



Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC)

Changing Regional Maritime
Security Dynamics
Implications for DCoC/JA
Member States

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MISW

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Setting the scene...A region in transition

- 2009: DCoC established amid crisis of Somali-based piracy.
- Sea lanes were dangerous; economies and seafarers were at risk.
- DCoC created a cooperative framework for regional coordination and information sharing.
- Piracy suppressed; coordination deepened.
- But: Maritime security is *never static*.

A changing threat environment demands evolving cooperation.

Quote:

“Our collective response must be rooted in prevention, constant vigilance, innovation, and continuously strengthened regional and international cooperation ... Maritime security is a shared responsibility.”

— IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez

From International Dominance to Regional Ownership

- A decade ago, the maritime-security agenda was dominated by international actors.
- CGPCS: Largely led by non-regional actors until it was wound up.
- SHADE and CMF still have limited regional participation.
- **Greater regional involvement = stronger and more sustainable outcomes.**

Transformation of Regional Leadership

- Shift from sea blindness to sea consciousness.
- Regional states now *lead and shape* maritime policy and action.
- National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) and Committees (NMSCs) established.
- Ownership and leadership now central to DCoC/JA's identity.

Evolving threats in Maritime Security

New challenges include:

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Trafficking of arms, narcotics, and people.
- Marine pollution and oil spills.
- Terrorist and hybrid threats.
- Cyber and technological vulnerabilities.

Quote:

“In this turbulent era of fluid alignments and fused challenges, maritime security can no longer be viewed through the narrow prism of threat containment. A truly holistic approach must integrate deterrence, governance, law enforcement, environmental stewardship and humanitarian response into a single continuum of purpose.”

— Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Indian Navy

Responding to New Realities

The Jeddah Amendment (2017) broadened DCoC beyond piracy:

- Now includes environmental protection, blue economy, and maritime governance.
- Promotes whole-of-government and whole-of-region approaches.
- Strengthens collaboration among navies, coast guards, law-enforcement agencies, maritime administrations and industry.

Working Group 3; Strategy to Action

Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea

- Transition from strategy to action.
- Enables joint operations, patrols, and real-time information exchange.
- Enhances legal finish through judicial cooperation.

Priorities:

- Concept of Operations and SOPs.
- Exercise calendar and interoperability.
- Links with regional and international partners.

Partnerships – The Role of India and Other Observers

- India's **SAGAR** vision: *Security and Growth for All in the Region*.
- Support through IFC-IOR, joint exercises, and training.
- Collaboration with DCoC/JA through the Friends of DCoC forum.
- Observer partnerships enhance interoperability and shared awareness.

Conclusion – Shared Seas, Shared Responsibility

- DCoC/JA has matured from crisis response to sustainable regional cooperation.
- Our progress against piracy shows that collective action works.
- Extend that success to all maritime threats.
- **Quote:** *“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” — U.S. President Harry S. Truman*
- **Closing Message:**
Let this spirit of shared purpose and humility guide our collaboration toward a secure, safe, and prosperous Western Indian Ocean.

Thank you!

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