



DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 6

Virtual via Zoom

Wednesday 01st March 2023

Record of the Meeting

1. A meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017, was held virtually, via TEAMS on Wednesday, 01st March 2023.

2. It was chaired by Major General Muhammed Abdullah Al-Shehri, Director General of Saudi Border Guard. The following attended the meeting:

DJIBOUTI- Deputy Chair of the SC

ETHIOPIA - Chair of Working Group 2 (WG2) and SC Member

KENYA - Chair of Working Group 1 (WG1) and SC Member

MADAGASCAR – Deputy Chair of WG1 and SC Member

SAUDI ARABIA - Chair of the SC

SEYCHELLES - SC Member

and by representatives of IMO as the Secretariat.

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

Aim

3. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the status of action points from the High-Level Meeting held in Jeddah-KSA between 22-24 November 2022 with a view to make recommendations for the way forward.

Opening Remarks

4. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) acknowledged the growing recognition of the DCoC/JA mechanism by the international community, as the leading framework for coordination of maritime security in the region. He urged the SC to provide the leadership needed to sustain the momentum to ensure that signatory States benefit from the goodwill of the international partners and to seek ways to benefit from the efforts of international efforts such as the Combined maritime Forces (CMF), EU NAVFOR and others supporting maritime security efforts in the region. He urged that the Steering Committee find ways to ensure that the momentum is not lost.

5. Making his opening remarks the SC Chair Major General Muhammad Abdullah Al-Shehri noted that the meeting shall discuss way forward of WG1, WG2, Friends of DCoC,

Upcoming trainings and meetings among others all for the betterment of maritime security in the region. The remarks are attached as **Annex B**

Agenda

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

Summary of Follow up Actions from the HLM Meeting

7. IMO highlighted the summary of follow up actions as agreed upon and the roles of WG1, WG2 and signatory States in implementing the same as agreed in the High-Level Meeting which will be deliberated in the meeting. The summary is attached as **Annex D**

DCoC Calendar 2023

8. The SC members gave ideas on what DCoC hopes to achieve in 2023 in terms of training and capacity building initiatives and the same were highlighted as follows;

- The recommendations of the High-Level Meeting as highlighted in the previous Agenda.
- Activities of Establishing multi agency NMISCs as per Article 3 including the development of standard operating procedures.
- Follow up on coordination and collaboration with MASE Centres.
- Inclusion of Bahrain and Qatar to DCoC/JA

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

9. The Chair of WG 1, Brigadier (Rtd) Loonena Naisho who was represented by Ms. Joyce Awino (Kenya) noted that as agreed in Jeddah, the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN) was to be undertaken as a matter of priority to support Member States that are developing or have developed national centres. She noted that KSA had offered to sponsor the workshop, earlier planned to take place in February 2023, but later postponed to May 2023, and later postponed indefinitely upon request by KSA. Kenya requested KSA to reconsider scheduling the workshop ASAP to achieve this goal.

10. Due to lack of funding, the DCOC calendar for 2023 has no activities, except for the high-level meeting to be held in Cape Town in October. Kenya recommended that the SOPs workshop be conducted soonest to help maintain some momentum. It has taken a long time to achieve the goodwill that the DCoC enjoys today, and there are fears that the international support may be diverted elsewhere if the DCoC is seen to be dormant.

11. Being the Deputy Chair of WG1, Madagascar had been tasked to hold initial discussions with MASE on the proposed integration of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC), in Madagascar and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles into the DCoC ISN, then give recommendations to the SC for further consideration.

12. Captain Jean Edmond Randraianana (Madagascar) provided an update on the proposal for the integration of RMIFC and RCOC onto the DCOC ISN. He reported that an online meeting was held on 28 Feb 2023 with the participation of the Directors of the two Centres, international Liaison Officers (ILOs) deployed at the Centres, representatives of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the DCoC Secretariat. The meeting recommended that information sharing be the first focus of the collaboration. In this regard, IOC and RMIFC will

send a draft MoU between the DCoC SC and MASE SC on information sharing for consideration. It was further agreed that MASE be invited to participate in the workshop on development of common SOPs for the DCoC ISN, to avoid duplication of effort. The meeting also recommended for the DCoC to consider extending the cooperation to include coordination of operations at sea using provisions contained in the Jeddah Amendment, and to consider making use if the RCOC. It was proposed that this be discussed at the next High-Level Meeting in October 2023. The meeting noted that by signing the DCoC/JA, signatory States already agreed to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in sharing information to combat illicit activities at sea. Given that all MASE participating States are party to the DCoC, what is needed is an MoU between the two mechanisms. Signatory States will therefore not be required to sign bilateral agreements with the Centres.

13. Following the requests from about 7 countries for assistance in establishing the National Centres, the secretariat has engaged various international partners being Denmark, USA, and EU to provide resources for the same. So far, the discussions have been encouraging. Already UNDP Yemen has agreed to support Yemen to support by rehabilitating the building to host the ReMISC in Aden, as well as to provide some equipment support. The CRIMARIO project has also agreed to provide some equipment and the IORIS System. A joint IMO/UNDP Yemen/CRIMARIO needs Assessment Mission to Aden will take place between 21- to 24 March 2024.

Update from Chairman on Working Group 2

14. The Chair of WG2, Captain Getinet Abay (Ethiopia) represented by Esther Njonde (IMO) noted that the CB Matrix captures the thematic areas drawn from priorities agreed upon by NFPs to be implemented at national level, particularly the provisions contained in article three (3) of the Jeddah Amendment (measures at national level) such as Maritime Governance, ISPS Compliance, Maritime Security, and new and emerging threats to maritime security. All signatory States have populated the matrix with the exception of Egypt and Eritrea. He praised signatory States for showing cooperation in populating the CB matrix as this gives impetus to the work on the implementation of the code of conduct.

15. Since the launch of the matrix in 2022 at the Dubai HLM, requests to populate the matrix have been sent out to 20 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.

16. Based on the CB Matrix, key areas that countries have problems populating include 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. Under Maritime Security governance, considerable progress has been made in delivering training on the IMO model on the Whole of government approach to maritime security.

17. Under MDA, most countries have requested for technical assistance, equipment/systems, and funding to establish NMISCs that align with the requirements posited by the ISN Strategy and roadmap. Listed needs include development of SOPs, International and Outreach strategy, and a national plan to achieve MDA. Some partners like CRIMARIO, CMF and the USA have expressed interest in supporting countries in tackling these needs. The matter will be discussed further during the next meeting of the FoDCoC.

18. Following feedback from signatory States, the scope of the platform will be expanded to include other maritime-related needs that don't fit under the current menu.

Tracking of non-SOLAS vessels, which was raised at the HLM meeting in 2022 is one such example. It was noted that a lot of effort will be required to address the needs identified by signatory States through the matrix.

20. Eritrea and Egypt are the only signatory States that have not populated the matrix. It was noted that Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, and South Africa have detailed information that other States can be invited to benchmark.

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

21. Access details for Partners (EUNAVFOR, Denmark, USA, UK, CMF, CRIMARIO, Republic of Korea and Japan) will be ready to be sent to the respective POC from PM 1 March 2023. It was reported that Japan has submitted its specialization profile for publication to the DCoC website/matrix media section with its speciality focusing on funding training facilities (DRTC) and Maritime Law Enforcement activities in the Gulf of Aden.

22. IMO is working 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 great potential.

Update on inclusion of Bahrain and Qatar to DCoC

23. Following the unanimous decision of signatory States to consider welcoming Qatar and Bahrain to sign the DCoC/JA, Kenya suggested that the issue be set as one of the SC goals to be achieved during 2023. It was recommended to nominate a small sub-committee to champion this by assisting the Secretariat in initiating dialogue with both countries with a goal to achieve this before the next HLM.

The talking points are attached as **Annex E**

Resource Mobilization – Contributions to the DCoC Trust Fund

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

24. The secretariat reported that they have initiated dialogue with Denmark, EU, and USA to consider supporting work on the implementation of the DCoC/JA and that USA has requested submission of a proposal. The Secretariat is also USA to consider co-sponsoring the High-Level Meeting with South Africa.

25. KSA guided the Secretariat to follow up with the General Ministry of Transport of Saudi Arabia on the update on its contribution to the DCoC Trust Fund.

Ways to strengthen the DCoC/JA – Active participation of all. Need for SC members to lead by example.

26. Noting that the secretariat relies on the SC for guidance on its day-to-day work, members of the SC were urged to be more proactive in setting more ambitious goals to strengthen the DCoC.

DCoC calendar for 2023

27. IMO shared the DCoC Calendar of events and the same will be circulated for input by the Steering Committee and concurrence of the dates or otherwise.

Open Discussion

28. Members agreed to step up fundraising efforts. Without additional funding, IMO will be unable to support the secretariat work from 2024.

29. IMO to take lead in approaching and organising a meeting with Bahrain and Qatar to discuss becoming party to the DCoC/JA. It was suggested to organise a meeting with the two countries in the margins of the next MSC or Council meeting.

30. Following the resolution by the DCoC to test IORIS for one year, there was a recommendation to get feedback from countries on the usefulness and benefits of the same ahead of the meeting in Indonesia in May 2023. It was agreed that Kenya and Madagascar will take lead on having signatory States highlight the benefits received from IORIS.

31. There was a recommendation to have translation services in meetings and it was recommended that IMO find out options and give the feedback to the SC once ready.

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:

- All signatory States to share their training needs in line with DCoC for development of a training programme and proposed activities and the same be compiled as the training program for 2023.
- IMO to arrange with willing international partners to support the various trainings and activities that are needed.
- KSA committed to respond on viability of hosting the SOPs workshop after Ramadhan period.
- The proposal to have the DCoC SC Representative sign on behalf of the DCoC members the MoU on information sharing with MASE to be presented for deliberation and adoption at the combined WG1 and WG2 meeting.
- To be more effective and partner well with the RCoC whose main mandate is coordination of actions at sea and given that the Jeddah Amendment has some aspects of coordination at sea the DCoC signatory countries can see how to work together in coordinating actions at sea especially in illicit activities at sea be tabled for deliberation and adoption at combined WG1 and WG2 and later in the High-Level Meeting in October 2023.
- 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 and advise the SC on the way forward based on the feedback received from the initial dialogue.
- The SC chair will coordinate with Ministry of Transport Saudi Arabia and inform IMO on status of KSA's contribution to the DCoC Trust Fund.

- The proposed DCoC Calendar 2023 to be circulated to the SC for their input.
- Kenya and Madagascar will take lead on having signatory States highlight the benefits received from IORIS.
- IMO to look at options for translation during the meetings to enable everyone follow the proceedings.
- It was agreed that WG1 and WG2 meeting be held on 02 March 2023

Vote of thanks

33. The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking every member for attending and for all the efforts and commitment of the members in implementing the DCoC/JA. He encouraged everyone to maintain the momentum and ensure we remain relevant as DCoC.

34. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1615 hours EAT.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Opening Remarks KSA
- Annex C- Agenda
- Annex D- Summary of follow up actions from HLM held in June 2022
- Annex E- Update on Working Group 2 talking points.

Annex A- List of Participants

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Annex B- Opening Remarks KSA



Opening Remarks-
Chairman SC Meeting

Annex C- Agenda



Agenda- Steering
Committee Meeting Fe

Annex D- Summary of follow up action from HLM



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Implementation of the

Annex E- Talking points of WG2



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Building Matrix Highli