



FRIENDS OF THE DCoC/JA MEETING NO. 6

Virtual via Teams

Tuesday 17 September 2025

Record of the Meeting

1. The Djibouti Code of Conduct (hereinafter referred to as DCoC/JA), facilitated a meeting of the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (FoDCoC,) on behalf of signatory States to the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Djibouti Code of Conduct), (hereinafter referred to as "the Jeddah Amendment"), and States eligible to sign these instruments.

2. The meeting was attended by the following DCoC Steering Committee members:

COMOROS MAURITIUS SOMALIA YEMEN

And by the following Implementing partner States:

AUSTRALIA CANADA DENMARK INDIA

JAPAN NETHERLANDS UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

And by the following International Organizations and Programmes:

RMIFC RCOG IGAD IFC-IOR

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES CRIMARIO EUCAP SOMALIA

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EUROPEAN UNION IMO IOC

INTERPOL ISS SKYLIGHT

UKMTO UNITAR USAFRICOM

The following were absent with apologies:

SEYCHELLES SOUTH AFRICA EUNAVFOR ASPIDES

The full list of participants is attached as **ANNEX A**.

Aim

3. The meeting aimed to review progress in the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) and to reaffirm joint efforts to strengthen regional cooperation on maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Discussions focused on the establishment of Working Group 3 on Operational Coordination and Cooperation at Sea, the development of the DCoC Engagement Strategy, and enhancement of the Capacity Building Matrix and website. Participants also reviewed progress on regional projects funded by the European Union and Denmark, the Vessels of Interest Database, and support for National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs), while aligning partner-led activities with preparations for the 8th High-Level Meeting (HLM) in Mauritius in November 2025. The agenda is attached as at **ANNEX B**.

Opening Remarks with Working Group Updates

4. After the introductions, Ms. Winnie Maina shared the opening remarks of the DCoC Chair, Mr. Metse Ralephenya (RSA), who was absent with apologies. Between July and September, an IMO consultant, supported by the Secretariat, engaged in a series of consultations and assessments aimed at deepening collaboration with partners. These engagements included visits to Bahrain and Egypt, as well as virtual meetings with the African Union Commission, United States Africa Command, India, and representatives of the shipping industry. Conducted under the EU's Safe Seas for Africa project, these exchanges provided valuable insights into current successes, remaining gaps, and opportunities for better alignment of collective efforts. The findings will inform the development of a stronger Engagement Strategy to bring regional and international actors into closer cooperation to address threats to safe navigation.

5. Earlier this month, another milestone was achieved with the formal establishment of Working Group 3 (WG3) in Mombasa. Hosted by the Kenya Navy and jointly organized with the IMO, and supported by Denmark, UNITAR, and the Indian Ocean Commission, the meeting provided a dedicated forum for operational coordination and cooperation at sea. WG3 will be responsible for planning joint maritime operations, improving information sharing, and driving capacity-building efforts against piracy, maritime terrorism, smuggling, human trafficking, and IUU fishing. The workshop concluded with the adoption of four outcomes: Terms of Reference, a Concept of Operations, a phased Roadmap, and a resource mobilization framework.

6. Progress has also been noted in the push towards the establishment of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) in Mauritius, Comoros, and Kenya, with targeted support from India. Kenya, in particular, has benefited from a national workshop facilitated by the IMO which brought together key stakeholders to assess existing structures and design a roadmap for the operationalization of its multi-agency centre. Similarly, Tanzania convened a national workshop in August 2025, which produced a roadmap outlining institutional, legal, and operational frameworks. At the regional level, integration with the MASE centres in Madagascar and Seychelles is advancing, alongside efforts by UNODC to re-establish the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Aden. The remarks are attached as at **ANNEX C**.

Overview of Projects: Proposed Danish Project

7. Mr. Micheni (IMO) thanked participants for their time and support, noting that the meeting was timely given recent developments within the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC). Referring to the Chair's report and the outcome of Working Group 3 in Mombasa, he explained that the final report had been shared with participants for input and had received wide media coverage. He described the meeting as a major success, welcomed by both international

partners and regional states, and said it could be a game changer in improving coordination against shared maritime threats.

8. He emphasized that the DCoC had evolved beyond being an IMO-only initiative and now required strong collaboration with partners such as UNODC, INTERPOL, UNITAR, and the Indian Ocean Commission. Looking ahead to the upcoming High-Level Meeting, he underscored the importance of working more closely together to determine future priorities. He also expressed appreciation to the EU for its support through two major initiatives—the Safe Seas for Africa project and the newly launched Crisis Response Project—implemented jointly with UNODC, INTERPOL, and CRIMARIO.

9. Providing an update on progress, Mr. Micheni explained that the Safe Seas for Africa project had already produced impetus, including successful workshops in Kenya that developed a roadmap for its National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC). He noted support from partners such as India and the U.S. for Kenya and Tanzania respectively, with the Crisis Response Project expected to help standardize centres through common SOPs and improved connectivity. He concluded by stressing the importance of developing a DCoC Engagement Strategy and invited Mr. Chris Trelawny (IMO consultant) to provide an update on its objectives and findings.

10. Mr. Trelawny explained that consultations had been held with partners including CMF, EU NAVFOR, AFRICOM, India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, the AU, the Royal Navy, and industry. The fact-finding phase focused on identifying best practices to inform the DCoC Engagement Strategy, which will operate nationally through inter-agency cooperation, regionally among signatory states, and internationally with naval forces and regional bodies. Building on the work of Working Group 3, the strategy will also strengthen civil-military and industry engagement. The findings will be consolidated into a proposal for the High-Level Meeting in Mauritius, with lessons from a parallel information-sharing workshop also incorporated.

DCoC Website/Members Only Portal upgrades

11. Ms. Esther Njonde (IMO) sampled the planned enhancements to the DCoC website and the Members-Only portal, which will be funded under the Safe Seas Africa (SSA) programme. She introduced participants to sample features such as a request management board, reports and progress tracking features on the Assistance Matrix (formerly Capacity Building Matrix) as well as detailing the website redesign, improved content management, enhanced event registration features, automated chat functions and accessibility features, for differently abled users. The sample prototypes are provided as **ANNEX D**.

Plenary (All)

12. Commodore Nitin Parvataneni (MEA, India) welcomed the progress on the Assistance Matrix, noting the collective effort to refine its format and make the methodology faster and more efficient. He recommended consistently calling it the “Assistance Matrix” rather than the “Capacity Building Matrix,” since capacity building is only one of several pillars. He proposed that the main pillars should include information sharing, capability development, capacity building, operational coordination, and public messaging, with technical cooperation placed as a sub-pillar under these categories rather than as a standalone pillar.

13. He further suggested that once a request is approved between a requesting and assisting state, it should automatically be removed from the main grid to avoid confusion and keep the system transparent and easy to navigate. Finally, he proposed introducing auto-updates: once assistance is approved, an automated email should be sent to the relevant focal points and the request removed from the grid. This, he noted, would speed up the process and allow partners to quickly identify open areas for support.

14. Overall, he expressed appreciation for the inclusion of legal frameworks as a pillar, recognized the improvements made so far, and noted that refinements could continue to be discussed as the system evolves.

15. Mr. Timothy Walker noted that giving the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) access to the platform would improve visibility and enable them to provide more efficient capacity-building support.

16. The Secretariat informed partners that Working Group 3 on Operational Coordination and Cooperation at sea would focus on building cohesion through meetings, exercises, and strengthened partnerships, potentially supported by MOUs. Existing regional initiatives, such as CUTLASS Express and ongoing training programs, could be tailored to align with the group's objectives.

17. The plan envisions capacity building and pilot operations in the second year, progressing to full operationalization by the third year, followed by consolidation and sustainability. Kenya was elected as the inaugural chair of WG3, with Djibouti serving as deputy chair.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

18. Having heard the discussions and presentations, the adopted the summary of the discussion and way forward as follows:

- .1 The Secretariat would share the access details with ISS and upgrade its profile (and existing accounts that have no profiles) once Website/microsite enhancements were complete.
- .2 It was proposed to hold the next in-person WG3 meeting on the margins of the upcoming High-Level Meeting, with preliminary sessions involving regional and international navies, as well as law enforcement agencies, to foster coordination.
- .3 The meeting emphasized the importance of each participating entity nominating a point of contact for smoother communication.
- .4 Cdr. Paolo Margadonna (EUCAP SOMALIA) queried whether the terms of reference for Working Group 3 provided clarity on how coordination meetings should take place, particularly given that some of the information to be shared could be sensitive. The matter had not been discussed, as it was up to the Member States to decide what information could be shared, what could not, and how engagement should take place.
- .5 The meeting was informed that the final report on WG3 would soon be shared, and participants were encouraged to align their capacity-building programs with the initiative. Additionally, further clarity would come during the High-Level Meeting in Mauritius, where WG3's way forward would be a key agenda item, including panel discussions and legal considerations under review with UNODC.

6. The Secretariat concluded by inviting partners to suggest topics for inclusion in the High-Level Meeting agenda and encouraged them to volunteer as speakers or moderators. It has been confirmed that the meeting will take place in Mauritius from 12–14 November 2025, with details on the venue to follow.
7. CRIMARIO and the Kingdom of Denmark reaffirmed their commitment to support the region through the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct – Jeddah Amendment.

Vote of thanks:

29. Mr. Kiruja Micheni appreciated the Friends of the DCoC for their commitment and continued support for the work of the DCoC.

30. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1442 hours EAT.

ANNEX A- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Country/Organization
1.	Anfifdine Ali Tohir	Comoros
2.	Kaviraj Bissessur	Mauritius
3.	Capt. Daniel Adam	Seychelles (Absent with apologies)
4.	Yonis Adan	Somalia
5.	Metse Ralephenya	South Africa (Absent with apologies)
6.	CMDR Andy Clowes (CMF)	Australia
7.	Stuart Smith	
8.	Martin Cauchi-Inglott	CRIMARIO
9.	Amb. Nicholai Ruge	Denmark
10.	Cdr. Paolo Margadonna	EUCAP SOMALIA
11.	Cdr. Massimo Spitale	EUNAVFOR ATALANTA
12.		
13.		
14.	Dr. Michelle Stallone	European Union
15.	Antoine Hanin	
16.	Helen Tesfaye	IGAD
17.	Commodore Nitin Parvataneni, MEA	India

18.	Group Capt Srihari S Vemparala, MoD/DoD/IC Wing	
19.	Commander Ashwath Mythreya, NSCS	
20.	Commander Vikram Chokker, Indian Navy	
21.	Commander Vivek Khajuria, Indian Navy (DNO)	
22.	LCDR Herve Licata	EUNAVFOR ASPIDES (absent with apologies)
23.	Maria Kotsovou	INTERPOL
24.	Raj Mohabeer	Indian Ocean Commission
25.	Hassani Ahamada Soilihi	
26.	Chris Trelawny	INTERPORTPOLICE
27.	Timothy Walker	ISS
28.	Dr. Daniela Marggraff	
29.	Denys Reva	
30.	Cdr. Kawashima Keiko	Japan
31.	Capt. Sam Gontier	RCOC
32.	Capt. Alex Ralaivarivony	RMIFC
33.	Theo Girard	Skylight
34.	Sascha Weh	UNITAR
35.	Richard John Morris, Royal Navy	United Kingdom
36.	Delvin D. W. Jones	United States of America
37.	Sankar, Parvathy	
38.	CDR Marquesio Robinson	USAFRICOM
39.	Kiruja Micheni	IMO
40.	Winnie Maina	
41.	Esther Kung'u (Njonde)	

ANNEX B - Agenda

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Friends-of-the-DCoC-Meeting-held-on-Teams-on-17-September-2025.pdf>

ANNEX C - Opening Remarks by the DCoC Chair Mr. Metse Ralephenya, delivered by Ms. Winnie Maina (IMO)

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-of-the-DCoC-Chair-Friends-of-the-DCoC-held-on-Teams-on-17-September-2025.pdf>

ANNEX D – Website and Members Only Portal Upgrade – Sample Prototype presented by the Secretariat (created by Byte City Inclusive Solutions Ltd)

DCoC Website: <https://main.d2im0dpm6m4ghe.amplifyapp.com/>

DCoC Members' Only Portal (Main page):

<https://main.d2im0dpm6m4ghe.amplifyapp.com/member-login>
