



DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 8

Virtual via Teams

Wednesday 17 April 2024

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, 17 April 2024.

2. It was chaired by Mr. Metse Ralephenya Director at Department of Transport-Republic of South Africa, and current Chairperson of the Steering Committee. The following attended the meeting:

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA- Chair of the SC

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA- Vice Chair of the SC

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

COMOROS – Vice Chair of Working Group 1 (WG1) and SC Member

SEYCHELLES– Chair of WG1 and SC Member

SOMALIA – Vice Chair of WG2 and 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 progress on the implementation of the DCoC since the last meeting and to agree on the necessary actions that would steer the DCoC forward effectively.

Opening Remarks, Updates, and follow up on pending tasks.

Metse Ralephenya

4. In his welcoming remarks, the Chairperson welcomed the participants and thanked them for their support so far. He expressed concern over the ongoing crisis in the Red Sea area and the resurgence of piracy threats, emphasizing the need for the DCoC to remain committed to the region's proactive stance in providing solutions to the challenges faced. He encouraged the Steering Committee to continuously utilize the DCoC and implement its provisions, which have proven effective in the past and can be instrumental even in this crisis.

5. He further emphasized the importance of raising the profile of the DCoC at all key IMO meetings to ensure that the region's voice is heard and that the DCoC receives the recognition it deserves for its significant work in addressing illicit maritime threats.

6. He then called upon the participants to review the key achievements thus far, particularly highlighting the call for action regarding the Red Sea crisis and the meeting with the IMO SG earlier in the year, during which commitments were made to support the DCoC. He concluded his remarks by outlining pending tasks, which include preparations for the high-level meeting in October 2024, operationalization of the thematic sub-working groups, and efforts to enhance the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN). Progress in the development of National Maritime Information Sharing Centers (NMISCs) has been slow, necessitating engagement with the Friends of DCoC to provide support for this work.

Agenda

7. The meeting adopted the agenda that had been circulated before the meeting. The agenda is attached as **Annex B**

IMO-Updates from Secretariat Kiruja Micheni

8. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) thanked the Steering Committee for their support so far and provided the following highlights:

.1 The 8-point action plan received a positive and favorable response from the IMO-SG, and the organization is currently considering which areas of capacity building it can support. The DCoC Team is following up on this and will provide further updates as they become available. The action plan is attached as **Annex C**.

2 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has offered to sponsor and host one DCoC training workshop in October 2024. The Secretariat is working closely with KSA to coordinate the logistics for the workshop.

.3 ACSS has offered to support the work on the development of the NMSS for Kenya and is also considering supporting the development of the Regional Maritime Security Strategy for the DCoC.

.4 Preparation for the DCoC High-Level Meeting to be held in October 2024. The Steering Committee was asked to be at the forefront of finding a sponsor for the meeting in Zanzibar from 22-24 October 2024.

.5 Continuous meetings with partners for resource mobilization have been held by the Secretariat.

.6 On Communications & Publicity, the Secretariat noted that they will work with the SC Chair's Public Relations/Communications POC to establish/content manage a Twitter & Instagram account for the Chair.

.7 It was noted that UNITAR, the UN agency on training, research, and education, has expressed interest in supporting DCoC brand management efforts. A short media proposal is currently under discussion.

.8 The Secretariat thanked the SC and Chair of WG 2 for lead contributions to the 10th Issue of the DCoC newsletter, to be released at the end of the month.

.9 The meeting was reminded that the EU sent a note verbal requesting to join the Friends of the DCoC (FoDCoC), and the meeting is called upon to

formally consider approving their request.". The Note Verbale is attached as **Annex D**.

Review of the TORs Mashudu Nepfumbada

9. The TORs of the Steering Committee were deliberated on by the members, with requests for amendments including the need for a specific tenure, the requirement for appointment letters to formalize appointments, agreement on the chairmanship during High-Level Meetings (HLMs) and National Focal Points (NFPs) meetings, clarification on whether the chair is for the Steering Committee or the DCoC/JA, and the distinction between the benefits enjoyed by an observer and those enjoyed by the Friends of the DCoC/JA. It was recommended that an Annex(es) be included at the end to incorporate various changes as they occur, to avoid continuous amendments to the TORs.

The Amended TORs of the Steering Committee are attached as **Annex E**

Plenary Session

10. Members deliberated on the need for the tenure to follow the calendar year and utilize the period between the election and the start of the calendar year as a handover period, given that most High-Level Meetings (HLMs) are held in October/November each year.

11. Members deliberated and agreed that the TORs remain a working document and the same will be circulated to the NFPs.

Update on Working Group 1 Yeslem Mubark-Yemen

12. Mr. Yeslem Mubark, Chair of WG1 (Yemen), began by providing an update on the progress of the implementation of the WG1 objectives. He highlighted various issues as follows:

- .1 He provided the status of the various NMISCs, and attainment of the initial operating capabilities as captured in the Capacity Building Coordination Matrix where some countries are operational while others aren't. He encouraged countries to provide their current status to enable the Steering Committee to find ways for technical support provision. He highlighted the need to link the NMISC to the Regional Centres to be able to be in alignment with the regional ISN.
- .2 He noted that there is a need to have a linkage of the NMISCs to the IORIS Platform at a regional level.
- .3 He reported on draft modalities sent to the Secretariat for positioning of an ILO at IFC-IOR for adoption by the SC. The draft proposal is attached as **Annex F**
- .4 He encouraged the need for the domestication of the Regional SOPs at the national level so that each NMISC in Signatory States aligns with the SOPs and has uniform reporting criteria.

The full WG1 presentation is attached as **Annex G**

Plenary - All participants

13. The meeting discussed an offer by the EU CRIMARIO II to utilize the IORIS Platform as an enabling platform for the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN). Members agreed that while this offer was good and welcomed, a platform alone would not provide the robust ISN that the DCoC participating States wish to establish. It was therefore agreed to initiate dialogue with the EU to seek more substantial support for the operationalization of the ISN, which would include supporting participating NMISCs to attain operational capability and the use of the IORIS platform.

14. Members deliberated on the IFC-IOR offer to host a DCoC ILO at the Centre, suggesting that in developing the TORs and the selection process, a competitive process may be considered. This would ensure that whoever is seconded possesses the expertise and knowledge required for the task.

Update of Working Group 2 Capt Daniel Adams-Seychelles

15. The Chair of WG2- Captain Daniel Adam (Seychelles) highlighted the progress made in WG2 so far as follows:

- .1 A meeting of WG2 was held on March 14, 2024, during which the scope of work on establishment of various capacity building coordination sub-working groups in line with the thematic areas covered by the Jeddah Amendment was considered. It was agreed to prioritize the operationalization of three sub-working groups, namely IUU Fishing (Chaired by Tanzania), Protection of Ships, Ports, and Coastal Installations (Chaired by Ethiopia), and Protection of the Marine Environment (Chaired by Mauritius). Subsequently, a meeting of the Chairs of those thematic sub-WGs was held on April 15, 2024, during which the following was agreed upon for the SC's approval
- .2 It was recommended that Concept Papers be developed outlining guidelines for operating the thematic areas, including the TORs, identification of participating partners, related programs, and areas requiring support. These papers will serve as the basis for further deliberations at the next High-Level Meeting.
- .3 The Chair of WG2 will update the Friends of the DCoC Meeting scheduled for April 23, 2024, on the progress made so far and request their support and guidance on areas/programs that the DCoC can tap into, which will be useful in drafting the Concept papers.
- .4 Countries elected to chair the thematic areas are requested to identify a subject matter expert who will support the NFP in managing the affairs of the thematic area, especially for those areas falling outside the core work of IMO.

- .5 Each thematic lead was requested to explore opportunities where these thematic areas are discussed in IMO meetings. This ensures that the region is able to tap into ongoing IMO activities and opportunities to promote the work of the DCoC.
- .6 The risk assessment for each threat needs to be addressed to find ways to mitigate the risks in a structured way and avoid scenarios like what happened with MV Abdulla where the ransom was paid which shouldn't have been the case as it will encourage the progression of the threat and also the money can be used to buy weapons or other contraband.
- .7 It was agreed that a DCoC statement for MSC 108 be prepared, aiming to update member States on the critical work of the DCoC and the efforts of signatory States in addressing shared threats and to seek broader support of IMO.

16. Capt. Adam (Seychelles) noted the need to align the Capacity Building Coordination and Work Plan for support with the IMO-SG 8 action plan and the CB Matrix, ensuring it's a comprehensive plan. This plan will be presented at the Friends meeting on April 23, 2024. The WG2 Chair requested SC approval to prioritize presenting the 8-action plan for the region in the meantime, while States work on a comprehensive work plan for identified support from partners.

Plenary

17. WG2 was tasked to engage with the Friends and find our areas where the partners lead and have existing programs and the same be included in the updated matrix so that subject matters both at the Signatory State level and the Partners level are both identified and linked together.

A.O.B

India's Status to the DCoC/JA

18. Deliberation was held on the request from India to join the DCoC. The great work of India in the region was noted and appreciated. Their actions have been the most effective in combating the threats in the Red Sea and the success is well documented. Members discussed that DCoC/JA members are those within the geographical proximity and location in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. It was noted that the observer status doesn't benefit them much and deliberation was held on whether to allow India to attend some key and strategic meetings on a need basis of the DCoC owing to their expertise and support in the region.

19. It was agreed that the request to join the Friends of the DCoC by the EU has been approved and the acceptance be sent to them by the Secretariat.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

20. Having deliberated on the various matters as stipulated in the agenda, the meeting noted with appreciation the commitments of the members and their collaboration with IMO and agreed as follows:

- .1 That the amended TORs be circulated to the NFPs for adoption in the next meeting. The Chairs of the WGs are to amend their TORs and circulate them for adoption.
- .2 The DCoC resolved to have a meeting with the EU to deliberate on how the EU can support the Signatory States in developing their NMISCs and linking them to the Regional ISN using their platforms and infrastructure.
- .3 WG1 to share the modalities for seconding an ILO officer at the IFC-IOR as per the India Offer including the profile of the candidate and using those and the India TORs to deliberate on this matter in the next WG1 meeting so that members agree on the approach to take in posting the ILO either rotational posting by country, competitive process through sending CVs and the best is chosen or both.
- .4 DCoC to send to India their nominee to be posted to the IFC-IOR by May 2024.
- .5 WG2 resolution as per their meeting on 15 April 2024 was agreed upon for forwarding to the Friends of the DCoC Meeting to be held on 23 April 2024 and circulation to the WG2 in the next meeting.
- .6 WG2 was requested to share with the Friends of the DCoC the 8-action plan as the key priorities for the region and areas where the DCoC is requesting for support.
- .7 The EU's request to join as friends of the DCoC was approved and the Secretariat was tasked to notify the EU of this approval.
- .8 It was agreed that India be invited to key and strategic DCoC Meetings on a need basis as per their expertise henceforth and the Secretariat was tasked with responding to them noting that we recognize their contribution and are willing to have them keep being the Friends of the DCoC and will invite them to the key DCoC meetings however due to geographical location, the DCoC is unable to admit them as full members.

Vote of thanks

21. Admiral Najji, the Vice Chairman (KSA) began by reiterating the support of the KSA and confirmed their offer to host one training in October 2024 and confirmed that the details will be shared as soon as they are finalized. He then concluded the meeting by thanking every member for attending and for all the efforts and commitment of the members in implementing the DCoC/JA.

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1610 hours EAT.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Agenda
- Annex C- DCoC 8 ACTION PLAN
- Annex D- EU NV on joining as Friends of DCoC/JA
- Annex E- Amended TORs for the Steering Committee

- Annex F- WG1 Modalities for posting an ILO at IFC-IOR
- Annex G- Presentation WG1

Annex A- List of Participants

Name	Country
Metse Ralephenya	RSA
Mashudu Nepfumbada	RSA
Admiral Najj Juhani	KSA
Capt Ali Al-Shehri	KSA
Capt Nasser Albugami	KSA
Capt Abdullah	KSA
Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
Anfidine Ali	Comoros
Said Lavani	Comoros
Capt Daniel Adams	Seychelles
Yonis Adan Adan	Somalia
Kiruja Micheni	IMO
Winnie Maina	IMO
Esther Kung'u (Njonde)	IMO

Annex B- Agenda



Agenda-Steering
Committee Meeting A

Annex C -DCoC 8 Action Plan



27 02 2024 - IMO SG
- Response to DCoC a

Annex D- Official Communication from EU on joining the Friends of DCoC/JA



Note Verbale
2745913 - Council ap

Annex E – Amended ToRs



TORs SC Version RSA
Version B - Substantiv

Annex F- WG1 Modalities for posting ILO at IFC-IOR



TERMS OF
REFERENCE FOR THE

Annex G- WG1 Presentation



WG1
PRESENTATION.pptx