



PRESS STATEMENT: URGENT APPEAL FOR ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE AGAINST ESCALATING INCIDENTS OF VESSEL ATTACKS IN THE RED SEA AREA AND RESURGENCE OF PIRACY IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

The Signatory States to the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, also known as the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC), and the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017 (DCoC/JA), express profound concern and frustration regarding the escalation of the security situation in the Red Sea area, which has further been compounded by the resurgence of piracy and armed robbery in the western Indian Ocean.

We are additionally troubled by the situation involving MV Abdullah, a Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier recently hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia, resulting in the abduction of its 23-member crew. This and other recent attacks have prompted concerns regarding the resurgence of the piracy threat originating from Somalia, a matter that some industry stakeholders have been hesitant to acknowledge

It is vital to note that the DCoC supports all efforts by member states in addressing the repercussions of the Red Sea crisis, with a particular focus on supporting the Government of Yemen. The Government of Yemen has consistently sought assistance from the international community to address pressing threats, including the urgent need to prevent the sinking of the UK-owned cargo ship, Rubymar, in the Red Sea on March 2, 2024. Furthermore, we mourn the tragic loss of three crew members and the injury of four others in a missile attack on the MV True Confidence on March 6, 2024, southwest of Aden, Yemen.

While we appreciate the action taken by international naval forces to protect merchant shipping, we stress the need to step up efforts. We therefore reiterate our previous call for increased naval presence and urge regional States with significant naval capability to contribute assets to support operations aimed at safeguarding the lives of seafarers and the protection of the marine environment. India's significant contribution serves as a commendable example.

We commend the tireless efforts of Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in rallying international support and mobilizing resources for the DCoC's [8-point action plan](#). We further commend the SG for his consistent advocacy for the safety and well-being of seafarers navigating the perilous waters of the Red Sea.



In pursuit of long-term solutions, the DCoC welcomes and supports the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in establishing a Red Sea Council. We stand ready to support these endeavors and collaborate in achieving our shared objectives.

The urgent need to support the recognized Government of Yemen and the Somali Government in building the capabilities of their Coast Guard and operationalizing the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC) in Aden cannot be overstated. Once operational, ReMISC will play a key role in contributing to information sharing as an integral part of the DCoC information network, necessary to support international efforts to combat illegal activities at sea.

In conclusion, the Signatory States of the DCoC reiterate their commitment to finding sustainable regional solutions for addressing the security challenges in the Red Sea region. We call upon the international community to join us in these efforts to ensure the safety and security of navigation and the protection of lives at sea.