



DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 7

Virtual via Teams

Wednesday 8 November 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, 8 November 2023.

2. It was chaired by Metse Ralephenya Director at Department of Transport-Republic of South Africa. 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 – Co Chair of Working Group 1 (WG1) and SC Member

SEYCHELLES– Chair of WG1 and SC Member

SOMALIA – Co 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 have the first meeting of the Steering Committee and get to know each other and set the agenda and pace for the priority areas and actions needed to move the DCoC Agenda forward.

Opening Remarks

4. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) noted that the meeting follows the election of the new Steering Committee during the 6th HLM in Capetown-RSA in October 2023. He congratulated everyone and welcomed them again on behalf of IMO and noted that he looks forward to working with the team as the DCoC Agenda is progressed in this time when DCoC has progressed and is moving towards its goal to be the premier maritime security coordination mechanism in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. He urged the SC to ensure that DCoC is represented in the various maritime security forums including CMF, SHADE among others in the region to ensure that the successes gained so far keep growing and are built on.

5. In his welcoming remarks, the Chairperson (RSA) noted that the 6th HLM took some serious decisions and there is need to ensure implementation of what was agreed. He noted

that some decisions needed follow-up and review based on the new information that was received after the HLM. He noted that all the elected team members including Chairs of the thematic areas have accepted the appointments and what needs to be done is the actual work to ensure that all areas are covered and reported on. He added that he is looking forward to such meetings where the SC will provide leadership and guidance to the DCoC.

Agenda

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

Remarks from Chair- RSA- Perspective on SC direction Metse Ralephenya

7. Mr. Metse Ralephenya (Chairperson- RSA) began by noting that the purpose of the meeting is to set the tone for what type of organization is envisioned for the DCoC. He began by highlighting the structure of the DCoC which has the SC as the overarching body however the SC does not have decision making powers and is advisory and mainly makes recommendations to the NFPs.

8. He raised concerns that the SC is a bureaucratic layer that facilitates consultation and suggests that as RSA he recommends the structure only entails having a Chair of the DCoC and recommended to abolish Steering Committee. He noted that if the SC is abolished then the WG Chairs will be reporting directly to the Chair of the DCoC who then takes responsibility of disseminating reports through the Secretariat to the NFPs and other stakeholders.

9. He noted that there is need to have NFPs keep the Chair of the DCoC posted on new developments in their space while keeping in mind that NFPs have the collective responsibility for all DCoC decisions and are called upon to advocate for the same and speak positively of the decisions. He noted that sovereignty of states remains of utmost importance and the NFPs and Chair will manage challenges relating to possible differences.

10. He noted that WGs are a very good arm to facilitate delivery of DCoC decisions. He noted that there has been positive delivery from WG1 and WG2 and added they be retained despite the addition of the thematic areas. He noted that the thematic areas will tamper with the flow of operations of WG1 and WG2 and added his preference for a 3rd Working Group focus on new thematic areas, as was recommended by Friends of the DCoC, to avoid destabilizing what is already working under WG1 and WG2. He noted that with the establishment of the thematic areas, the workload has increased thereby prompting the need to build capacity to deliver. He noted that there may be need to have experts come in from the Signatory States and Friends to assist in building this capacity.

11. He noted that the DCoC Chairperson will follow-up with deliverables by WGs with assistance from, and by the Secretariat. He noted this may entail individual meetings with chosen Friends of the DCoC and ensuring a strong structure of the relationship between DCoC and Friends of DCoC. In line with DCoC work the Chair noted that there is need to consider structuring the DCoC work by having an "operational plan" which will include an arm where the Friends volunteer to assist in developing such documents and the development of a simple reporting framework to be agreed upon.

Plenary Session

12. Mr. Yonis Adan (Somalia) noted that there should be a separation between how the implementation of the Steering Committee is done and how implementation of the various DCoC Projects is done to ensure there is no vagueness, and that it does not affect the working of DCoC holistically.

13. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) noted that the Secretariat is available to serve the NFPs and the Steering Committee. He noted that having a small group is important as getting consensus is easier and points raised in WG meetings and HLMs need a lot more focus and consideration, which will then be resubmitted to larger forums for reconsideration. It was noted that the working groups envisioned the possibilities of having experts attending the working groups meetings to provide the technical guidance upon consultation with the NFPs as the decision maker. It was noted that this can be made clearer in the revised TORs to ensure that it encompasses this proposal. It was noted that a WG3 can be established for fundraising purposes.

14. It was noted that a small group is a good idea, but it must not be called the Steering Committee. It was noted that if the SC remains as is, then there is need to have a clause allowing the SC to call experts on various fields to provide subject matter support based on the item being discussed.

15. There was deliberation and discussion on the non-legal binding nature of the DCoC noting that whatever is agreed on can only be implemented through the goodwill of the Signatory States. There was a discussion of if the SC can consider having and making the DCoC a legal binding agreement and support was requested from IMO on how to unpack this and what would be the pros and cons of the same and the modalities for Signatory States to undergo this transition.

Priorities and actions needed to operationalise the DCoC ISN by March 2024 and how to make the leading ISN in the region- Remarks from Chair-WG1

Yeslem Mubark-Yemen

12. Yeslem Mubark, Chair of WG1 (Yemen) began by noting various priority areas and actions needed as follows;

- a) All National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) to reach Initial Operating Capabilities by March 2024 as per the DCoC ISN Strategy and Roadmap. **Action needed** is all Signatory States to update current status of NMISC if not already in the CB matrix and assistance needed to attain IOC by March 2024.
- b) Domestication of the regional SOPs for their effective use at the NMISCs. It was noted that there is need to note that the SOPs is a living document and will be amended and revised as and when need arises. **Action needed**; Signatory States to domesticate the SOPs to have a uniform modality of operating.
- c) Partnership with RMIFC and RCOC. Following various meetings, there is need to forge a way forward regarding partnering with these 2 centres. The MOU sent to all NFPs is one such way and the same will be discussed later in this meeting. As WG1 Chair, these Centres are essential to the success of the DCoC ISN hence need to have a structured way to operate with them and maximise on the benefits for the

benefit of the entire region. **Action needed;** Sign the MOU for Signatory States to benefit from engagement with the 2 regional centres.

- d) India's offer to position a DCOC ILO in IFC- IOR. India has confirmed all financials are catered for and are ready to send an official letter and start the process with the country nominated to go first. **Action needed;** SC to deliberate on modalities for sending a representative. Will it be on rotational basis and starting from which Country.
- e) Training and capacity building. WG1 Chair recognised the need for continuous trainings and capacity building initiatives on MDA, Cyber Security, IS systems and modalities, exercises to test the effectiveness of SOPs and Inter-agency and regional levels of working together. WG1 requests KSA to continue hosting trainings and workshops as they used to and calls upon other Signatory States willing to host to do so, so that the region does not lag behind.

Plenary

13. It was noted that India has been contacting the Secretariat and asked for direction on where and who to address the invitation to. The only requirements given by India was that it should be rank of commander and the nominee should be an English speaker as the working language is English. It was noted that the TORs for modalities of positioning an ILO needs to be fast tracked so that India can receive their feedback at the earliest to avoid any delays.

14. It was noted that the DCoC can have an MOU with the 2 MASE Centres but it cannot be on behalf of the Signatory States owing to the nature of the non-legal binding nature of the DCoC/JA Agreement.

Update of Working Group 2-To discuss actions needed to achieve effective coordination of CB, how to maximize on the Matrix and operationalization of the expanded structure

Capt Daniel Adams-Seychelles

15. The Chair of WG2- Captain Daniel Adam (Seychelles) noted that the various actions needed include;

- a) Need to have partners who have access to the Matrix report back on areas they have picked to provide assistance and coordinate with IMO on the same.
- b) Need to develop a joint calendar to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of efforts while maximising on the available resources.
- c) Revision of TORs for WG2 to include the expanded structure and develop mechanisms for how each of the lead will submit a subject matter Expert based on the area they are leading, who will be the focal point. Areas identified for capacity building by these leads will feed into the developed joint work plan to ensure all areas are covered.
- d) Continuous update of needs by NFPs to ensure partners access the most current priorities.
- e) Continuous reporting of success stories from Signatory States to motivate NFPs and partners on the benefits of the CB Matrix and need for continuous follow up to maximise on its availability.
- f) Picking up on the need to develop a communication strategy which will be an advocacy and fundraising tool for the DCoC and will ensure the success of the Matrix is maximised and kept current.

A.O.B**Revision of the TORs**

16. It was deliberated that the TORs will be amended accordingly by the respective teams and the same is captured in the summary of outcomes.

Discussion of the draft MOU between RCOC and RMIFC

17. There was a discussion and deliberation on the need to work closely with the 2 MASE Centres as it presents great potential and will maximise on the good work of WG1. It was noted that for Signatory States that do not have bilateral agreements with the 2 MASE Centres, it would be very challenging to get support and hence the MOU between the centres and the DCoC gives such Signatory States an opportunity to benefit from these engagements.

18. There was discussion on the need for members to agree on a format that will enable DCoC work with the 2 Centres and will not be restrictive. WG2 was tasked to brainstorm on this and deliberate on a way forward as to how DCoC can effectively link to the 2 centres even if it means advocating for individual Signatory States to sign bilateral agreements with the 2 centres for those that have not yet signed.

19. There was further discussion to have the DCoC Co-opt the 2 MASE centres and as such, for communication in the region, the two centres will be used by the DCoC as regional centres. It was noted that this can begin by developing a relationship based on mutual interest and out of this interest growing together.

20. It was reiterated that the DCoC cannot sign an MOU with the 2 MASE Centres as it is not legally binding and hence can only advocate for bilateral signing of the MOUs between the specific Signatory States and the Centres.

Inter-Ministerial Meeting to be held in Mauritius in November 2023

21. It was noted that there is an Inter-Ministerial meeting from 16-18 November 2023 and there is need to be in the meeting so that the DCoC perspective can be made and heard so that the decisions made thereof will include DCoC and its objectives. It was noted that IOC will fund 2 participants to be in the meeting on behalf of the DCoC and the relationship between the DCoC and the 2 MASE Centres can be cemented while at the Inter-Ministerial meeting.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

22. 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:

- That DCoC will endeavour to have a representative in all maritime security forums and ensure the reports from these forums where DCoC has been invited to be circulated to the Signatory States for their information.
- That a planning meeting will be held with the leads of the thematic areas to share the approach and way forward regarding the operationalization of the established 7 thematic areas.

- That the Secretariat will make a request to the Friends of DCoC to support development of working and operational plans for the WG1 and WG2.
- That the Steering Committee will hold a joint meeting between Friends of DCoC and the Steering Committee with individual Friends as a block of various friends.
- That the Steering Committee's TORs will be revised and have them include provisions that subject matter experts can be called upon in the meetings to provide technical expertise as and when needed.
- IMO was requested to consider providing technical assistance through a consultant to assist in unpacking and modalities to have the DCoC become a legally binding agreement.
- All Signatory States to be requested to update current status of NMISCs if not already in the CB matrix and assistance needed to attain IOC by March 2024.
- IMO was asked to request India for documents on what this ILO position entails and costs being borne by India to enable the SC and Working Groups draft informed TORs, before circulation to the NFPs.
- WG1 to develop TORs for modalities for positioning of an ILO at the IFC-IOR and share with the Secretariat for deliberation by the NFPs and approval of the same. This will be shared by December 2023.
- WG1 to share the recommendations for the insertion of IORIS into the DCoC ISN for deliberation and approval by NFPs. This will be shared by January 2024.
- WG2 to reach out to the signatory states who were elected as leads for the thematic areas and identify the focal points who may not necessarily be the NFPs as it should be in alignment with the subject matter experts or agency that the specific Signatory State is chairing.
- The Steering Committee agreed that there is consensus from DCoC Signatory States to have the 2 MASE Centres work together with the DCoC and make progress towards them being part of the acknowledged DCoC Regional centres to enable achievement of mutual objectives with regards to developing of a robust Information Sharing Network and coordination of operations at sea in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden.
- WG2 Chair to brainstorm (internally and with IOC) and recommend to NFPs a format which the DCoC can link with the two centres- RCOC and RMIFC and have DCoC co-opt the 2 Centres to be regional centres of the DCoC as was the case with the 3 initial centres of Mombasa, Tanzania and Sana'a where no MoU's were signed then. Once this is agreed by the NFPs, then a resolution can be made to this effect and officially all DCoC Signatory States will use the centres. IMO was requested to provide assistance on how this can be effectively phrased and implemented noting that the DCoC is not a legally binding document to ensure that everyone is comfortable.
- The Steering Committee agreed to have 2 nominees (Comoros and Secretariat) to attend the Inter-Ministerial Meeting to be held in Mauritius in November 2023.

- The Chair of the Steering committee and Chair of WG1 to meet with the 2 Directors of the 2 MASE Centres and IOC to follow up further on the mechanisms and modalities of working together with the 2 MASE Centres.

Vote of thanks

23. 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.

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1745hours EAT.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Agenda

Annex A- List of Participants

Name	Country
Metse Ralephenya	RSA
Admiral Naji Al-Juhani	KSA
Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
Anfifdine 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 N