

**High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCoC/JA,
Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024**

**Panel Discussion 3: Aligning international efforts
with regional needs and priorities**

**EUCAP Head of Mission, Kęstutis Lančinskas
attendance to the Implementation of the Jeddah amendment
Djibouti Code of Conduct Conference**

Background:

The Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC), along with its Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA), is a pivotal framework for enhancing maritime security in the western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. This initiative aims to address critical challenges, operationalize regional frameworks, and foster collaboration among signatory states.

The last DCoC/JA conference earlier this year identified Somalia and Yemen as priority countries for capacity building in coast guard functions, particularly in sea law enforcement. The importance of strengthening collaboration between Somali and Yemeni authorities was also emphasized. This target is a crucial key point of the “**8 points step-plan**” of DCoC and still an ongoing process.

According to the last implementation plan, EUCAP can support three main points:

- 1) Creation of an Information Sharing Network that could use the technological asset placed in the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) to develop all the function of the National Maritime Information Sharing Centre,
- 2) The development of the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and control of Sea Line of Commerce (SLOC),
- 3) The function of coastal defence and maritime law enforcement at sea, through a better coordination of the sea going assets, valuable support by international partners and donors as well as a better and organized Program Management Plan.

The upcoming High-Level Meeting in Dar-es-Salaam will discuss progress on:

- **Operationalization of the Information Sharing Network (ISN):** Establishing National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) and their integration with regional hubs.
- **Regional Maritime Security Strategy (RMSS):** A roadmap for sustainable maritime governance, emphasizing interagency coordination and operational efficiency. A **Capability Matrix** has been developed to facilitate international support for the RMSS.

The Capacity Building Matrix of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) is a dynamic tool accessible via the members-only portal on the DCoC website. This matrix serves as a comprehensive repository, systematically listing the needs and priorities of DCoC signatory states across a range of critical thematic areas outlined in the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

Thematic areas covered by the capability matrix are:

- Maritime Governance

- Compliance with the ISPS Code
- Maritime Security (Law Enforcement)
- Emerging Threats, such as Cybersecurity
- Creation of dedicated sub working group under a main working group in extensively analyse every area of improvement.

Through this structured approach, the matrix provides a robust framework for informed decision-making and the strategic allocation of resources within the DCoC community. Since its launch in June 2022 during the High-Level Meeting in Dubai, requests have been sent to 20 countries listed on the platform to populate the matrix. DCoC member states have shown strong cooperation in contributing to and updating the matrix, thereby strengthening the region's efforts in implementing the code.

The meeting will also focus on pilot initiatives addressing:

- Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Port security
- Environmental threats

EUCAP Intervention to the Panel:

You will participate as a panel member in the session titled "**Aligning International Efforts with Regional Needs and Priorities.**" This will provide an opportunity to:

1. Highlight EUCAP Somalia's contributions to Somali maritime counterparts.
2. Discuss resource gaps, particularly the need for **sea-going assets** to make significant progress.

Talking points:

- Thank the organizers for the invitation to discuss aligning international efforts with regional priorities and for the opportunity to share insights on EUCAP Somalia's contributions and challenges.
- Overall, explain that EUCAP Somalia's focus on strengthening maritime operational capabilities, particularly coast guard functions, and support is provided for Somalia's integration into regional frameworks such as the **Regional SAR Convention, DCoC, MASE**, and the **Red Sea Program**, while addressing domestic challenges in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).
- Highlights as **key achievements** for the Mission in support of Somali:
 - **The Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Mogadishu:** Established to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), improve coordination among Somali entities, and align Somalia with the DCoC framework. To be inaugurated next week.
 - **Berbera Command Centre and Communications Tower:** Completed in October 2024, with inauguration planned for January 2025. These facilities will strengthen situational awareness and operational coordination in Somaliland.
 - **Development of a Maritime Laws Enforcement Strategy** in collaboration with Somali authorities. Along with the Attorney General Office and its Maritime Crime Unit, EUCAP supported the organisation of a table-top exercises at national level for boarding officers, investigators, forensics technicians and prosecutors on

evidence collection, identification, preservation and exploitation, chain of custody and chain of evidence.

- The practical trainings and regional workshops, organized for the Somali Police Force Department of Coast Guard in close cooperation with the EU Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.
- **On capacity building activities explain that we focus on:**
 - Strengthening the Somali Police Force Coast Guard (SPF-CG) and Somali Navy's operational capabilities through training in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, and anti-trafficking operations.
 - Support for Puntland Maritime Police Forces (PMPF) and Bossaso Port Maritime Police Unit (BP-MPU) with legal training on the use of force and maritime governance.
 - Enhance the capabilities of the Somaliland Coast Guard (SLCG) in border control, search and rescue, and environmental disaster response.
- Emphasize our contribution to regional integration and cooperation including through:
 - Support for Somalia's integration into regional frameworks, including the **DCoC/JA, Regional SAR Convention, the Maritime Security Architecture of East Africa (MASE)** and the **Red Sea Programme**.
 - Collaborative efforts to combat piracy, smuggling, and Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated IUU fishing, while ensuring compliance with international maritime laws.
- Stress that in alignment with EU and African regional efforts, key also to ensure sustainability, including through the broader **EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)** aim at ensuring safer maritime routes and respect for international maritime law: as well as with the African Union's **2050 AIM Strategy** and **Lomé Charter**, enhancing synergy with continental and regional maritime security frameworks.
- **Moving to challenges and lack of Sea-Going Assets:**
 - Stress the limited availability of patrol vessels and operational equipment restricts the ability of Somali maritime forces to perform critical functions such as surveillance, law enforcement, and search and rescue.
 - Gaps in specialized training for Somali maritime personnel on countering emerging threats, such as environmental challenges.
 - Lack of operational interoperability and technical skills for maintaining maritime assets and infrastructure.
 - Need for enhanced collaboration between Somali agencies and regional counterparts to address transnational threats effectively.
 - Limited funding for sustaining long-term projects, including maintaining infrastructure like the MRCC in Mogadishu and command centers in Berbera and Puntland.

Furthermore, you will be addressed with the two questions below for which possible answers are as follows:

Question 1:

1. *How can the partners better make use of the Matrix in development of its programs and support to the DCoC Signatory States and what would they wish to see changed to make it easier for them to use the Matrix?*

Response to question 1:

Partners should strengthen the regular use of the Matrix to identify priority areas, tailoring their programs to meet the specific needs of signatory states. Furthermore, periodic workshops and interactive platforms for data sharing might also be beneficial. Lastly, Key Performance Indicator could also contribute to improving the monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Maritime Security Strategy.

Question 2:

2. *How can the partners better make use of the Matrix in development of its programs and support to the DCoC Signatory States?*

The use of the Matrix could be beneficial not only in addressing the assessment on the gap analysis – which helps in identifying possible lack of resources and necessary requirements - but also to identify the performance on the activities that are implemented by the supporting partners. This will be essential to enhance the use of the Matrix in the most effective manner.