PROPOSAL:
WORKING MODEL ON OPERATIONS AT SEA UNDER THE DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT

DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT (DCoC/JA) – WORK GROUP 3

Presented by:
R Adm (JG) S.F. du Toit PS, PB, ENSP (US), psc (j)+, MSc
Director Maritime Warfare
South African Navy
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AIM

To Brief the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment Work (DCoC/JA) Group 3 on a Proposal for the Formulation of a Working Model on Operations at Sea under the DCoC/JA

SCOPE

- Introduction
- Purpose and Mandate
- Formulation Process
- Anticipated Functions
- Organisational Structure
- Capacity Gaps and Partnerships
- Funding and Sustainability
- Risks and Mitigation
- Expected Outcomes
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- DCoC/JA provides cooperative framework for maritime security

- Covers Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Western Indian Ocean (WIO) & adjacent areas

- South African Navy (SAN) has established operational record in the WIO and Mozambique Channel including Southern African Development Community (SADC) Maritime Security Initiatives

- Need for a dedicated Working Model on Operations at Sea

- Aim: move from coordination to practical operational collaboration

PURPOSE AND MANDATE

- Establish a regional mechanism for joint maritime operations
- Coordinate planning & execution of patrols and interdictions
- Leverage SAN's Mozambique Channel experience to strengthen operations across DCoC/JA areas of concern – Operation COPPER conducted against Maritime Crimes and Anti-Piracy
- Link Information Sharing Centres (ISCs) to operational forces
- Promote interoperability & training
- Support suppression of piracy, armed robbery & illicit trafficking
- Ensure Alignment with International Law (UNCLOS) and Regional Strategies, including the African Union (AU) 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy

FORMULATION PROCESS

- Define Terms of Reference (ToR)

- Nominate members from DCoC/JA states

- Integrate with Information Sharing Centres, ie. Mombasa, Dar Es Salaam, and Seychelles

- Draft operational procedures & protocols

- SAN's experience for maritime interdiction - can add value to the Working Model of DCoC/JA

- Pilot activities – patrols, exercises

- Scale up – regional task forces & sustained operations

ANTICIPATED FUNCTIONS

- Operational Planning (CONOPS)

- Synchronisation of national patrols

- Integration of Sensors including information sharing & maritime picture

- Training, drills & exchange programmes

- After-action reviews & lessons learned

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ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Chairperson – Rotating leadership among DCoC/JA member states
- Operations Cell – Plans & monitors joint operations
- Information & Intelligence Cell – Processes, analyses, and disseminates maritime security intelligence
- Legal & Policy Cell – Harmonises Rules of Engagement (ROEs), ensuring compliance with international law
- Training & Capacity Building Cell – Design Regional Training and Exercises
- Logistics & Sustainment Cell – Coordinates support, supply, and basing arrangements
- Liaison officers – ISCs & partners – Seconded to ISCs and partner organisations to ensure constant coordination

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CAPACITY GAPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Gaps: Limited regional patrol assets, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), MDA, legal harmonisation

- Partnerships:

  - Regional: AU, SADC

  - International: International Maritime Organisation (IMO), European Union (EU) Naval Force (NAVFOR), Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

  - Bilateral: Capacity-building & training

  - Industry/Academia: Support MDA technology, training, and research

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FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

- National contributions from DCoC/JA states

- Regional cost-sharing for operations

- Donor support: IMO, EU, United Nations (UN) & others

- Public-Private Partnerships with industry

- Efficiency measures: rotational assets, shared bases

RISKS AND MITIGATION

- Resource limitations → burden sharing, phased rollout
- Limited Platforms vs Vast Areas of Operation – Country/States in specific Box Areas
- Coordination challenges → clear ToRs & liaison officers
- Legal inconsistencies → harmonisation support
- Operational fatigue → rotational deployments
- Tech vulnerabilities → secure comms & training

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Regional operational mechanism established under DCoC/JA

- Enhanced maritime domain awareness

- Coordinated patrols & reduction in piracy, and maritime crime

- Greater interoperability among Regional Forces

- Enhanced Maritime Security by sharing of resources

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CONCLUSION

- The Working Model on Operations at Sea strengthens DCoC/JA and a natural progression from information sharing to practical, coordinated action at sea

- Provides structure, sustainability & operational depth

- Enables member states to safeguard shipping lanes, and combat maritime crime

- Advances regional maritime governance & security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, WIO, and adjacent areas

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QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION