



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

Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024

Statement from Kenya

Response from Kenya on Aligning International Efforts with Regional Needs and Priorities

Distinguished panelists, ladies, and gentlemen,

Aligning international efforts with regional needs and priorities in the maritime domain requires a multifaceted approach that will ensure collaboration, cooperation and inclusivity. This is a subject of critical importance, especially in light of the maritime challenges we continue to face, such as competing priorities, duplication of efforts, and a lack of coordinated approaches at national levels in identifying and addressing maritime security needs.

Kenya has made significant strides in addressing these challenges. First and foremost, the establishment of the **National Maritime Security Committee (NMSC)**, which I have the honour of chairing, has been instrumental in fostering a unified approach to maritime security. The NMSC is a multi-agency entity comprised of four sub-committees namely; Ship and Port facility, Maritime Security Threats, Strategy Development and Review, Maritime Domain Awareness and Capacity Building. The NMSC ensures that we can sit together, as key maritime stakeholders, to discuss and agree on Kenya's maritime security needs and priorities in a coordinated and inclusive manner.

Secondly, Kenya has instituted the **Maritime Coordination Group (MCG)**, a forum comprising like-minded international partners who support maritime capacity-building efforts in Kenya. Coordinated by the DCoC Secretariat, this forum has become a model of effective collaboration. The MCG meets quarterly, providing a structured platform for Kenya to engage with its partners. During these meetings, we identify and align Kenya's needs and priorities with the technical assistance from our partners.

This approach has brought about tangible benefits, including the **deconfliction of schedules, alignment of priorities, and the pooling of resources** among partners. Such coordination ensures that agencies are engaged systematically, avoiding duplication and maximizing synergies. For example, my committee has met with the MCG at least twice, and these engagements have been invaluable in harmonizing Kenya's maritime security priorities with their support.

This experience serves as a best-practice model that I recommend other DCoC signatory states consider replicating. National structures like the NMSC and forums like the MCG are essential not only for coordination at the national level but also as a foundation for enhanced regional collaboration. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the importance of the **DCoC Capacity Building Coordination Matrix** as a critical tool. This matrix serves as a one-stop shop where donors and implementing partners can access the capacity-building needs and priorities of regional states. I strongly urge our international



partners to make full use of this matrix and to communicate with the DCoC Secretariat where improvements are needed to better align with their efforts.

I would also like to encourage our international partners to consider developing a common regional training program for the DCoC and to collaborate closely in its planning. In May 2024, valuable lessons were learnt during the planning and execution phases for the DCoC maritime security exercise with EUNAVFOR, where the members of NMSC worked alongside the IMO, and EUNAVFOR planners. This collaborative approach ensured that the exercise was tailored to our specific needs, maximizing on its effectiveness and relevance.

Finally, I wish to thank the IMO for its technical assistance towards establishment of Kenya's NMSC and continued support of coordination mechanisms through the DCoC Secretariat. This collaborative spirit between regional states and international partners is crucial for ensuring sustainable and impactful maritime security efforts.

Thank you.