



DCoC/JA WORKING GROUP 2 Meeting No 1

Virtual via Teams

Thursday 14 March 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') held a meeting of the Working Group 2 of the DCoC/JA to discuss operationalisation of the sub working groups on the various thematic areas amongst other aspects on capacity building coordination. The meeting was held virtually via TEAMS on Thursday 14 March 2024.

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

COMOROS	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	JORDAN
MALDIVES	MAURITIUS	OMAN	SEYCHELLES
SOMALIA	SUDAN	YEMEN	

And representatives from the IMO and RCOC.

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

Aim

3. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the operationalization of the thematic working groups to ensure that efforts are synergized to enhance capacity-building coordination in line with the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment.

Working Group 2 Chair remarks and purpose of the meeting Capt. Daniel Adam (Seychelles)

4. Capt. Daniel began by thanking the participants for joining the first WG2 virtual meeting on capacity building aligned to the new structure agreed upon in Cape Town in October 2023. He noted that it was agreed to have thematic groups chaired by a DCoC Signatory State that will address the different security threats covered under the Jeddah amendment. The aim being to provide flexibility to adapt to the challenges and allow effective resource allocation for capacity building in the different areas of maritime security without overlooking possible security threats. He added that the meeting's purpose was to discuss the current status and challenges each sub-working group may have faced in needs to overcome to meet their mandate. This includes identifying ongoing key programs that support each of the thematic areas, the lead agencies involved, and how to bring them onboard to support the work of the DCoC. Additionally, he noted the meeting will also address the vacancy in the lead for the thematic area focused on New and Emerging Threats to Maritime Security

Update from Secretariat
Mr. Kiruja Micheni

5. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) thanked the Signatory States for their support in implementing the plans of Working Group 2. He highlighted the need for all to participate in operationalizing the thematic areas as agreed upon in the last HLM held in Cape Town. He notified the Signatory States that the Steering Committee Chair has drafted another letter to the IMO-SG requesting more support to implement the Jeddah Amendment and released a new statement appealing for more international efforts in responding to the Red Sea crisis.

6. He took members through the agenda which is attached as **Annex B**

Operationalization of the various thematic areas (Challenges and Opportunities) and next steps
All participants

Port & Ship Security and protection of Coastal Installations- ETHIOPIA

7. Capt. Getinet Abay (Ethiopia) noted that what has been transpiring in the Red Sea constitutes a serious crisis and is negatively impacting the region, worsened by the resurgence of piracy in the area, which is distressing. He called upon the DCoC to step up efforts to address the challenges. He further pointed out that the crisis is affecting the economies of regional States, as shipping lines passing through the Red Sea have shut down and traffic at the Suez Canal has drastically reduced. He emphasized that this issue presents an opportunity for intervention by the DCoC, specifically by addressing the root causes of the threats. He also highlighted the opportunity for the use of other ports such as Lamu, in Kenya. Additionally, he mentioned the opportunity for naval operations to collaborate and support each other in addressing these threats.

Human Trafficking and Smuggling-MALDIVES

8. Capt. Adhil Rasheed (Maldives) noted that human trafficking is not a challenge to the Maldives, but there has been talk of the Maldives being a transit base for drugs due to ineffective monitoring of Maldivian waters. He pointed out that the challenges include a lack of capacity in police enforcement. So far, no progress has been made in establishing the sub-working group.

Plenary
All

9. The meeting emphasised the need for everyone work together and support each other. The focus for Working Group 2 was highlighted as aiming to strengthen the capacity of the region to do more and take regional leadership. It was noted that currently, the region cannot intervene much because of reduced capacity, but there is a commitment, and a way will definitely be found. The need to remain neutral and not be a party to the conflict to avoid alienating some regional states was emphasized. Following the meeting with the SG in January 2024 and the 8-action plan thereafter, it was noted that there is a need to take action and proactiveness to the next level and have avenues to raise DCoC matters at IMO Meetings to encourage intervention by other partners and Member States and the need to address the root cause of the threats. Signatory States were informed of the importance of implementing the information sharing best practices as shared by DCoC to ensure that there are no gaps as information sharing is an integral part of enhancing maritime domain awareness up to and including response.

10. Djibouti and Somalia were congratulated for supporting seafarers affected by the crisis, with Djibouti commended for supporting the evacuation of crews of vessels attacked in the

Red Sea and Somalia for responding to piracy incidents. Other Signatory States were requested to emulate this approach, working together to mitigate the effects of the ongoing crisis.

11 It was reported that the RCOC in Seychelles was closely monitoring the situation with regards on ongoing piracy incidents and will take action as and when the need arises and is willing to work in coordination with other Signatory States.

12 It was affirmed that the main purpose of establishing the working group was to coordinate capacity building for the benefit of the region and ensure that the technical assistance provided by international partners is based on regional needs and priorities. The thematic working groups will ensure coordinated efforts in dealing with all maritime security threats covered under the Jeddah Amendment. It was noted that the sub-working group chairs need to identify what interventions are available, what partners are involved, and who works in these areas so that they can be brought to the table. It was emphasized that for the sub-working groups to be efficient, the NFP needs to identify from their country a suitable expert in the area they lead so that they can work together from a professional perspective.

13 Participants were urged to be proactive and seek wider support for the work of the DCoC/JA. Members suggested the need to communicate and promote the work of the DCoC at IMO meetings such as MSC, Council, TCC, among others, to be used as an avenue to showcase the DCoC and garner support from wider implementing partners.

DCoC JA Guidance; Action Plan; Current status and capacity building gaps

14. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) noted that there is need for the Signatory States to understand the purpose of these sub working groups based on the thematic areas as this is the foundation for engagement of the Signatory States with that specific mandate and for linkages to the international partners engaging in the work of the various thematic areas.

Plenary/Open Discussion

15. It was agreed to revisit this meeting because several NFPs were not able to join due to Microsoft challenges.

16 The meeting agreed to prioritize the thematic areas and start with a few specific ones that pose the highest risk to the region, noting that it would be a major challenge to focus on all of them simultaneously. It was agreed to pilot the following three thematic areas: 1) Port & Ship Security, Protection of Coastal Installations, 2) Illegal Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and 3) Maritime Environmental Protection.

17 It was noted that there is a need for more dialogue, including bilateral engagement at the country level, for the implementation and operationalization of the thematic area to ensure whole-of-government support. This is to ensure that the mandate is clear to all Signatory States, and they receive support from the highest levels of government.

18 It was agreed that, based on the discussions above, there is no need to deliberate on the Chair for the sub-working group on new and emerging threats to maritime security, as the consensus is that operationalization begins with the three critical thematic areas identified above.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

19. The following is a summary of the meeting outcomes:

19.1 Ethiopia was tasked to coordinate with other Signatory States that will be attending MSC 108 in London to update the meeting about the region's efforts in relation to the Red Sea Crisis and request for more assistance.

19.2 It was agreed that this meeting needs to be revisited due to the Microsoft challenges experienced where most Signatory States were unable to join and hence the dialogue wasn't interactive and inclusive.

19.3 It was agreed that the Signatory States start implementation of the thematic areas in a piecemeal approach, beginning with the first key three areas that have been agreed upon: Port & Ship Security, Protection of Coastal Installations, IUU, and Maritime Environment. Subsequently, they will progress with the remaining thematic areas.

19.4 It was agreed that the Chairs of the identified three key thematic areas will host a meeting to deliberate on the working structure and operationalization matrix of the thematic areas. Afterward, they will provide detailed feedback on the best way forward for engagement and adoption by the Signatory States. This meeting is scheduled to be held in the first week of April 2024, followed by the full WG2 meeting at the end of April 2024.

19.5 The Chairs were encouraged to have a dialogue with the relevant agencies in their country to enable them to establish a focal point with understanding in the areas they chair through a whole-of-government lens. This will serve as a foundation for the next meeting and for the operationalization of the thematic areas sub-working groups.

19.6 The Secretariat was asked to help the Signatory States bring the relevant agencies and partners on board in relation to the areas identified in the thematic areas.

Vote of thanks:

20. The Chair of WG2, Capt Daniel Adam, appreciated the Signatory States for their commitment and continued support for the work of the DCoC. He noted that he is looking forward to engaging with the Signatory States in operationalizing the thematic areas and overall capacity-building coordination.

21. With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1527 hours EAT.

Annexes:

Annex A- List of Participants

No	Name	Country
1	Anfifdine Ali Tohir	Comoros
2	Capt Getinet Abay	Ethiopia

3	Gheath Amin	Jordan
4	Mwandungo Mwinyi	Kenya
5	Adhil Rasheed	Maldives
6	Kaviraj Bissessur	Mauritius
7	Said Almukhaini	Oman
8	Omar Salah Aziz	Oman
9	Capt Daniel Adams	Seychelles
10	Yonis Adan Adan	Somalia
11	Islam Abudarag	Sudan
12	Adeeb Ahmad	Yemen
13	Sam Gontier	RCOC
14		Legal Advisor
15	Kiruja Micheni	IMO
16	Mustafa Ameen Albuqader	IMO
17	Winnie Maina	IMO
18	Esther Kung'u	IMO

Annex B- Agenda



Agenda-WG 2
Meeting March 2024.