



COMBINED WORKING GROUP1 AND WORKING GROUP 2 MEETING No. 2

Virtual via Teams

Thursday 02 March 2023

Record of the Meeting

1. The International Maritime Organization, (IMO) (hereinafter referred to as "IMO", pursuant to the request of Signatory States to the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Djibouti Code of Conduct), the Signatory States to the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "the Jeddah Amendment"), and States eligible to sign these instruments (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Participants"), convened a meeting of the DCoC (Djibouti Code of Conduct) Combined Working Group1 and Working Group 2 to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC (JA)) 2017, which was held virtually, via ZOOM, on Thursday 02 March 2023.

2. The meeting was chaired by Joyce Awino holding forte on behalf of Brig (Rtd) Loonena Naisho (Chairperson WG1). It was attended by participants from the following Signatory States:

COMOROS	JORDAN	KENYA	MADAGASCAR
MALDIVES	OMAN	SOMALIA	SEYCHELLES
SOUTH AFRICA	SUDAN	TANZANIA	YEMEN

And representatives from IMO as the Secretariat. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex A**.

Aim

3. The aim of the meeting was to discuss follow up actions from the last High-Level (HL) meeting held in Dubai, UAE between 28-30 June 2022, Jeddah-KSA between 22-24 November 2022 and the Steering Committee (SC) meeting held on 01 March 2023. It accorded an opportunity for Chairpersons of WG1 and WG2 to discuss with the participants, action points from those meeting with a view to get consensus on the way forward.

Agenda

4. The meeting adopted the agenda that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The agenda is attached as **Annex B**

Summary of Follow up Actions from the High-Level Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting

5. As way of introduction, Captain Joachim Valmont (Seychelles) provided a summary of the key outcomes of the High-Level Meetings and the SC Meeting. The same is attached as **Annex C**

Update from the SC meeting held on 1 Mar 23

6. The meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the SC meeting that was held on 01 March 2023, which deliberated on matters affecting the DCoC to ensure sustainability of the momentum and how to drive the DCoC Agenda for 2023 and beyond.

Update from the Chair of Working Group 1 – Framework for Implementing the DCoC ISN Strategy and Roadmap

7. Ms. Joyce Awino (Kenya), representing the Chair of Working Group 1 (WG1) (Kenya) pointed that as agreed in Jeddah, the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was to be undertaken as a matter of priority to support Signatory States that are developing or have developed national centres. She noted that KSA had offered to sponsor the workshop that was to take place in February then to May has now been postponed indefinitely but after holding the Steering Committee Meeting on 1 March 2023, KSA noted they will consider and update on the viability of hosting the workshop after Ramadhan.

8. Kenya also highlighted that the DCoC 2023 calendar is blank. There's need to slot in the SoPs workshop before the HLM in October to exude continued momentum considering the length of time it has taken to achieve good international recognition of the excellent work of the DCoC. Dormancy will divert this international support elsewhere.

9. Kenya noted that they had agreed with Madagascar, being the deputy chair of WG 1 to hold initial discussions with MASE, then give recommendations to the Working Groups for further deliberations and consideration.

10. Captain Edmond (Madagascar) and IMO updated the meeting on the proposal for the integration of RMIFC (Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre) and RCoC Seychelles to the DCoC ISN. He noted that an online meeting was held on 28 Feb 2023 with the participation of the 2 Directors of the RMIFC and RCoC, the ILOs, the IOC (Indian Ocean Commission) representatives and DCoC Secretariat. It was agreed that as a first step information sharing will be the focus of the collaboration between MASE and DCoC as that is well covered in the Jeddah Amendment. It was further agreed that IOC and RMIFC will send a draft of MoU between the DCoC SC and MASE SC on information sharing. It was discussed that the MASE mechanism is interested in development of SOPs at National and Regional Level and MASE requested DCoC to incorporate them in the development of SOPs workshop.

MASE also requested DCoC to consider the operational side of collaboration and requested DCoC and MASE to work together in actions at sea for coordination of operations at sea and it was agreed this discussion will continue and will be agreed upon during the next High-Level Meeting in October 2023. The meeting agreed because the DCoC Countries are signatories to both MASE and DCoC hence no need for countries to have additional bilateral agreements but for the countries that are not yet party to the MASE Agreements, it was encouraged that there is need for them to be parties. However, for purposes of meeting the DCoC Objectives it was agreed in the meeting that the DCoC Steering Committee can sign the MoU with MASE thereby representing all DCoC Signatory States. The same was raised for deliberation in this combined working group meeting.

11. Following requests for assistance from about 7 countries in establishing the National Centres, IMO has engaged Denmark, USA, and EU on ways to support countries. The matter is at the proposal stage. There are some quick wins already with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Yemen agreeing to support Yemen in rehabilitating the building set to host the Centre in Aden, by providing some equipment. EU CRIMARIO will also provide limited equipment and the IORIS System and a needs Assessment Mission has been planned for 21-24 March 2024. IMO further added that there is the Friends of DCoC Meeting on 16

March 2023 and requested any Signatory State to share their needs to the Secretariat for compilation and submission in the meeting.

Update from Chairman on Working Group 2

12. The Chair, Captain Getinet Abay (Ethiopia) represented by Esther Njonde (IMO) noted that the CB Matrix captures the thematic areas as drawn from the Jeddah Amendment including Maritime Governance, ISPS Compliance, Maritime Security and the new and emerging threats and each country has highlighted its needs accordingly. They confirmed that member states under the DCoC have shown cooperation in populating the CB matrix which gives impetus to the work the region is doing in the implementation of the code.

13. Since the launch of the matrix in 2022 at the Dubai HLM, requests to populate the matrix have been sent out to twenty countries listed in the platform. Additional submissions or interest to make new submissions on email/virtually, have been received from Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, and Yemen.

14. Based on the CB Matrix, key areas that countries have problems populating include the Maritime Law Enforcement where countries do not have training data and Maritime Cyber Security which being a new yet critical frontier in the maritime space has not yet received funding or technical assistance or both for countries. Under Maritime Security governance, considerable progress has been made with some states receiving training from the custom-made Whole of government approach to maritime security workshop being offered by IMO(Kenya), national maritime departments (Jordan, RSA) while others making the formal request for similar technical assistance (Somalia, Comoros)

15. Under MDA (Maritime Domain Awareness), most countries need technical expertise, equipment/systems, and funding to establish NMISCs (National Maritime Information Sharing Centres) that align with the requirements posited by the ISN Strategy and roadmap. They lack SOPs, International and Outreach strategy, and a national plan to achieve MDA and may be hindered in achieving the initial operational capability to enable a nominally functioning establishment. However, the work has begun in most Signatory States and with the help of the FoDCoC, they can be on course to achieving operationalization. Partners like CRIMARIO, CMF (Combined Maritime Forces) and the USA have expressed their interest in supporting countries in tackling these needs and a joint work plan on how to do so was suggested during the second FoDCoC virtual meeting held in September 2022.

16. Under the enhancement of Port Security. It is perhaps one of the pillars with most vested interest by member states especially since technical assistance has been offered by IMO through the Red Sea project (for Yemen, RSA) Passenger and Baggage Searching and Screening (DCoC Countries attended workshop at the DRTC in Djibouti in June 2022) and the EU Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Project (covering Djibouti, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, The Maldives, Mauritius, Somalia, Tanzania).

17. It was confirmed that a lot of training and technical assistance is needed for DCoC countries for the needs highlighted in the matrix as well as other concerns raised during briefings. The intention is to expand the scope of the platform to include other maritime-related needs such the tracking for small non-SOLAS vessels, which was raised at the FoDCoC meeting in 2022.

18. It was confirmed that only Eritrea and Egypt have no submissions and there is significant improvement in response from countries like Sudan and the Maldives. Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, and Madagascar have detailed information on most of their particulars and DCoC countries can be invited to benchmark from their current and future successes should they keep the momentum.

Access to the Members Only Portal for the qualified FoDCoC and update of partners information on the website.

19. It was noted that access details for Partners (EUNAVFOR, Denmark, USA, UK, CMF, CRIMARIO, Republic of Korea and Japan) have been shared to their POCs and follow up on assistance will begin shortly after. It was noted that Japan has submitted its specialization profile for publication to the DCoC website/matrix media section with its speciality focusing on funding training facilities (e.g., the DRTC) and Maritime Law Enforcement activities in the Gulf of Aden.

20. It was noted that IMO is collaborating closely with Captain Getinet and Working Group Two on Capacity Building, to publicize and promote success stories drawn from met needs of the matrix to motivate partners towards even more support to DCoC States and to enable consistent use of the platform for Signatories in getting any technical assistance. This tool has immense potential and IMO's commitment to its success is sure.

Update on inclusion of Bahrain and Qatar to DCoC

21. It was noted that the unanimous decision of signatory States in including Qatar and Bahrain within the DCoC would add significant value to the DCoC/JA. Kenya believes that this should be set as one of the goals to be achieved this year. NFPs with good contacts were asked to assist the Secretariat with the same so that they can initiate dialogue with both countries with a goal to achieve this before the next HLM.

Resource Mobilization – Contributions to the DCoC Trust Fund

Update from donors with an interest in funding DCoC and/ working with DCoC in 2023 and beyond. (KSA, EU, USA, DENMARK)

22. IMO noted that they are working on Denmark, EU, and USA. USA has requested submission of a proposal. USA has also been requested to fund the High-Level Meeting in Cape town and are awaiting feedback. The main reason the meeting was postponed from May is to give them ample time to work on the request. The Secretariat confirmed their commitment to supporting the work of the Signatory States.

Ways to strengthen the DCoC/JA – Active participation of all.

23. Somalia noted that all Signatory States are encouraged to be active and lead by example in implementing the DCoC/JA. IMO further noted they are relying on the members and requested them to maximise the Secretariat's presence to do what needs to be done in terms of publicity and creating awareness of the DCoC/JA and its progress.

DCoC calendar for 2023

24. Mashudu Nephumbada (Republic of South Africa) shared the DCoC Calendar of events and the same will be circulated for input by the members and concurrence of the dates or

otherwise. RSA noted they will take lead in activities to publicise the HLM slated for October 2023 as coincidentally October is the Transport month and is the build-up to the cruising season with many activities preceding the HLM.

25. Tanzania further noted they are willing and available to host the SoPs (Standard Operating Procedures) workshop if a donor is found for the same.

Open Discussion

26. Seychelles noted they are in the process of garnering the political will and embedding the Maritime Governance structure into their law and will reach out to IMO for further guidance on the same.

27. IMO noted they are willing to support countries in workshops with highest level of leaders to ensure political will as it is the hardest hurdle for most NFPs. Tanzania noted that it can host the workshop if IMO gets a sponsor.

28. Members deliberated on the need to have an alternative even as DCoC waits on KSA to confirm viability for hosting the SOPs workshop after Ramadhan, and IMO was requested to present this as a need in the upcoming Friends of DCoC Meeting to be held on 16 March 2023.

29. There was a recommendation that Signatory States need to ensure coordinated support and avoid duplicity and over lapping and having donors support countries through the DCoC CB Matrix to ensure no state is left behind.

30. Somalia noted they have good contacts with Qatar and can assist the Secretariat with connecting the DCoC to them.

31. It was noted that in the spirit of cooperation, it is encouraged that Signatory States can be inviting each other in their national activities as observers so that the Signatory States can learn from each other and support each other by building themselves and not always waiting for the regional activities to share best practises.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

32. Having deliberated on the follow up actions from the High-Level Meeting held in June and November, the meeting noted with appreciation the commitments of both Working Groups and their collaboration with IMO and agreed as follows:

- Countries that need assistance to sensitize government officials on the need to implement the Whole of Government approach to Maritime Security to reach out to the Secretariat so that they can implement the Tabletop Exercises.
- Seychelles will reach out to IMO once ready to assist with Maritime Governance work as they are in the process of embedding the same into the government structures.
- IMO to raise the SOPs workshop as a need from the DCoC at the Friends of DCoC Meeting to be held on 16 March 2023 for their kind consideration.
- All Signatory States to share their technical assistance needs that may not have been submitted in the matrix and the same will be compiled and shared with Friends of the DCoC in the upcoming meeting of 16 March 2023.

- IMO to continue engagements with international partners to support DCoC in implementation of the Jeddah Amendment.
- IMO to track KSA's commitment to respond on viability of hosting the SOPs workshop after Ramadhan period.
- Signatory States encouraged to share any success stories and experiences for inclusion on the website and newsletter and this will be a great publicity tool for the States to highlight their work, achievements, and progress.
- It was recommended that IMO Secretariat champions and takes lead on the inclusion of Bahrain and Qatar to DCoC/JA by initiating dialogue with both countries provide update to members. Somalia committed to linking the Secretariat with focal points in Qatar as they have good working relations.
- The proposed DCoC Calendar 2023 to be circulated to the members for their input. RSA offered to input pre cursor activities ahead of the HLM in October 2023.

Vote of thanks

33. The Chairperson concluded the meeting by thanking every member for attending and for all the efforts and commitment of the members in implementing the DCoC/JA. She encouraged everyone to maintain the momentum and encouraged the Secretariat to keep the NFPs on their toes.

34. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1630 hours EAT.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Agenda
- Annex C- Summary of follow up actions from Dubai and Jeddah HLMs
- Annex D- Calendar of Events

Annex A- List of Participants

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Annex B- Agenda



Agenda- Combined
WG1 and WG2 Meeti

Annex C- Summary of follow up action from HLM



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Implementation of the

Annex D- DCoC Calendar of Events 2023



DCoC Programme
for 2023.xlsx