

Global strategy for maritime security 2025-2028

Summary



Introduction

Denmark is a small country, but a leading global maritime nation. Any absence of maritime security poses a serious threat to Danish interests, including ships and crews. Additionally, threats to the right to freedom of navigation increasingly impact broader global concerns such as economic growth and energy supply.

Global Strategy for Maritime Security 2025-2028 sets the direction for and ensures a coordinated Danish effort for global maritime security. It aims to integrate Denmark's instruments and efforts to counter threats to the freedom of navigation effectively. The strategy replaces earlier position papers on maritime security that primarily focused on piracy. It reflects the priority given to addressing the new and emerging challenges to freedom of navigation, including from state-sponsored actors, like the Houthis.

The strategy was developed collaboratively by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Industry, Business, and Financial Affairs, and was formulated in consultation with the maritime sector and research institutions.

A contact group consisting of representatives from authorities, the maritime sector and research institutions, will take stock of the implementation of the strategy and may propose adjustment

Principles and focus

The strategy has three core principles based on Denmark's Foreign and Security Policy Strategy:

1. [Protect Danish maritime interests and help companies navigate in an increasingly complex geopolitical reality](#)

- Shipping and the maritime industry play a key role as a value creator and growth engine for the Danish economy.

2. [Safeguard the rules-based world order and compliance with international law](#)

- The UN Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) is under pressure, and state-sponsored private actors have emerged as a new threat to international shipping.

3. [Promote multilateralism and international and regional cooperation to strengthen maritime security](#)

- International fora addressing threats to maritime security, including NATO, the EU and the UN, including the International Maritime Organization, IMO, play an increasingly important role in protecting maritime security.

The strategy focuses on international maritime security challenges *outside* Denmark's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, and only on maritime infrastructure (such as pipelines and power and data cables), when it intersects with threats toward the freedom of navigation.

strategic focus areas

The concrete efforts are focused on three strategic areas:

A) activities at sea

Since the abolition of the Danish EU defence opt-out in 2022, Denmark has been able to fully participate in European cooperation on defence and security, including in the maritime domain. Denmark will play an active role in EU's development as a maritime security provider through participation in EU maritime operations and initiatives, such as ASPIDES in the Red Sea. Furthermore, Denmark will contribute to EU efforts to secure EU's maritime borders, including through FRONTEX.

NATO's naval forces ensure a credible maritime capability that can be deployed in crisis situations, and Denmark will continue supporting NATO's maritime security efforts. Furthermore, Denmark will in addition to existing deployments, deploy a staff officer to the US Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) from 2025.

Experience shows that shipping companies' own security measures – such as safe rooms and armed guards – are crucial. Denmark will work to ensure their right to implement such measures.

B) partnerships on information sharing and effective monitoring of the maritime domain

Monitoring of the maritime domain - *Maritime Domain Awareness* - is key to identifying threats and enabling proactive responses. Denmark will actively support measures to strengthen maritime domain awareness and increase information sharing by engaging in international and regional fora. Denmark supports the EU becoming a leader in monitoring the maritime domain.

Denmark remains committed to ReCAAP for monitoring maritime crime in Asia and supports regional information-sharing initiatives in Africa, including the Yaoundé architecture in the Gulf of Guinea and the Djibouti Code of Conduct for the East Coast of the continent. Denmark also backs international networks developed by EU, like YARIS and IORIS, as well as the efforts of EMSA and EDA to improve maritime domain awareness through CISE and MARSUR, respectively.

Denmark will, where possible, promote enhanced public-private cooperation in monitoring and information sharing of the maritime domain.

C) capacity building and international cooperation

Denmark will target land-based initiatives addressing root causes of maritime insecurity, such as poverty and weak institutions. Denmark will work to enable coastal developing states to prosecute maritime crimes.

Denmark aims to strengthen the EU's role as Africa's preferred maritime security partner and support sustainable "blue" economies, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea and off the Horn of Africa. Denmark will continue to strengthen regional capacity in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia, including education and training, to enhance Maritime Security awareness and strengthen Maritime Law Enforcement. Denmark will also support a stronger cooperation between regional states.

As an elected UN Security Council member 2025-2026, Denmark will promote the Council's work on maritime security and strive to ensure that UNCLOS remains the central legal basis for maritime activities. Denmark will follow up on resolution 2634 on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and resolutions 2722 and 2739 from 2024 on armed attacks in the Red Sea. As part of the

implementation of Resolution 1325, Denmark will support national and regional frameworks that enhance women's participation in maritime security.