



DCoC/JA Friends of the DCoC 6 Meeting

Virtual via Teams

Tuesday, 18 March 2025

Meeting Notes of the DCoC Chair - Friends of the DCoC Meeting

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this important gathering of the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (FoDCoC). Your unwavering support and commitment to strengthening maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden since the signing of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) and its Jeddah Amendment remain invaluable. Through our collective efforts, we continue to enhance regional cooperation, safeguard critical trade routes, and protect the livelihoods of those who depend on the maritime domain.

Advancing Information Sharing and Coordination

Member States of the DCoC are actively developing a Program of Action to implement the resolutions and recommendations from the last High-Level Meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in November 2024. As we move forward, we urge our implementing partners to continue supporting these efforts.

Significant progress has been made in establishing National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) to enhance national and regional coordination through standardized Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). We acknowledge and appreciate India's valuable support in assisting Mauritius, Comoros, and Kenya in this initiative. Furthermore, the integration of NMISCs with the MASE centers—including RMIFC (Madagascar) and RCOC (Seychelles)—has been approved, reinforcing regional collaboration.

Efforts to re-establish the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC) in Aden are progressing, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) providing communication equipment under the Crisis Response Program. Additionally, Yemen will benefit from national workshops and mentorship programs led by RMIFC. Under the Safe Seas for Africa project, we are set to develop a DCoC Engagement Strategy to strengthen communication between states and partners. The domestication of SOPs will further support the newly formed Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at

Sea, a key outcome of last year's High-Level Meeting. We will be receiving updates on these projects shortly.

In this regard, and pursuant to Resolution 1 of the DCoC High-Level Meeting (Dar es Salaam 2024) on the establishment of Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea, the DCoC has made arrangements to organize the inaugural meeting of the working group in Mombasa from 5 to 8 May 2025. We extend our sincere appreciation to Denmark, UNITAR, IMO, and IOC for their invaluable support in making this possible.

To enhance regional collaboration, DCoC is set to deploy a regional International Liaison Officer (ILO) from Kenya, in partnership with the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC IOR), to improve information-sharing efficiency. Additionally, Member States have proposed establishing a regional database of Vessels of Interest (VOI) within the IORIS platform, which has been positively received within the DCoC Information Sharing Network.

On security developments in the Red Sea, the recent ceasefire by Hamas has temporarily reduced attacks on shipping. We remain vigilant and continue to assess the evolving security landscape.

Strengthening Capacity Building Initiatives

The activation of the priority three Thematic Sub-Working Groups under Working Group 2 (WG2) on Capacity Building Coordination remains a top priority. Three key areas have been identified for immediate focus:

- IUU Fishing – Led by Tanzania
- Port and Ship Security/Protection of Critical Coastal Installations – Led by Ethiopia
- Marine Environment Protection – Led by Mauritius

To ensure the effectiveness of these initiatives, we must identify subject matter leads to support National Focal Points (NFPs) and align efforts with ongoing programs led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other partners. Additionally, the development of concept papers defining guidelines, Terms of Reference (TORs), key partners, and areas for support will be crucial. We call upon the FoDCoC with subject matter expertise on those areas to support by taking lead in supporting the initiatives.

Enhancements to the Members Only portal and the DCoC website are planned, including the integration of a project monitoring tool to measure the impact of capacity-building initiatives. India has proposed reorganizing the Capacity Building Matrix to categorize activities under capability development, capacity building, and operational coordination—ensuring a more structured approach to human resources, assets, and the work of WG3.

The IMO Secretary-General has emphasized the importance of delivering tangible results through regionally executed projects. Beyond training sessions and meetings, these efforts must translate into direct benefits for grassroots communities. Ongoing capacity-building projects under the Safe Seas for Africa initiative, the Crisis Response program, and Danish-funded initiatives continue to build on the successes of the Port Security and Red Sea projects.

At the last High-Level Meeting, Member States proposed including a catalogue of training activities within the Capacity Building Matrix to enhance coordination with existing and potential partners. This initiative will ensure that our efforts remain strategic, impactful, and aligned with regional priorities.

On 5 March 2025, DCoC/JA National Focal Points (NFPs) held a virtual meeting to set the DCoC agenda for 2025 and beyond. Discussions focused on the implementation of the DCoC/JA, identifying opportunities, and gathering input on upcoming regional projects aimed at enhancing capacities to address maritime security threats.

Earlier, on 20 February 2025, the Steering Committee of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA) met virtually to assess progress on the framework's implementation and to define the strategic direction for 2025. Reports from these meetings have been posted on the DCoC website, and I encourage all Friends of DCoC to read them to stay informed of regional maritime initiatives.

With your continued collaboration and commitment, we can drive meaningful progress, ensuring a more secure and prosperous maritime domain for the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

Thank you.
