



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

Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024

Panel 1 - Comments by Commander Ashwath Maithreya

the Republic of India

How Can International Naval Partners Best Support Regional Maritime Security Efforts

1. Any regional effort directed at enhancing maritime security will have to overcome certain challenges. These could include difference in capacities and capabilities amongst the regional partners; access to technology and equipment for surveillance and information sharing; training of personnel especially continuity of training; legal and administrative aspects etc. Further, engagements with other international maritime security constructs operating in the region as well as other national maritime security forces would be necessary for effective outcomes. Overcoming these challenges involves commitment of resources as well as consistent efforts and engagements over relatively long periods of time. International Naval partners can support regional maritime security efforts by helping overcome these challenges.
2. India's peninsular geography has nurtured a natural dependence on the oceans for trade and, lives and livelihoods of our citizens. This along with our expansive maritime zones make maritime security a key national concern and therefore a priority. India is also of the firm belief that the interconnected nature of the maritime medium and its vast expanse makes international cooperation essential for ensuring good order and security. India is committed to be the development partner of choice in the region. Towards this India engages bilaterally with countries of the region as well as through regional fora such as IORA, IONS, BIMSTEC, DCoC-JA etc. Maritime cooperation is an important element of these engagements.
3. In the case of DCoC-JA, India has aimed to support fulfilment of objectives as decided by member states. One of the important lines of effort pertains to information sharing. These include support for formulation of SOPs on Information Sharing, conduct of an Information Sharing Workshop, which will be conducted again in 2025, support for setting up of National Information Sharing Centers in DCoC member states, invite to DCoC-JA for positioning of an ILO in the IFC-IOR etc. The second line of effort was directed at supporting the development of a Regional Maritime Security Strategy. Although, the Indian delegation could not physically participate in the workshop in Jeddah, our online participation contributed toward sharing of experiences and best practices. We sincerely hope that the presentations on the IFC-IOR, Operations in support of Maritime Security in the IOR, as well as, Role and organisation of NMSC were useful for DCoC-JA members to approach the development of the RMSS in a comprehensive manner.



4. India continuously engages bilaterally with DCoC-JA members to support their capacity building efforts. Based on requests by our partners we have shared oceanographic, meteorological and hydrographic capacities, we have shared training capacities and delivered assets to support the national aspirations of our partners.

5. Overall India stands committed to contribute towards maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region and support our partners in their efforts to realize aspirations for a safe, secure and orderly maritime space.

6. Thank you.