



**REPORT OF THE MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP MEETING HELD ON
28 FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE DEFENCE ADVISER'S RESIDENCE –
JESSOP HOUSE, NAIROBI**

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Maritime Coordination Group (MCG) was hosted by the United Kingdom at the Defence Adviser's residence – Jessop House, Lower Kabete Rd in Nairobi on 28 February 2025 from 0930 EAT. It was chaired by **Cdr Shaun Quinn**.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by 18 participants from the following States:

AUSTRALIA CANADA DENMARK FRANCE
GERMANY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES

And by the following International Organizations and Programmes:

CRIMARIO IMO UNODC

Absent with apologies.

The Secretariat received apologies from participants of the following organizations/countries:

PAKISTAN

The list of participants is shown at **ANNEX A**.

Introduction

3. Commander Shaun Quinn welcomed the attendees and extended apologies on behalf of the Deputy Defence Adviser, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Kaulback, who was engaged in a regional event in South Sudan. Participants introduced themselves.

Summary of matters on Kenya's priorities arising of the previous meeting

4. The meeting revisited matters discussed in the previous session, including:
- Updates on the UNODC-Denmark financing research initiative.
 - Legal training in maritime law in collaboration with Kenya's ODPP.
 - Strengthening interagency cooperation.
 - Border security assessments by IOM.
 - Resource sharing in Kenya's National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS).
 - Enhancing connectivity among Kenya's information-sharing centers.
 - The need for an integrated information-sharing system in NMSS.



- Demonstrating the effectiveness of fused systems within IORIS.

5. Ms. Becky Adiele (UNODC) provided an update on its financing research initiative in partnership with Denmark. The research covers diplomatic and political recommendations as well as maritime law enforcement (MLE).

6. UNODC further reported on MLE training initiatives in collaboration with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) for 2024 and 2025. The UNODC and Kenya's Border Management Secretariat emphasized the need to align the operations of Kenya's Joint Operations Centers (JOCs) located in Kisumu and Mombasa through mutual training.

7. CRIMARIO's representative, Elie El Sayah, presented insights into the integrated IORIS and Skylight systems. Members raised concerns over redundancies in maritime surveillance platforms, specifically between SeaVision and IORIS, which produce similar outputs. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX B**

Feedback from MCG participating countries/organizations

AUSTRALIA

8. Mr. Stuart Smith reported the appointment of a new Deputy Defence Adviser and a national election is due in Australia before the end of May. A change in government may result in a change in security policy focus.

CANADA

9. Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Wood highlighted that Canada is doing more training on maritime security, adding that an election cycle was close. He added that Canada foresees increased defense and security spending in the East African region.

CRIMARIO

10. Ms. Gladys Kiprono, Kenya's Country Representative to the CRIMARIO II Project, emphasized the project's commitment to maritime security and governance. She highlighted that CRIMARIO II, an EU-funded initiative, has successfully trained over 100 agencies from 45 countries on the IORIS platform—a neutral and secure tool for information exchange. In Kenya, over 167 officers from various agencies, including the Kenya Navy, Kenya Coast Guard Service, and Kenya Ports Authority, have received training. Additionally, Kenyan agencies are actively engaged in the governance of IORIS, participating in its Steering Committee, Policy Board, and Working Groups.

11. Ms. Kiprono further noted Kenya's active role in regional maritime security efforts, particularly in the IORIS Geographic Community Area, which includes Somalia and Tanzania. She acknowledged Kenya's recent leadership as Area Administrator before handing over to Somalia in January. Kenya has also contributed to developing Regional and National IORIS



Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and played a leading role in the recently concluded Exercise Sisyphus on February 24, 2025, which tested vessel interception and boarding operations. She expressed hope that IORIS usage would become standard practice among Kenyan agencies, reinforcing collaboration and trust in maritime information sharing.

DENMARK

12. Col Jens Lindvig drew attention to a recent piracy study conducted with UNODC and the EU along the Somali coast. Findings indicate reemergence of piracy linked to Somali pirates, the Houthis, and Al-Shabaab.

13. Denmark newly-launched a global maritime strategy focusing on enforcement, surveillance, information-sharing, and capacity building, with a summary available as at **Annex C**.

14. In addition, a senior Danish officer will soon be seconded to the IMO to support the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) Secretariat under a proposed Danish maritime security project.

15. Jesper Duer Pedersen (Maritime Adviser at the Royal Danish Embassy) informed members of the strategic sector cooperation between Kenya and Denmark. Both countries will be engaged in a long-term three-phase, nine-year project aimed at enhancing Kenya's maritime sector. The collaboration focuses on civilian-to-civilian cooperation in maritime education and training for Kenyan cadets. A key challenge being addressed is the lack of international recognition for Kenyan cadet certificates, a gap Denmark is committed to helping close through its well-established maritime education system.

16. Additionally, the partnership aims to support Kenya's implementation of the MARPOL Convention, which the country has ratified. Denmark will assist Kenya in domesticating the convention's provisions to ensure compliance with international maritime environmental standards. In addition, the SSC will focus upon strengthening Kenya's work on green shipping, including international regulation on a strategic and operational level; and improving Kenya's planning of sustainable use of marine resources through Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).

GERMANY

17. Cdr. Grossmann, Holger emphasized the need for better coordination between EU, UK, and Dutch maritime efforts to avoid duplicating efforts. Germany is funding maritime security projects and plans to deploy its navy for regional cooperation. Concerns were raised over data-sharing inefficiencies, particularly in West Africa, where interagency competition hinders information fusion.

18. Ms. Andrea Pohl added that Germany's coalition government's support for the region would be announced in due course.

IMO

19. Ms. Winnie Maina discussed the DCoC High-Level Meeting and the establishment of Working Group 3 (WG3) to enhance naval coordination and maritime security in the Red Sea.



Kenya will host the first WG3 meeting. The IMO is assisting in finalizing Kenya's National Maritime Security Strategy, funded through the EU Safe Seas for Africa project, while also completing Denmark's secondment of a senior maritime officer to the regional offices in Nairobi.

20. Under the Port Security project, Ms. Maina pointed out that legal workshops and Port Facility Security Assessment (PFSA) workshops are coming up in March and April. Kenya received support for Search and Rescue Training under the Red Sea Project.

INDIA

21. Captain V Shirdikant (IN) outlined India's deployment of assets across the Gulf of Aden, North Central Arabian Sea, and the East Coast of Somalia, following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict in October 2023 which disrupted maritime security in the three priority zones. With over 30 warships, helicopters, special operations teams, and air surveillance units actively engaged, the IN has responded to 24 maritime incidents, rescuing more than 350 individuals and ensuring the safe passage of 297 merchant vessels worth \$5 billion. The resurgence of piracy in the waters off East Africa remains a critical concern, with the IN successfully rescuing over 120 crew members from hijacked ships. Concurrently, the IN is conducting the Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) 2025, designed to assess its operational preparedness across cyber warfare, electronic warfare, and amphibious operations.

22. On the front of regional maritime cooperation, India is assisting Kenya in establishing a National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC) to enhance security coordination, fulfilling commitments under the Djibouti Code of Conduct-Jeddah Amendment (DCOC-JA). Furthermore, the Indian government is spearheading the Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME), a large-scale joint exercise involving ten African nations, with Kenya confirming the deployment of two naval ships. Additionally, the Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR initiative will facilitate regional collaboration and capacity-building through maritime operations from March to May 2025, reinforcing India's role as a Preferred Security Partner and First Responder in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

UNITED KINGDOM

23. Cdr. Shaun Quinn reported that the United Kingdom has trained (and continues to train) sailors into Kenya Marines over a two-year period, with support from the United States of America. The Kenya Marines is tasked with operating Kenyan Navy boats, but so far, their training has been primarily focused on infantry skills at Manda Bay, with limited exposure to operations at sea. The UK aims to expand to include boarding (VBSS) training for the Marines, with the Special Boats Unit (SBU) driving the boats.

24. Though Kenyan Navy cites proficiency in Level 1-3 boarding, a recent needs analysis for the revealed significant infrastructural and capacity gaps. To address this, the UK will provide specialized boarding equipment for vessels with a high freeboard, improving Kenya's maritime security operations. Additional Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) training for the Kenya Marines will be availed to enhance their boarding capabilities.



25. The UK has also been supporting maritime training for Kenyan personnel. As part of these efforts, they are developing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing courses, which will be conducted in Kenya by the end of the year. These courses will involve multiple Kenyan agencies to break down silo mentality and encourage greater cooperation among maritime stakeholders.

26. Meanwhile, the Kenyan Navy is in the process of replacing its old Maritime Operations Center (MOC) with a new one to improve operational coordination.

27. In Tanzania, the UK has sent personnel for advanced maritime courses and has supported Tanzania's participation in CUTLASS Express, a multinational maritime security exercise. Additionally, the UK has embedded personnel at the Regional Coordination Center (RCoC) to strengthen regional maritime cooperation.

28. Regarding Uganda, their Marines have been receiving training in Seychelles, as Kenya has restrained similar UK-supported training programs to take place in Malindi or Watamu.

UNODC

29. UNODC informed the meeting of ongoing efforts and recent developments in maritime security and capacity-building initiatives: The Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) continues to strengthen its human resource capacities, working internally to enhance its operational effectiveness.

30. UNODC also announced the completion of a piracy report, developed in collaboration with the EU and Denmark. Discussions are ongoing with stakeholders regarding the dissemination of the report and related information, with updates to be provided on the next steps.

31. As part of a Denmark-funded initiative, UNODC successfully hosted the Women in Maritime Security Event in Mombasa. This event brought together female coast guard officers from Somalia and Kenya, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary for leadership roles. Additionally, it aimed to develop long-term strategies for partnerships that would support capacity-building efforts for women in the maritime sector.

32. In addition, UNODC, in collaboration with previously trained experts from KCGS, will conduct an Information Management and Sharing Training in March 2025. This training is designed for officers from KCGS and Border Management Committees operating along the Kenya-Somalia border to enhance their ability to share and utilize critical information effectively.

33. Under a Canada-funded initiative, UNODC has finalized the Joint Operations Center (JOC) Training Manual, which will serve as a key resource for operational coordination at Kenyan border points. Plans are also underway to establish Joint Operations Centers in Lamu and Malindi, aimed at enhancing monitoring and security efforts along the Kenya-Somalia border.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

34. Ms. Sankar, Parvathy reported that INL support is currently on a 90-day pause as IML conducts a global program review under new administrative guidelines aligned with MAGA.



Following the review, INL will provide recommendations and share them with Washington D.C. For terminated projects, implementers will be required to return funds, while the U.S. will request implementation reports, particularly from KCGS and other partners, to justify continued funding for countries and implementing agencies. Meanwhile, justice and legal-related work has been paused, though waivers have been secured for two agencies. However, larger projects remain on hold pending further review.

35. Cdr. Levi “Preacher” Lundell reviewed the recent CUTLASS Express maritime exercise, which was successfully completed, with 20 nations participating. The exercise focused on enhancing Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs) by utilizing SeaVision and satellite imagery for improved vessel monitoring and maritime domain awareness.

36. As part of the exercise, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) drills were conducted in Tenga (United Republic of Tanzania), Mauritius, and Seychelles, alongside rule of law courses to strengthen legal frameworks in maritime security operations.

37. However, challenges persist in information sharing due to the lack of access to platforms like SeaVision and IORIS. Currently, intelligence gathered often remains within military channels, where it cannot be shared openly, as doing so would constitute a criminal offence. To address this issue, a sensitive information-sharing mechanism through the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) has been proposed. Kenya, as a full member of the CMF, will receive a complete setup of classified maritime information-sharing equipment to enhance coordination and collaboration in maritime security efforts.

Way forward

- EU requested to share an update on infantry support intended for Kenya valued at 4.4 million euros.
- Need to have incentives to make countries fuse shared information with each other.
- Need to meet with the chair of the NMSC to streamline the difficulties partners share when implementing activities. USA raised the issue of sea blindness and poor MDA due to a lack of proper info-sharing.
- CRIMARIO II has availed a SeaVision – IORIS complementary non-paper which is a comparative analysis of the U.S built SeaVision and the EU-funded CRIMARIO II Indo-Pacific Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) platform. It outlines their respective strengths, features, and collaborative potential in maritime domain awareness (MDA) and is attached as **ANNEX D**.
- There is growing concern over the reemergence of piracy in the region and this evolving threat underscores the urgent need for collective action from all stakeholders to prevent a resurgence of piracy and maintain maritime security in the region.

AOB

38. Germany thanked participants for their active involvement, adding that the MCG is important as it addresses the interdisciplinary aspects of Maritime security.



39. A host for the next MCG meeting, possibly in June/July 2025 will be sourced in the coming months. Communication will be shared with members beforehand. There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1230hrs EAT.

REFERENCES

ANNEX A: List of Participants

ANNEX B: Skylight in IORIS Presentation

ANNEX C: Denmark's Global Strategy for Maritime Security 2025-2028

ANNEX D: SEAVISION-IORIS Complementary Paper

ANNEX A: List of Participants

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE
AUSTRALIA	Mr. Stuart Smith
CANADA	Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Wood
CRIMARIO	Gladys Jebiwott
DENMARK	Jens Lindvig
	Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen
	Henrik Frandsen
	Jesper Duer Pedersen
GERMANY	Ms. Andrea Pohl
	Cdr. Grossmann, Holger
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION	Winnie Maina
	Esther Kung'u (Njonde)
INDIA	Captain V Shirdikant (IN)
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME	Becky Adiele
UNITED KINGDOM (HOST)	Deputy Defence Adviser, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Kaulback (Apologies)
UNITED KINGDOM (HOST)	Commander Shaun Quinn
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Sankar Parvathy (INL)
	Cdr. Levi "Preacher" Lundell



ANNEX B: Skylight in IORIS Presentation

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/28022025-Skylight-in-IORIS-Presentation.pdf>

ANNEX C: Denmark's Global Strategy for Maritime Security 2025-2028:

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Global-Strategy-for-Maritime-Security-English-summary-FEB-2025.pdf>

ANNEX D: SEAVISION-IORIS Complementary Paper

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/SEAVISION-IORIS-Complementary-Paper.pdf>
