

**Eighth High-Level Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah  
Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct**

**Held in the Republic of Mauritius**

**At the Hilton Resort and Spa**

**12 – 14 November 2025**

**Regional threat update by Capt. Gonzague Aizier,  
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**Intro:**

Reminder of French “double perspective”:

1. as France is both a UE Member State and a State of the Indian ocean region, through various territories and adjacent waters;
2. which entails various concerns and firm commitment regarding maintaining freedom of navigation, tackling illegal activities, and protecting maritime areas, environment & resources.

Together with all States of the region & partners, we are facing threats which are growing and diversifying. These threats are hampering freedom of navigation, are using it to transport illegally products & people and are putting at risk sustainability of marine resources, especially fish & other marine species.

1/ Freedom of navigation

3. **a focus for 2 years now, on attacks against merchant shipping in north-west Indian Ocean**, with high technologies weaponry (drones, missiles) and a high level of violence;
4. **a remnant threat, piracy** (with a lower level of intensity for at least 10 years now, thanks to the naval operations, transfer agreements & prosecutions, and the implementation of Best Managements Practices / armed guards whether from States or Privates companies)

2/ Illegal drug trafficking

A major issue not only for the countries of the region but also for European countries, because almost all our countries, in the region & in Europe, are currently final destination of these illegal products.

What we observe:

5. a **diversification of the products** (meth a growing threat, with a rising production in Afghanistan using local ephedra whereas heroin is a remnant one, despite of the ban by Taliban's in 2022, especially due to large stocks of opium)
6. a **diversification of the routes**: traffickers are directly targeting coastal regions on countries in mainland but are also targeting islands (directly or indirectly after a bounce on mainland or in an island)

3/ Illegal immigration

In this field as well, where criminal organizations are making a lot of money on the distress of people, we have a growing concern about a **diversification of the origin of people who are trying to join EU through Mayotte** (number of illegal

migrants from Continental Africa & even Afghanistan illegally arrived in Mayotte multiplied by 7 from 2020 to 2023).

A double issue: of safety of life at sea first, as these criminal organisations put at risk the life of the migrants and of law enforcement, regarding these organisations.

#### 4/ IUU fishing

Foreign fishing fleets often operate in the Indian Ocean and sometimes engage in illegal fishing. This illicit exploitation threatens the sustainability of fisheries resources and is therefore a global issue. It is estimated that nearly 40% of fisheries stocks in the Indian Ocean are over-exploited (source: FAO)

#### **As a conclusion...**

To face the challenges there are four core requirements, from our perspective:

1. to have a suitable legal framework (delimitations, organisation, law enforcement powers...)
2. to have information (and intel) relying on a strong national maritime information centre / law enforcement agency able to collect / analyse and use information.
  - a. and able to interact with partners, through regional centres if necessary.
  - b. which entails the need to have not only willingness and information/analysis but as well tools (such as IORIS for instance)
3. to have assets (ships, aircrafts, satellite imagery) with crewmembers properly educated and trained.
4. To cooperate because, to use the famous “slogan” of CMF we are “stronger together” (subject to a clear definition of responsibilities and cooperation arrangements.)

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