Introduction

CRIMARIO is a **capacity building project,** and was established in **2015**

- Support the EU's partner States in the Western Indian Ocean, better govern their maritime zones, because at the end of the day
  - threats and challenges have no borders
  - for trade to flourish
    - sea lines of communication need to be safe and secure.

Over the years, CRIMARIO noted that there was a gap

- **secure connectivity** and **operational coordination** at sea, and this is where we have placed our **focus**
  - developed IORIS info-exchange tool
    - Not an EU tool but an EU-**funded tool**
      - like-minded players in the **Indo-Pacific**
    - Today 100 organisations from 45 countries
      - from across East Africa to Latin America.
        - 15 countries in the DCoC use daily
        - EU member States and Operations
          - Other players: NZ, CMF, industry

- **What would be your take on having NMISCs have common SOPs?**
  - A harmonised approach has many advantages,
    - Essential for exchange of **timely and accurate** information
      - **and facilitating operational coordination.**
        - Especially neighbours
          - have **cross border** operations
          - need to support **one-another**

  - Adoption of common **terminology**
    - We all have **different interpretations** of what words mean
      - **less chances of misinterpreting situations at sea.**
        - **Prioritisation / Categorisation** of targets

  - Common understanding of **how information is to be communicated**
    - What information is to be shared?
      - **4 Ws** most pertinent for tracking vessels of interest
    - What **channels/systems** are to be used?
    - What is the communication plan?
      - What is to be **reported**, when and to whom?

  - Common understanding of how **actions are to be conducted**
    - Coordination of operations
      - Defining Operational **areas**
      - Who is to be delegated **lead** responsibility

- **Where** and **when** assets are going to be deployed
- **Timelines** of operations
- **Weather** considerations

- **Economy of effort in** developing templates
  - Why re-invent the wheel?
    - Vessels of Interest Storyboards
    - Checklist
    - Boarding operations reports
    - Interviewing suspect vessels

- **Sharing of Lessons Learnt**
  - Common approaches allow partners to **compare notes** easily when it comes to sharing information / conducting operations
    - **Lessons learnt can be documented**
      - Archived in an organised manner
        - accessible for all States.
- **Exchange of staff**
  - **Subject to availability of funding**
    - Build trust and confidence in one another
    - Exchange experiences

- **Capacity-building efforts can be harmonised**
  - Training **packaged**
  - **Gaps** easily identified
  - **Donors** can share contributions

- **How will this impact the linkage of the NMISCs to the regional Centres?**
  - Common understanding of terminology, communications procedures and approach should bring a standardised approach to daily business
    - reporting language
    - operational expectations
    - exercise planning and conduct

- **What best practices can you share based on the DCoC/JA Objectives that Signatory States can rely on for the success of information sharing modalities including attaining IOC, using common SOPs amongst others.**
  - States should be able to decide
    - **which information to share and with whom**
  - Make sure that **information reaches the right people at the right time**
    - Communities among organisations which have common interests
  - Avoid **too much information** because of limited resources
    - Risk of it being ignored
  - *Categorisation of Information*

- *Info-Exchange Protocol*
- *Data Protection and Confidentiality*
- *Security and Encryption Methodology*

- **How can your organization work with the Signatory States to have them meet IOC and common SOPs?**
  - DCoC SOPS provide common definitions,
    - Definitions
    - Roles and responsibilities
    - Recommended procedures to be taken for specific actions
      - WHAT to do when case of piracy etc
  - So there is **no need to re-invent** the wheel
  - But how we can support implemented through a joint approach
    - **Augment** DCoC SOPs with other SOPs
    - Support DCoC as an **exercise organiser**

  - CRIMARIO has developed information-exchange SOPs
    - **HOW** to exchange information, building on DCOC procedures:
      - harmonising the use of IORIS in 6 regions
        - standardising reporting **methodology / terminology;**
          - Common language being developed
            - Naming Convention
              - HUB, GECA, THECA, NATCA, OPCA
    - Institutionalisation of community areas
      - defining the **purpose and process** to establishing different types of **IORIS community areas (CAs);**
    - *Categorisation of Information*
    - *Info-Exchange Protocol*
    - *Data Protection and Confidentiality*
    - *IORIS Security and Encryption Methodology*
    - *Sharing of best practices related to maritime incidents.*

  - **CRIMARIO offers two types of SOPs for Information exchange**
    - **Regional** IORIS SOPs - agreed by the **IORIS Steering Committee**
      - Active across 6 regions across the Indo-Pacific
        - Information from flag States outside neighbourhood
    - **National IORIS SOP templates**
      - offered through SOP workshops
        - adjusted according to the needs of countries

    - **Of Note:** Translation offered by Microsoft = Arabic and Swahili