionable information to entities responsible for exercising direct command and control over maritime assets.*

4.   *Through the full realization of its mission, the NMISC acts as the national focal*

point for international/regional information sharing and cooperation.

5.   The NMISC achieves its mission through ensuring the highest standards of integrity, proactivity, professional training, and motivation of its staff, supported by competent managers and effective equipment.

19   The workshop significantly progressed the work to develop SOPs for NMISCs. The draft SOPs are a work in progress. They will be further developed through correspondence with signatory States that were unable to participate in the workshop, experience gained in workshops and training events organized by resource personnel and will be revisited at the upcoming DCoC Maritime Information Sharing Workshop in India from 14 to 16 September 2023.

20   The workshop agreed that any SOP developed should be tested and reviewed before being adopted.

21   Key areas for further development include: finalising on the areas with no information, learning and picking best practises from the upcoming Maritime Information Sharing Workshop in India in September 2023 and the IORIS DCOC Workshop to be held in Kenya in October 2023 where these SOPS will be tested for effectiveness.

22 The draft SOPs can be found on this link: https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DRAFT-SOPs-for-DCoC-Information-Sharing-Network.pdf

Conclusion

23   The workshop was designed to focus on practical improvements to the DCoC Information Sharing Network, specifically through the development of SOPs for NMISCs. For these draft SOPs to be fully effective, they will need to be adopted, used, and adjusted in the face of shared experience. They are living documents and must continue to evolve.

24   The participants thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for generously hosting and sponsoring the meeting, the IMO Secretariat for their administrative support, and the external speakers, observers, and resource persons for informing and facilitating the meeting.

Chris Trelawny
Deputy Secretary-General
INTERPORTPOLICE

Annexes:

1   Participants List

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Participants- DCoC Re

2   Agenda

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