



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

**Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024**

**Talking Points: Crystal McFadden (on the Open Discussion) and**

**Mr. Andy Allen (Panel 3 Discussion)**

**On Day 1 during the afternoon “Open Discussion” session** and at other appropriate times I (Crystal McFadden) may interject some of the points below:

- Coastal states within the African region are vulnerable to exploitive IUU Fishing from foreign fishing vessels. A Financial Transparency Coalition study estimated 40 percent of global IUUF occurred in West African waters.

-In addition to IUU fishing, African waters see threats from piracy, armed robbery, environmental degradation, and illicit trafficking. To support our African partners, in 2010 the United States established the Africa Maritime Security Initiative (AMSI) to build national and regional maritime safety and security capacity.

-U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) conducts ship visits to African countries to conduct operations and training; notably the USS WOODY WILLIAMS and the USCG's African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP) cutter deployments. The USCG has bilateral maritime law enforcement agreements with various African countries.

-The United States hosts two major exercises in the region OBANGAME Express with West African partners and CUTLASS Express for East African nations. The exercises have been running for about 15 years and offer opportunities for the regional and national maritime operations centers (MOCs) to exchange MDA and threat information, and for maritime forces to conduct hands on training and at-sea operations.

-Recurring exercise objectives include enhancing MDA; conducting maritime security operations; building VBSS skills; and improving legal endgames for collecting evidence, detaining suspects, and successful case prosecutions for illicit activities.

-For 2025, CUTLASS Express will be held in February in the host countries of Tanzania and Seychelles, and OBANGAME Express will be held in May, in Cabo Verde and Angola.

**On day 2 during Panel 3, Andy Allen will deliver the following points:**

We appreciate the initiatives developed through the Djibouti Code of Conduct and subsequent meetings and tools to facilitate implementation and coordination on maritime security including the Capacity Building Matrix.

We recognize that maritime security is a shared responsibility and aim to support regional counterparts to maximize the impact of our joint efforts to enhance maritime security.



The U.S. government, through bilateral missions, engagement with regional and multilateral organizations and initiatives, and regional programming, meets regularly with partners throughout the region and provides programming to support security and criminal justice reform, to combat transnational crime, and to strengthen regional maritime security through capacity building, technical assistance, and information sharing.

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