



**Eighth High-Level Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the  
Djibouti Code of Conduct**

**Held in the Republic of Mauritius**

**at the Hilton Resort and Spa**

**12 – 14 November 2025**

**Opening Remarks by Chair of Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment**

**Republic of South Africa – Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada**

Thank You Master of Ceremony -

Let me recognize the presence of the Prime Minister, Republic of Mauritius –

Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy & Fisheries - **Hon. Arvin Boolell**

Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles - **H.E. Ambassador Oskar Benedikt**

International Maritime Organization - **Dr. Jose Matheickal**

Indian Ocean Commission - **Mr. Raj Mohabeer**

To Djibouti Code of Conduct Member States, Friends of DCoC, International Partners,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning

What an honour for the Djibouti Code of Conduct Member States, Friends of the DCoC and International Partners to converge at a major interregional arena, a hub for cultural and commercial exchange and a crucial maritime corridor for global trade i.e. The Western Indian Ocean.

It is a pivotal maritime region where security, trade and diplomacy converge. A vital hub for commerce and connectivity that fuel economies across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Some schoolers refer to it as the key theatre in shaping the global geopolitical and geo-economics order. A reference that appears pregnant with opportunities.

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

South Africa is delighted to participate and preside over the 8<sup>th</sup> High-Level meeting on the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct here in Port Louis, Mauritius – The Jewel of the Indian Ocean and of course the nexus for maritime trade routes.

Thanks to the Republic of Mauritius for graciously hosting us;



The High-Level meeting is a significant symposium to fulfil requirements of the Djibouti Code of Code Conduct which requires Member States to engage in order to review the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment.

From the office of the Chair, we encourage all participants to engage in robust and thought-provoking deliberations centred around ensuring safe and secure international seaborne trade. Let us focus on enhancement of maritime security mechanisms to assist the region to develop the Blue Economy capable of creating stable conditions for investment, sustainable economic growth & stability.

In so doing, we will be realising a pledge under Article 3, wherein Member States committed to develop and implement policies and strategies to safeguard maritime trade from all forms of unlawful acts and for the prosperity of the maritime sector.

Lest we forget the fundamental outcome i.e. Tangible Outputs. A plea made by the Secretary-General of the IMO Mr. Arsenio Dominguez during the 7<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the DCoC/JA in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

To the IMO representative, Dr. Jose Matheickal; kindly deliver the message back to the SG that DCoC

- ❖ has heard the plea and it reverberates within all DCoC symposiums;
- ❖ is committed to putting developed instruments into action;
- ❖ will strive to power maritime excellence in Maritime Security - (Strive to ensure implementation of coherent maritime security measures to safeguard maritime trade within the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden)

Because our oceans are our highways of economic development.

- ❖ From the Cape of Good Hope/Storms, the strong winds and currents will not deter us from navigating towards the plea;
- ❖ The coral reefs and beautiful beaches along the Western Indian Ocean will not dissipate our paramount objective to safeguard our maritime corridor (Our collaboration with regional Naval Forces and Coast Guards has reminded us to be always vigilant – “When there is war, we fight for peace and when there is peace, we plan for war”)
- ❖ And most significantly, the on-going attacks on merchant ships along the Gulf of Aden region will not subdue our efforts to develop and deploy customised security measures for safety of vessels and seafarers.

I would like to make take this opportunity to thank the DCoC Secretariat. The engine that connects the region and ensures that there is propulsion. A very lean team with profuse outcomes. Well done for the excellent coordination skills ranging from stakeholder engagements, project proposals, development of 8-Point Action Plan etc. It is quite visible that we need reinforcement within the DCoC Secretariat to ensure sustainability. We applaud your selfless international servanthood Mr. Kiruja Micheni, Ms. Winnie Maina and Ms. Esther Kungu



A heartfelt gratitude to the European Union for sponsoring the 8<sup>th</sup> High-Level meeting on the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct. Surely the deliberations during the HLM will contribute towards strengthened intra-agency, inter-agency, and inter-regional coordination across the Western Indian Ocean for improved maritime governance, enhanced information sharing, and more effective capacity building. It is a great opportunity to have EU support as DCoC commits to deliver tangible outputs.

Last but not least, thanks to the Friends of DCoC and International Partners. Your efforts provide much needed bunkers to ensure that we charter the course towards true north regardless of imminent maritime security threats. We always look forward to your insightful observations and valuable inputs.

As we gather here today, we can lean towards the wisdom of Winston Churchill to guide us “the further backward you can look, the further forward you can see”. A phrase that reminds us of the significance of historical occurrence/outcomes for navigating present and future challenges.

The task before us is to review the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct. Such entails

1. Review work done under Working Group 1 towards enhancement of Information Sharing Network
2. Showcase of developments under Working Group 2 and consensus on ways to advance the work of the thematic sub-groups
3. Review of Working Group 3's Terms of Reference and Concept of Operations for Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea
4. Presentation of the DCoC Engagement Strategy for Integration of national priorities with regional cooperation mechanisms

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let us have a magnificent HLM nestled in the lush fauna and flora along the Pearl of the Indian Ocean. Thanks once more to the Republic of Mauritius, most notably the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy & Fisheries.