



## **DCoC/JA NFPs Extraordinary Meeting No 5**

**Virtual via Teams**

**Thursday 12 September 2024**

### **Record of the Meeting**

1. The Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment (hereinafter referred to as the DCoC/JA) and states eligible to sign these instruments (hereinafter referred to collectively as 'Participants'), through their National Focal Points (NFPs) and invited international partners, met to discuss and plan the upcoming activities in the implementation of the DCoC/JA between September and December 2024. The meeting was held virtually via TEAMS on Thursday 12 September 2024.

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

<b>BAHRAIN</b>	<b>COMOROS</b>	<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>JORDAN</b>
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>	<b>MALDIVES</b>	<b>OMAN</b>	<b>SEYCHELLES</b>
<b>SOMALIA</b>	<b>SOUTHAFRICA</b>	<b>SUDAN</b>	<b>TANZANIA</b>
<b>YEMEN</b>			

And representatives from: **CRIMARIO II, EU, RCOC and RMIFC.**

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

### **Aim**

3. The aim of the meeting was to deliberate on the planning of key upcoming activities related to the implementation of the DCoC/JA and to seek input from NFPs and regional stakeholders on the proposed new EU-funded Emergency Response proposal. This proposal aims to build regional capacities to address maritime security threats and contribute effectively to managing the ongoing crisis in the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean. The agenda is attached as **Annex B**

### **Welcome Remarks from the Chair-DCoC Metse Ralephenya- RSA**

4. The Chairman welcomed all participants and thanked them for their presence and unwavering dedication. He emphasized the need for thorough preparation ahead of the upcoming key DCoC meetings, particularly the donor meeting with the IMO Secretary-General and the high-level meeting. This preparation is essential to ensure a common understanding of the issues, enabling them to be effectively presented at the upcoming meetings.

## Support for the DCoC ISN

5. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) recalled that, following the onset of the crisis in the Red Sea area in November 2023, the DCoC has held several meetings with various stakeholders, including two with the IMO Secretary-General, which led to the development of the 8-point action plan. Since then, the secretariat has been engaged in discussions with international partners to support the interventions agreed upon by regional states, particularly the work led by DCoC Working Group One to develop a robust information-sharing network (ISN). This network aims to facilitate effective coordination of regional and international responses to combat illicit activities at sea.

6. He noted that the Secretariat has had highly productive discussions with the European Union (EU) on how it can support the DCoC in taking action. This includes the proposed EU-funded CRISIS Response Proposal to be implemented in partnership with CRIMARIO. He emphasized that the program offers a valuable opportunity to build regional capacity, particularly in developing the DCoC ISN, which can be effectively utilized for coordinated action. This opportunity would provide practical measures enabling the region to work together in responding to the crisis, fostering collaboration in conducting law enforcement operations at sea, and developing and maintaining a regional vessels-of-interest database. Ultimately, the DCoC will be at the forefront of addressing these issues.

7. He added that, with the member states having agreed to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in repressing illicit activities at sea, the DCoC occupies a unique niche with a strong mandate to facilitate both dialogue and the coordination of operations. This includes collaboration with international naval partners in addressing the challenges facing the region, while also encouraging the involvement of regional navies in tackling maritime threats, working closely with the RCOC, which was set up to support such efforts.

8. He further recalled that Yemen has been appealing for assistance, and all members acknowledge the necessity of supporting the country. He noted that this project will provide tangible support for Yemen, including the operationalization of the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC) in Aden and offering assistance to the Yemeni Coast Guard, as outlined in the 8-point plan.

9. Capt. Yeslem Mubarak (Yemen and Chair of WG1) noted the need to make the DCoC ISN fully operational. This requires integrating DCoC regional centers and NMISCs, equipped with all necessary equipment and systems, to ensure a robust information-sharing network. To achieve this, he emphasized that the DCoC needs to work closely and implement the following:

- .1 Call for action to ensure partners support making all DCoC regional centers and NMISCs fully operational through the provision of equipment, technical assistance, and infrastructure.
- .2 Establishment of a regional database of vessels of interest, utilizing the ISN to monitor them,
- .3 Liaison with the DCoC Secretariat to deconflict partner commitments towards the development and operationalization of the DCoC ISN.
- .4 Domesticating regional SOPs at the national level to ensure uniform reporting by NMISCs.

- .5 Identifying the main platform to facilitate communication, information sharing, and exchange between countries and regional centers.
- .6 Continued dialogue and liaison with partners on the proposed support for the operationalization of the ISN, including assisting participating NMISCs in achieving operational capability and utilizing the IORIS platform for information exchange and sharing.

10. Mr. Vosatka Ondrej (EU) highlighted the EU's support for the DCoC in the region, emphasizing that the EU views it as the regional maritime security architecture that needs to be supported, strengthened, and made fully operational. He noted that the EU is pleased to be a friend of the DCoC/JA. Additionally, he mentioned that the EU has bilateral and regional programs aimed at supporting regional capacity, reflecting a long-term approach.

11. He further noted that, in light of the unprecedented scale of the Red Sea crisis, the EU is considering how to enhance cooperation and support. They are contemplating launching a Crisis Response Project to support the DCoC/JA in line with the 8-point action plan. This project will focus on the information-sharing network and its operationalization, including support for ReMISC and other national centers. The project will also include training exercises. Additionally, the project will have a second component directly supporting maritime capacities in Djibouti and Yemen, aimed at strengthening their Coast Guards due to their strategic location in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. Mr. Ondrej noted that the project will be coordinated with other partners and EU projects. A tentative budget of 4 million euros has been allocated for the project, pending approval of the EU political decision. He also mentioned that there is consideration of working with CRIMARIO to support the DCoC in enhancing the information-sharing component.

12. Mr. Martin Cauchi-Inglott (CRIMARIO II) noted that, the CRISIS RESPONSE project would be led by the DCoC, with CRIMARIO and IOC potentially serving as implementing partners. The overall objective of the project is to enhance regional capacities to address various maritime threats, particularly those in the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean. He outlined some of the planned activities and the capacities intended to be developed, including a two-month inception phase and activities aimed at achieving two main objectives: strengthening and operationalizing the DCoC ISN, and enhancing the capacities of the Djibouti and Yemen Coast Guards. **His Presentation is attached as Annex C**

13. Capt. Getinet Abay (Ethiopia) noted that at the High-Level Meeting (HLM) in Dubai in 2022, it was resolved to support ReMISC Aden, and the EU's offer is a response to that request, for which the DCoC is grateful. He further noted that most signatory states use IORIS and emphasized the need to maximize the use of this platform to ensure its benefits are fully realized in the region.

#### **Preparations for the Donor Round Table Meeting to be held on 3 October 2024**

14. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) reminded members of the meeting between the DCoC SC Chair and the IMO Secretary-General, during which the SG offered support for the DCoC's resource mobilization efforts including the donor roundtable proposed to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, on the margins of the 82nd Session of the MEPC. The DCoC Team has been following up with IMO HQ, and it is understood that the meeting might be rescheduled owing to the SG's tight schedule. He noted that members will be informed once confirmation is

received. There are also considerations to include virtual participation to accommodate those unable to attend in person.

15. He highlighted the need to finalize the meeting agenda, which should include significant input from working group chairs and National Focal Points on the importance of implementing the DCoC/JA, its challenges, and the areas where support is most needed, as outlined in the 8-point action plan.

### **Preparation for HLM 2024 in Tanzania**

16. Ms. Stella Katondo (Tanzania) reported that preparations for the HLM 2024 are progressing well. She confirmed that the conference will take place at the Serena Hotel, and Tanzania is working on meeting the host country requirements, including identifying additional hotels for delegate accommodations, which will be shared with the Secretariat. She added that the Minister and the Permanent Secretary will be attending the HLM and expressed optimism for a successful event.

17. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) also confirmed that funding has been secured from the German Government through UNITAR to support the meeting. The Secretariat anticipates a successful event, with delegate facilitation and interpretation costs for both French and Arabic being covered under the sponsorship. He emphasized the importance of thorough planning, given the high-profile nature of the meeting.

### **Plenary Discussion**

18. Mr. Metse Ralephenya (South Africa) acknowledged the DCoC's agreement on the importance of the Crisis Project, highlighting the opportunity to align support with the new EU CRISIS Response Project and to strengthen the information-sharing network.

19. The meeting was informed that a new EU funded programme, Safe Seas for Africa, has recently started. Under this initiative, IOC has received substantial funding to support centres in the region they cover. It was noted that under the CRISIS Response Project, the DCoC will review the capacity-building coordination matrix and assist countries that have requested support but are not receiving assistance from the IOC, to avoid duplication of efforts.

20. The meeting acknowledged the need for the DCoC to promote the involvement of regional navies in its affairs and to develop a mechanism for close cooperation among navies to enhance maritime security in the region.

21. Capt. Sam Gontier (Director RCOC) reported that the RCOC is working on proposals for the integration, operationalization, and coordination of actions at sea, as resolved at the 2023 HLM in Cape Town. He added that they are working closely to engage regional navies in the cooperation mechanism with the DCoC, ensuring both civil and military support to address maritime security threats. This proposal is expected to be tabled at the HLM in Tanzania for further resolution.

22. Mr. Said Lavani (Comoros) noted that RMIFC will involve WG1 in the upcoming TTX to build information-sharing capacity.

23. Mr. Yonis Adan (Somalia) reiterated the need for high-level representation, including Ministers, since the IMO Secretary-General will be present at the meeting. There is a need to match this level of representation.

24. It was noted that during the HLM, discussions will include how to respond to the situation in the Red Sea and the resurgence of piracy. The HLM will pass resolutions on

strategies and develop recommendations, including progressing the DCoC towards an operational mechanism involving regional and international navies.

25. Members will be kept informed about plans, and joining instructions will be shared in due time to keep everyone updated and appropriately guided.

26. The meeting highlighted the significance of ongoing collaboration between the DCoC and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA in organizing joint training events, such as the forthcoming EXERCISE ALDABRA III, which will be held in Seychelles from September 30 to October 4, 2024. The exercise, to be co-chaired by the DCoC and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, will be supported by the IOC through the Safe Sea for Africa Programme. The meeting recommended involving both the RCOC and RMIFC in the exercise.

27. The meeting was informed that arrangements for the Jeddah workshop (October 20-31, 2024) are progressing well. The workshop will make substantial recommendations regarding the development of the regional strategy, which will be discussed and agreed upon at the high-level meeting.

### Summary of Deliberations

28. Having gone through the meeting, the participants agreed as follows;

- .1 NFPs welcomed the upcoming project on CRISIS RESPONSE and noted that they will work together with the EU and CRIMARIO to ensure the project is a success.
- .2 NFPs welcomed RCOC to share workable proposals to forge forward the operationalization of the integration of DCoC into RCOC and RMIFC.
- .3 The Secretariat to brief the members in good time on the way forward in regard to the dates of the DCoC Donor Round table meeting which is scheduled for 3 October 2024.

### Vote of thanks:

29. The Chair appreciated the Signatory States and partners for their commitment and wished them well as they endeavour to work on the agreed items and looked forward to actionable way forward in addressing the crisis.

30. With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1535 hours EAT.

### Annexes:

- **Annex A- List of Participants**
- **Annex B- Agenda**
- **Annex C- EU Crisis Respond Project Activities**

### Annex A- List of Participants

No	Name	Country
1	Nayef Issa Mohammed	Bahrain

2	Anfidine Ali Toihr	Comoros
3	Said Lavani	Comoros/RMIFC
4	Ali Mirah Chelem	Djibouti
5	Capt Getinet Abay	Ethiopia
6	Abed Aldabet	Jordan
7	Jean Edmond Randrianantenaina	Madagascar
8	Capt Abdulla Latheef	Maldives
9	Said Almukaini	Oman
10	Yonis Adan Adan	Somalia
11	Metse Ralephenya	Republic of South Africa
12	Mashudu Nephumbada	Republic of South Africa
13	Capt Daniel Adam	Seychelles
14	Capt Islam Abudarag	Sudan
15	Stella Katondo	Tanzania
16	Mohammed Almagashi	Yemen
17	Capt Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
18	Martin Cauchi-Inglott	CRIMARIO
19	Vosatka Ondrej	EU
20	Jouni Laari	EU, Security and Defence Policy Division on Maritime Security, European External Action Service

21	Matthew Willner-Reid,	EU, FPI.1 Global Threats and Challenges
22	Sam Gontier	RCOC Director
23	Kiruja Micheni	IMO
24	Mustafa Ameen	IMO
25	Winnie Maina	IMO
26	Esther Kung'u	IMO

### Annex B-Agenda



Agenda-NFPs  
Meeting-12092024.doc

### Annex C – EU CRISIS RESPOND ACTIVITIES



240913 EU CRISIS  
RESPONSE ACTION-M