



## **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**

**Intervention of Mr. Raj Mohabeer  
Officer In Charge, General Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Commission**

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me, representing the Indian Ocean Commission to participate at this inaugural workshop on the establishment of Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea.

I wish to recognize the presence of the DCoC/JA National Focal Points, as well as Chiefs of Navies, and/or Coast Guards, amongst whom, I am also happy to be accompanied by the Directors of the RMIFC and RCOC, the two executive arms of the Regional Maritime Security Architecture. I recognise those who are IOC interlocutors. I also wish to recognize and thank all the partners present which includes the IMO ACSS, Denmark, India, Combined Maritime Forces, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, INTERPOL, India's Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar, Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles, UNITAR, UNODC, and the EU CRIMARIO project.

The IOC and the RMSA have been participating in DCOC work as observer since 2018. This has helped a lot to understand the work of the DCoC and at the same time, it is indeed a recognition of our work relating to the operationalization of the Western Indian Ocean Regional Maritime Security Architecture.

I think there is wide recognition and concern on possible duplication and overlapping efforts in the Western Indian Ocean due to the presence of many players and programmes. On top of collaborating within the DCOC Working Group One on Information Sharing and Capacity Building, inclusive of the newly formed thematic areas, we wish to extend on further strengthening our collaboration with the regional RMSA Centers (the RCOC and the RMIFC-) linked fully with the DCoC ISN.

In fact, the process currently being initiated under the DCoC Working Group 3 is similar to what has been initiated already within the Regional Maritime Security Architecture. Given that six of the signatory States of DCoC/JA are also signatories of the RMSA, we strongly believe that we should continue to share our experiences and work closely with DCoC/JA in order to avoid duplication, ensure coherence and maximize from the resources made available to us. It is indeed very encouraging that we have a common funding agency – the EU particularly is our main partner. The IOC together with the INTERPOL and UNODC is implementing the EU Safe Seas Africa Programme which includes a component with the IMO as the implementing agency. All the activities will contribute to the implementation of the DCOC/JA objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that this very first meeting of the DCoC will help to lay the foundation for actions at sea in the entire maritime zone of the Western Indian Ocean. By working together

we should be identifying vessels of interest and inspect them, thus establish a level of deterrence against any illicit maritime crime and promote the development of BE.