



High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCoC/JA,

Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024

Opening Remarks for H.E Mr. Steen Sonne Andersen

Danish Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia

- Thank you for invitation, honoured to be among so many experts and champions of maritime security
- Danish ambassador to Somalia – and responsible for Danish Regional Peace and Stabilization Program covering Horn of Africa
- Good to be back in Tanzania, spent 4 years in Dar es Salaam as Deputy Amb
- Danish Stabilization program includes a focus on maritime security – we work closely with Kenya Navy, and with UNODC, under this focus
- Strong interest in cutting of financing sources of Al-Shabaab in Somalia – interventions on sea and on land (smuggling, piracy)
- Global level – Denmark a major shipping nation, we have a deep interest in free and safe navigation of the seas, and secure trade and shipping routes – including the Red Sea and Bay of Aden
- Already by the start of DCOC we were, consequently, a significant partner and donor of DCOC
- New Danish Africa Strategy – Africa’s Century – includes a priority on equal partnerships with African countries, and mutually beneficial trade and investment in economic growth of the continent – maritime security a part of this focus
- UN Security Council – Denmark will take its seat as elected member in Jan 2025 (2025-26) – incidentally together with Somalia from this region. Naturally an even stronger focus on security policy, not least in Africa, and contribution to implementation of UNSC resolutions, also on maritime security
- DK deeply concerned over current threat picture and attacks against shipping in the Red Sea. Also, given the increasing number of piracy attacks on shipping off coast of Somalia, we have together with EU funded a deeper look and analysis of factors behind this – Dr. Katja Jacobsen will present findings later today.
- DCOC – regional responsibility, and solutions, to regional maritime challenges. We are fortunate to have existing mechanisms like DCOC, given worsening threat picture in region.
- Naturally, threats to maritime security are not addressed only at sea, need integrated approaches with interventions on land addressing root causes, and incentive structures
- Special thanks to IMO SG for being here, clearly demonstrating that regional challenges are taken very seriously.
- Looking forward to learn a lot from the discussions today – thank you!