



## **Inaugural Workshop on the Establishment of the DCoC Working Group 3 On Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea,**

**Serena Beach Resort & Spa, Mombasa, Kenya  
1-4 September 2025**

**Opening Remarks by  
Mr. Sascha Weh,  
Chief of UNITAR's Division for Peace office in Brussels,**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends,

It is a great honour to open this inaugural meeting of the Djibouti Code of Conduct Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea. On behalf of UNITAR, let me first thank the Government of Kenya for hosting us here in Mombasa, and acknowledge our close partners—the International Maritime Organization, the DCoC Secretariat, Kingdom of Denmark, and all signatory and partner states.

This Working Group was mandated at the High-Level Meeting in Dar es Salaam last year. Its establishment marks an important step in implementing the Jeddah Amendments: moving from frameworks and commitments towards practical cooperation at sea. Many of you have already shown that joint patrols, exercises, and national initiatives are possible. WG3 now offers a platform to consolidate these efforts and make them regional.

For UNITAR, the importance of this Working Group is clear:  
It builds the operational capacities of coastguards, navies, and civilian authorities together—bridging the civil–military divide.

It strengthens information-sharing—linking national focal points, regional centres such in Seychelles and Madagascar, and international partners including CMF and INTERPOL.

It connects training and mentorship with operational cooperation. Through UNOSAT, UNITAR has already supported states in using satellite imagery and vessel monitoring. WG3 allows such tools to be embedded in joint operations and exercises.

The maritime domain of the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden remains vital for global trade and regional stability. Piracy incidents may have declined, but renewed attacks in the Red Sea, illegal fishing, smuggling, and environmental risks show us that instability at sea quickly becomes instability on land. Safeguarding maritime trade routes is about protecting economies, food security, and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

WG3 offers the opportunity to develop a Concept of Operations, clear Terms of Reference, and a realistic Roadmap. These will guide joint patrols, search-and-rescue, incident management, and responses to disasters or crises.

UNITAR does not command fleets. What we bring is training, technical expertise, and inclusive capacity building. Our role is to ensure that all states—large and small—can access the tools and skills to contribute to maritime security, and that women professionals are fully included in training and operations.

As we begin our work this week, I assure you that UNITAR stands ready to support WG3 in close partnership with IMO, the DCoC Secretariat, and all of you. We can deliver training modules, simulation exercises, and UNOSAT satellite imagery and analysis expertise. We can assist in developing needs assessments and priority lists, so that donor support is aligned with regional realities. And we can help communicate your successes, strengthening ownership of the DCoC process.

In closing, let me emphasize three points:

- .1 Be ambitious but realistic—focus on tangible operational outputs.
- .2 Build trust across agencies and borders—WG3 must be a space where information and responsibility are shared.
- .3 Ensure ownership—this Working Group belongs to the signatory states; partners are here to support, not to substitute.

Together, we can turn commitments into action and make WG3 a cornerstone of maritime security cooperation.

Thank you.