



COMBINED WORKING GROUP1 AND WORKING GROUP 2 MEETING No. 4

Virtual via Teams

Wednesday 4 October 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 TEAMS, on Wednesday 4 September 2023.

2. The meeting was chaired by IMO and was attended by participants from the following Signatory State:

COMOROS	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	MADAGASCAR
MALDIVES	MAURITIUS	MOZAMBIQUE	KSA
OMAN	SEYCHELLES	SOMALIA	SOUTH AFRICA
SUDAN	YEMEN		

And representatives of the following international organizations and Regional Centre:

IMO

The full list of participants is attached as **Annex A**.

Aim

3. The aim of the meeting was to deliberate on recent developments in implementing the code of conduct, including the recently agreed-upon resolutions, and to discuss preparations for the upcoming High-Level Meeting with the goal of ensuring that regional needs and priorities are given utmost consideration. This is essential to ensure that the outcomes of the high-level meeting will effectively enhance cooperation and ultimately promote security, stability, and growth in the Region.

Agenda

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

Update on Working Group 1

a) Regional Workshop on Development of SOPs (STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES) for the DCoC/JA ISN

5. The Chair of WG 1 (Kenya) began by noting that the main purpose of Working Group 1 is to spearhead the development of an effective regional maritime information-sharing network in line with the requirements of the Jeddah Amendment. The Information Sharing Strategy and Roadmap were adopted by WG1 in November 2021 after reviews and consultations among the Signatory States. This draft was approved at the High-Level Meeting held in Dubai in June 2022. It will guide the development of the ISN, including the establishment of multi-agency National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs), as the main pillars of the ISN, under the oversight of the National Maritime Security Committees (NMSCs).

6. Kenya expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for their generous support in sponsoring the SOPs Workshop held in Jeddah from July 30 to August 10, 2023. The draft is now in its final stages and will be shared with all participants for final review ahead of the high-level meeting.

7. IMO presented a summary of the work on the development of the SOPs as shown from this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zm1X8Wr00Zs&t=85s>

b) Maritime Information Sharing Workshop held in India from 14-16 September 2023

8. Kenya further expressed gratitude to India for their support in hosting a very successful Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW), providing an opportunity for further refinement of the SOPs. The chair appreciated India's offer of more support to the DCoC/JA, specifically for the ISN, including the establishment of some NMISCs, and the posting of an International Liaison Officer (ILO) at the IFC-IOR.

c) DCoC/IORIS Workshop

9. Kenya further expressed appreciation to CRIMARIO II for their plans to host the third workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 9-13, 2023. The workshop is designed to assess the effectiveness of the developed SOPs.

Plenary Session

10. In accordance with the agreed roadmap, NMISCs are expected to achieve Initial Operating Capabilities by March 31, 2024, and the NFPs (National Focal Points) are urged to make every effort to meet this milestone. An appeal was made to the NFPs to assess whether they require any assistance for the NMISCs, and this will be presented at the Friends of DCoC Meeting scheduled for October 5, 2023.

11. There was further deliberation on the India workshop. It was noted that India is committed to the DCoC/JA and has also confirmed its willingness to share vessels of interest data, which will be very useful for enhancing maritime threat awareness in the region. India will provide more details during the high-level meeting in Cape Town.

12. Skylight was also recognized as a partner of interest that can play an important role in supporting the DCoC by using their cutting-edge artificial intelligence technologies for maritime information sharing.

13. Seychelles requested to receive capacity building on Search and Rescue (SAR) and the development of coastal radar systems. It was agreed that IMO will reach out to Seychelles so that those needs can be included in the Matrix and submitted to the FoDCoC meeting.

14. Yemen reported that they have taken over the refurbished room that will host their centre (ReMISC) from UNDP and are currently waiting for equipment. They requested that the IMO provide this information to the FoDCoC during the meeting on October 5, 2023, and during the HLM (HIGH LEVEL MEETING).

Update on Working Group 2

a) Enhancement of DCoC/JA Capacity Building Coordination

13. It was noted that the DCoC has made significant progress and hence receiving considerable attention from implementing partners. The CB (Capacity Building) Matrix, developed with the support of IMO, is now being continuously updated to ensure the needs are as current as possible. This process should continue to enable any partner with access to obtain the right information, assisting them in aligning their support with the regional needs and providing a platform for a coordinated approach towards capacity building.

14. The Chair of WG2 (Working Group 2) recommended to the NFPs to endorse the recommendations contained in the non-paper on the proposed expansion of the structure of WG2 to include other thematic areas covered under the JA during the high-level meeting.

15. It was noted that in addition to the access granted by March 2023 which included EUNAVFOR, Denmark, USA, UK, CMF, CRIMARIO, Republic of Korea, Japan and India, IMO confirms that UNODC has also been given the credentials for the CB Matrix.

16. IMO is collaborating closely with WG2 to publicize and promote success stories drawn from needs that have been by way of the matrix. This aims to motivate partners to provide even more support to DCoC States and to enable the consistent use of the platform by Signatories for obtaining technical assistance as a means of monitoring and evaluating the impact of the CB Matrix. IMO is committed to the success of the CB Matrix. So far, 13 stories have been submitted, and the newsletter has been circulated.

17. Esther (IMO) guided the participants through the Matrix needs and support sheet. She provided an update on the status of the Capacity Building Coordination Matrix and the Matrix support and needs worksheet, which were shared with UNODC, the most recent entrants into the platform. She also noted that India received a draft brief of support for National Maritime Information Sharing Centers for 16 countries two months ago.

18. She noted that the Capacity Building Matrix captures the needs and priorities of DCoC countries under thematic areas drawn from the Jeddah Amendment on Maritime Governance, ISPS Code Compliance, Maritime Security, Maritime Domain Awareness, new and emerging threats, and other maritime-related issues such as marine pollution, Search and Rescue efforts, and wreckage removal.

19. The matrix, launched in 2022 at the Dubai HLM, has received data from a minimum of 18 out of the 20 countries listed on the platform. Quite recently, new updates were recorded from 11 countries following their participation in the Standard Operating Procedures workshop held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between July 30th and August 10th, 2023.

20. It was noted that the current needs and progress are as follows:

- Maritime Law Enforcement training for countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya continue under Interpol and the US Coast Guard. 4 countries are still in dire need for similar support.
- Under Maritime Cyber Security, some maritime administrations such those in the Maldives are still seeking affiliations with neighbouring countries to facilitate cyber security training while South Africa has cyber security recommendations provided under its 2021 Maritime Security Guide. Jordan is also being supported by the European Maritime Safety Agency on matters related to Cyber Security.
- Under Maritime Security Governance countries like Ethiopia has established a national legal framework that adequately meets the provisions of the SUA Convention (Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation). 7 countries have expressed the need to develop their legal frameworks while 6 countries have no data. Member States are reminded that some of the programmes or partners providing assistance to meet Maritime Security Governance gaps include IMO's programs such as the EU Port Security and Red Sea projects and the Indian Ocean Commission which provided technical assistance to Union of Comoros.
- Under MDA, 13 countries have a national maritime centre (on either full or ad hoc basis) with the best-case studies being reflected by Seychelles and Madagascar both of which host functional regional and national centres, followed by Comoros, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Oman, KSA, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Yemen, at different functioning capacities. More countries have requested assistance to attain initial operating capability and only 3 countries reported a lack of centres, equipment, training on a foundational level.
- The enhancement of Port Security is still heavily invested due to the technical assistance being offered by IMO through the EU funded Port Security project and the Red Sea project. It should also be noted that Ethiopia and Somalia have received technical assistance from a multiplicity of partners, for different thematic areas under the MDA Training of Operators provision.

21. It was noted that only Eritrea and Egypt have no submissions and there is significant improvement in response from countries like Comoros, Ethiopia, Maldives, Seychelles, Oman and KSA, particularly for the SOPs and state of NMISCs. About 3 countries from the previous 5, have presented no data on most of their provisions within the matrix.

22. IMO noted it's appreciation to Comoros (2) Ethiopia(1) Kenya (4), Jordan (1) and South Africa (5) for giving IMO a total of 13 success stories drawn from met needs of the matrix which will be presented at the DCoC HLM in South Africa later this month, and are requesting for all national focal points to furnish IMO with at least two stories in the thematic areas listed in the matrix or other areas commended by the Jeddah Amendment namely, (a) Human trafficking and smuggling, (b) Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, (c) Trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances (d) Arms trafficking, (e) Illegal trade in wildlife, (f) Crude oil theft, and (g) Illegal dumping of toxic waste.

Agenda 3

a) Update on HLM.

23. Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada (South Africa) expressed their appreciation and excitement to host the HLM. She noted that the HLM falls under the October transport events and as such

is a Ministerial event and will show cases the progress South Africa has made in maritime security.

24. She noted that so far, 76 participants have confirmed their attendance at the HLM, and thanked IOC (INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION) and CRIMARIO II for co-sponsoring the HLM with RSA (Republic of South Africa). Ms. Nepfumbada sought guidance on hotels, as RSA has identified the Holiday Inn as a possible affordable accommodation location. The Secretariat also sought guidance to proceed with reserving accommodations for sponsored delegates to ensure a smooth arrival experience. Delegates will cover the costs themselves upon receiving their per diem payments from IOC and IMO. Furthermore, it was mentioned that a website has been created for the HLM, and the link will be sent by Friday, October 6, 2023, for online registration. NFPs were encouraged to utilize the website as it will have all the necessary details. The meeting was also informed that VIP security and transportation plans will be shared by IMO in advance. Airport transfers will be provided by South Africa between October 22 and October 27, 2023

b) **Agenda**

25. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) guided the NFPs through the agenda and expected outcomes of the HLM in the various panel discussion areas. Various feedback points were received as members were called to be accountable and take ownership of the various agenda sessions for the betterment of the DCoC/JA. Members were encouraged to make the HLM highly interactive.

Plenary

26. The need for coordination and a mechanism of cooperation was reiterated because it is lacking in the region, leading to a lot of duplication with new projects instead of building on what is already available in the region. The DCoC has well established mechanism that partners can use.

A.O.B

27. It was unanimously agreed that the leadership of the DCoC needs to be strengthened and reenergized, especially in light of the renewed focus and ambitious agenda of the DCoC. Somalia pointed out that the last elections for the Steering Committee were held in November 2019, nearly four years ago, even though the Terms of Reference stipulate a two-year term. Despite the fact that the Dubai meeting allowed for an extension, there is a strong case to hold elections at the next HLM. Reasons for this include:

- Having recommended to expand the Working Group structure coupled with the recent retirement of key officials in the Steering Committee including from Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Seychelles and Mozambique it is wise to consider having elections while in South Africa because at present, the SC (Steering Committee) is not fully represented and cannot strongly make decisions as expected.
- The DCoC is at a very critical point, requiring new energies and ideas. The steering committee has a very important role to play, hence the reason Somalia proposes that it is strengthened.

28. Madagascar seconded the need for elections while in Cape Town. This was followed by South Africa, Comoros, and Ethiopia.

29. South Africa noted that there is need for the DCoC to establish a Chair of the DCoC/JA as opposed to having a Steering Committee which again reports to the NFPs. He noted that

the same can be discussed further. They further recommended that if the current term of the seating Steering Committee hasn't ended there is a need to allow the current sitting team to finish their term and work together as they transition.

30. It was confirmed that from November 2019 to November 2023 is 4 years and hence there is justification for elections while in South Africa after which the new Chair and team will take over in November 2023.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

32. The following is a summary of the meeting outcomes:

- i. It was agreed that anyone who is under IMO sponsorship to the HLM and has alternative accommodation to submit their names to the Secretariat so that their names are not submitted to Holiday Inn.
- ii. It was agreed that Steering Committee elections will be held at the forthcoming HLM in South Africa.
- iii. RSA was requested to make a proposal on the review of the structure to have a chair of DCoC/JA for consideration by the NFPs.
- iv. Participants agreed that NFPs should thoroughly review the Non-Paper and Agenda to familiarize themselves with the content. An interactive meeting in South Africa is planned, and NFPs are encouraged to provide feedback to the Secretariat in advance. They are also advised to seek input from their ministries to reach a consensus on resolutions and to identify thematic areas from the non-Paper in which they wish to take the lead. (The Non-Paper is attached as Annex C.
- v. IMO to follow up with Yemen on the reestablished Centre and Seychelles needs so that the same can be captured well and forwarded to the Friends Meeting on 5 October 2023 and to the HLM.

Vote of thanks:

33. IMO expressed their gratitude to all the members for their attendance, efforts, and commitment in implementing the DCoC/JA.

34. With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1615 hours EAT.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Agenda
- Annex C- HLM Agenda and None Paper.

Annex A- List of Participants

Name	Country	Email address
Anfifidine Ali	Comoros	anfifidine@comorosmaritime.org

Said Lavani	Comoros	lavanisaid@gmail.com
Getinet Abay	Ethiopia	getinet.esl@gmail.com
Lawrence Mwenda	Kenya	hjoc@kcg.go.ke dg@kcg.go.ke lawrencemwenda82@gmail.com
Joyce Awino	Kenya	gakiawino@gmail.com
Randrianantenaina Edmond	Madagascar	dgapmf@apmf.mg
Adhil Rasheed	Maldives	Adhil.rasheed@transport.gov.mv
Kiran Shamloll	Mauritius	kshamloll@govmu.org
Armando Alvaro	Mozambique	armandoalvaromulaleia@gmail.com
Ruth	Mozambique	
Malik	Oman	Majid.Albarhi@mtcit.gov.om
Metse Ralephenya	RSA	RalephenyaM@dot.gov.za
Mashudu Nepfumbada	RSA	NemfumbadaM@dot.gov.za
Daniel Adam	Seychelles	ceo@smsa.go.sc
Yonis Adan	Somalia	Yonisaadan10@gmail.com
Mohammed Almagashi	Yemen	malmagashi@gmail.com
Yeslem Mubarak	Yemen	yeslem86@gmail.com
Chris Trelawny	IMO Consultant	chris.trelawny@interportpolice.org
Kiruja Micheni	IMO	kmicheni@imo.org
Winnie Maina	IMO	wmaina@imo.org

Esther Kung'u (Njonde)	IMO	ekungu@imo.org
------------------------	-----	----------------------------------------------------

Annex B- Agenda



Agenda- Combined
WG1 and WG2 Meetir

Annex C- None Paper



None Paper -
Measures to strenther



25092023 - 6th High
Level meeting on the