



## **DCoC Donors' Meeting**

**IMO Headquarters – London, United Kingdom**

**3 October 2024**

### **Record of the Meeting**

1 The International Maritime Organization (IMO), pursuant to the request of Signatory States to the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (DCoC), the Signatory States to the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017 (DCoC/JA), and States eligible to sign these instruments (Participants), convened the first DCoC Donor Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct

2 The meeting was attended by representatives from the following participating States:

<b>KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN</b>	<b>COMOROS</b>	<b>ETHIOPIA</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>JORDAN</b>	<b>KENYA</b>
<b>MALDIVES</b>	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	<b>MADAGASCAR</b>
<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>	<b>KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA</b>	
<b>SEYCHELLES</b>	<b>SOMALIA</b>	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>
<b>TANZANIA</b>	<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	<b>YEMEN</b>

by the following donor States:

<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<b>UNITED STATES</b>

and by the following donors and implementing partners from the following intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations:

**CRIMARIO (European Union funded project)**

**CRUISE LINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

**EUROPEAN UNION NAVAL FORCE OPERATION ATALANTA (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA)**

**IMO**

**INTERCARGO**

**INTERPOL**

**INTERTANKO**

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**REGIONAL COORDINATION OPERATIONS CENTRE (RCOC)**

**REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE (RMIFC)**

**ReCAAP ISC**

**OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF)**

**UNITAR**

A list of participants is attached at **Annex 1**.

3. The primary objective of the DCoC meeting with donors and implementing partners was to mobilize resources for the implementation of the DCoC/JA, given that the DCoC Trust Fund is depleted. The main purpose of the meeting was for the DCoC to showcase its progress so far, present its capacity-building needs and priorities based on the eight-point action plan, and allow donors to identify areas where they can offer support.

4. The meeting followed discussions between the IMO Secretary-General and the Chairman of the DCoC Steering Committee in June 2024 on the support needed for the DCoC to play a key role in addressing the increasing threats to maritime security in the region, leading to the development of the eight-point action plan.

5. IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez opened the meeting by thanking all participants and emphasizing the important role played by the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) in enhancing maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden region. He highlighted how security disruptions, such as those caused by the ongoing Red Sea crisis, significantly impact global trade and supply chains.

6. Mr. Dominguez reiterated his commitment to supporting DCoC capacity-building initiatives and called on partners to bolster regional efforts by providing funding to sustain the work of the DCoC/JA.

7. He stressed the need for the DCoC/JA to deliver tangible results and urged partners to ensure this happens, as these initiatives are critical for maintaining maritime security in the region and supporting economic development. He also reaffirmed that regional collaboration, along with sustained international support, is vital for the security and stability of the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Mr. Dominguez reminded participants of the importance of the DCoC Multi-donor Trust Fund in sustaining initiatives that have contributed to the Code's success. His opening remarks are attached as **Annex 2**.

8. Captain Getinet Abay (Ethiopia) welcomed the participants on behalf of the Chair of the DCoC Steering Committee and acknowledged the contributions of the donor partners who have supported the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA) thus far. A copy of the agenda is attached as **Annex 3**.

## Status and progress of the Implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment

9. Capt. Getinet Abay provided a status report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct. He highlighted the achievements made under the framework in countering piracy, including supporting Somalia in establishing a Maritime Administration, implementing a regional training programme that has benefitted over 1,800 maritime security operatives in the region, enhancing civil/military cooperation, implementing Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) equipment projects in at least six countries, and establishing an information hub through the DCoC website. Document references on regional priority work plans and funding in relation to achievements are provided in **Annexes 4 and 5**.

10. He added that the Code of Conduct had provided a platform for countries in the region to work together, share information, and develop joint strategies in combating a multiplicity of threats besides piracy. He spotlighted the 8-point regional action [plan](#), which outlines the DCoC's immediate capacity-building priorities, including support for the development of the DCoC Information Sharing Network, the formation of national and regional maritime security strategies, assistance for the work of the DCoC secretariat, and support for coast guard capabilities in Yemen and Somalia. The plan also calls for support in developing a DCoC Regional Training Programme. His comments are attached as **Annex 6**

11. A subsequent update on the work of Working Group One on Information Sharing was provided by Mr. Mohammed Al-Majashi (Yemen), highlighting the crucial ongoing efforts to strengthen the regional Information Sharing Network (ISN) to meet the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment, including the incorporation of the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar.

12. He reported that, so far, up to seven participating States have developed their multi-agency National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) and attained initial operating capability, entrenching a “whole-of-government” approach to maritime security. He appreciated the financial support provided by Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and others toward the DCoC multi-donor Trust Fund and welcomed the EU's offer to support projects aimed at enhancing intra-national and inter-regional coordination in the coming months.

He called for support for:

- .1 the establishing and operationalizing multiagency NMISCs – including equipment and systems, training of operators.
- .2 reestablishment of ReMISC in Aden, Yemen –including equipment and support to operations, Staffing support, and training,
- .3 the implementation of a regional training programme including exercises to enhance Maritime domain awareness and response capability.

- .4 the development of a mechanism for coordination of operations at sea involving regional navies and international naval partners to combat illicit activities in line with the objectives of the DCoC/JA

His remarks are attached at **Annex 7**

13. Captain Daniel Adam (Seychelles) reiterated WG One's commitments to the development of national and regional maritime security strategies. He highlighted that, in line with the commitments made at the High-Level Meeting held in Cape Town in October 2023 to develop a regional Risk Register and Regional Maritime Security Strategy, a regional workshop to kickstart this work will take place in Jeddah from 20-31 Oct 2024. Progress update will be provided at the next High-Level Meeting (HLM) in November 2024. He also emphasized the need for the operationalization of thematic sub-working groups for better coordination of capacity building efforts.

14 He added that more partnerships to amplify the capacity-building efforts under the proposed new EU-funded initiatives, including enabling joint patrols and support in building regional coast guard capabilities are most welcome.

15. Captain Adam highlighted the importance of the DCoC Capacity-Building Coordination Matrix in streamlining capacity-building efforts and urged partners with access to the platform to leverage it to discourage duplication of efforts, promote synergies, and amplify bilateral initiatives.

16. Noting that the DCoC Multi-donor Trust Fund, Seychelles called for more contributions to support the work of the DCoC/JA. He particularly cited the need for support for:

- .1 the establishment of a robust DCoC information sharing Network and building its capacity to support the coordination of operations at sea
- .2 development and implementation of regional mechanism for coordinating operations at sea involving regional navies and international naval partners to combat illicit activities in line with the objectives of the DCoC/JA coordinated under a proposed new DCoC Working Group 3 on coordination of operations at sea
- .3 the facilitation of meetings on the implementation of the DCoC/JA: The DCoC Steering Committee, WG1, and WG2 each meet at least four times a year. Additionally, there are meetings of the Friends of DCoC and an annual high-level meeting.
- .4 Regional States towards the enhancement of Maritime Security Governance – NMSCs, NMSRR and NMSS
- .5 Provide funding for the dedicated DCoC Project Implementation Team.

His remarks are attached as **Annex 8**

## Plenary

17. Captain Getinet highlighted the significance of the Capacity Building (CB) Matrix and encouraged partners, particularly those new to the concept, to engage actively with the tool.

18. Captain Gontier from RCoC provided an overview of the center's establishment under the Regional Maritime Security Architecture and its integration with the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) Information Sharing Network (ISN). The center's role is to support the operationalization of DCoC in regional operations, emphasizing the need for collaboration and support to fulfill the DCoC action plan.

19. Interpol emphasized its alignment with DCoC in combating transnational maritime crime and reiterated support for the framework.

20. Mr. Kamal Al Junaidi (Saudi Arabia) expressed appreciation to the IMO Secretary-General, stressed its commitment to supporting the region through DCoC initiatives and is looking forward to hosting the next workshop on Regional Maritime Security Strategy development in Jeddah. Over 300 participants have benefited from training in Saudi Arabia. His remarks are attached as **Annex 9**

21. Mr. Giovanni Cremonini (EEAS) highlighted the European Union's role as a Friend of the DCoC. The EU has been working with the DCoC through CRIMARIO II and has conducted capacity-building (CB) efforts in Somalia through EUCAP. The EU conducts large capacity-building programmes, notably the Safe Seas for Africa and the Red Sea Programmes. Additionally, the EU is considering a new project to address emerging maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean, with a planned 4-million-euro allocation to support the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN), the regional maritime information center in Aden, and several national centers in the region, along with operational coordination. The EU also appreciates the presence of Operation Atalanta in the region and commended the Exercise ALDABRA III, that has been underway in Seychelles. A training session in Djibouti will be organized soon as well. His remarks are attached at **Annex 10**.

22. Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva (Operation ATALANTA) stressed the importance of the Capacity Building (CB) Matrix for both donors and participating states, underscoring the need for full coordination with the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC). He affirmed that ATALANTA's regional operations will align with the DCoC framework, including sharing maritime security information with DCoC Points of Contact (POCs), and providing resources, expertise, and support as needed.

He added that Operation ATALANTA is committed to strengthening ties and coordination with the DCoC. To further this goal, the DCoC was invited to co-chair the ongoing Aldabra III exercise with ATALANTA in Seychelles. Additionally, the DCoC would also co-chair a major exercise in Djibouti from 10 to 14 November 2024. These initiatives are intended adhere to the DCoC Matrix, which serves as the guiding framework to address the needs of participating nations and optimize coordination of efforts. His brief is attached at **Annex 11**.

23. Mr. Martin Cauchi-inglott (CRIMARIO) provided background on the project, highlighting CRIMARIO's role in the region since its approval as a Friend of the DCoC in 2021, with lessons learned being replicated in other jurisdictions under the programme.

24 CRIMARIO's focus has been on the IORIS platform. The organization conducts exercises under the DCoC framework and is working on delivering a Crisis Response project using the IORIS tool. Somalia and Yemen are currently using IORIS, and it was recently employed in collaboration with industry to address the Sounion incident under the ASPIDES operation.

The project will support DCoC in:

- Supporting the DCoC design and implement the Regional Maritime Security Strategy;
- Undertaking Legal, Policy, operational and technical assessments of the National Maritime Information Sharing Centres, including the acquisition of equipment.
- Supporting the DCoC conduct national inter-agency workshops to implement Information Sharing SOPs;
- Conducting a regional workshop to develop a framework to operationalise the coordination between NMISCs, RCOC and RMIFC
- Undertaking a national workshop to further operationalise the ReMISC in Aden, which includes funding staff to man the centre.
- Organising and conducting DCoC exercises in close collaboration with EUNAVFOR ATALANTA
- Of high relevance, is support to create new DCoC Working Group, Working Group 3, to address operational coordination with Regional Navies, EUNAVFOR and CMF.
- About 40% of the 4 million euros of EU funds will go to acquire much needed equipment for the Djibouti and Yemeni Coast Guard.

His remarks are attached as **Annex 12**

25. Tanzania, Somalia and Mauritius provided supporting statements emphasizing the call for support towards operationalizing the DCoC Information Sharing Network, Capacity Building of Coast Guards in Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen and Maritime Governance at National and regional levels. They also thanked the IMO and Partners present and urged them to continue supporting the Secretariat. Their remarks are attached as **Annex 13**

26 Commodore Nitin Parvataneni (India) said India considers the Member States of DCOC-JA to be close friends and therefore takes its relationship with the DCoC very seriously. The composition of the Indian delegation (MEA, HCI London, MoD, NSCS, Indian Navy /IFC-IOR) for the Meeting was an indicator of India's whole of Government comprehensive approach towards this precious friendship, co-operation and collaboration. He stated that India is fully cognizant of the mutual benefits of this engagement and the great value this holds for the region. Over the past two years, India has made significant progress in supporting the DCOC-JA, particularly through efficient and expeditious information sharing, facilitating DCOC-JA ISN Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and conducting the first DCoC-JA Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW) in India, which is intended to be held every two years, next being in 2025. Additionally, India has undertaken NMISC Scoping delegation visits to three DCoC countries already and plans to visit Tanzania and Comoros next, aiming to assist in setting up NMISCs 'funded by India' to minimize financial implications for the DCoC.

27 India also invited a DCoC IFC-IOR ILO from Kenya, supported by India, and plans to increase the number of ILOs from 14 to 40 to enhance knowledge-sharing and increase the analytical capability of IFC-IOR to contribute with even more actionable intelligence. India committed to supporting the development of regional maritime security strategies and confirmed its participation in the upcoming Jeddah workshop. Since November 2023, to ensure safety and security, India has increased the deployment of ships in the region, reaching the highest level ever, and has been actively involved in rescue and counter-piracy operations far from Indian mainland with utilization of all types of IN and IAF assets ranging from ships, maritime patrol, as well as strategic lift, aircraft to Marine Commandoes and UAVs. He also brought out the role played by Indian Navy and IFC-IOR in thwarting and mitigating threats in the region as well as active IMA (Illicit Maritime Activities) operations far from Indian mainland. He brought out that Indian Navy has carried out more than 1000 boardings since November 2023, facilitated rescue of more than 400 sea farers, captured numerous pirates and have also taken actions for effective legal finish. He referred to the recent collaboration of IFC-IOR with RCoC and RMIFC to enhance MDA in the region. He expressed India's intention to collaborate further with regional constructs to reduce 'duplication of efforts', 'support complementarity' and assured India's continued support to the DCoC-JA. His brief is attached as **Annex 14**.

#### **Feedback from FoDCoC-Offers of support for the DCoC based on the 8-action plan**

28. Captain Harifidy Alex Ralairivony (RMIFC) emphasized the partnership between the DCoC and the centre, showcasing a collective commitment to safeguarding maritime trade and security. The RMIFC highlighted their readiness to support efforts to effectively address maritime challenges, noting that their collaboration extended beyond security to encompass overall maritime prosperity, ensuring safe waters and secure shipping. His brief is attached as **Annex 15**.

29. Mr. Eric Levert (France) expressed satisfaction with the combined working group reports and highlighted the importance of information sharing, calling on participants to disseminate in an operational (24/7) and open manner information on events concerning safety at sea that have occurred at regional level for the benefit of shipowners and the maritime community. His comments are attached as **Annex 16**.

30. Interpol highlighted the i24/7 database access tool, which assists national police in conducting real-time searches on criminal databases as part of their investigations. Interpol also acknowledged the complementarity between IORIS and the i24/7 tool and called for collaboration with partners and regional representatives.

31. Ethiopia commended the DCoC Secretariat for its success in coordinating regional efforts and pushing for the implementation of the Code, emphasizing the need for continued financial and in-kind support to sustain these efforts.

32 Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada, Director of the IMO Maritime Safety Division, reiterated the importance of the DCoC, describing the depletion of the Trust Fund as unfortunate. He affirmed the IMO's continued support for the framework and called for increased donor support for regional activities, particularly in the DCoC Information Sharing Network, infrastructure, and staffing.

33. He stressed the vital role of regional updates. His closing remarks are attached at **Annex 17**.

**Conclusions**

34. Participants were requested to continue engagements with each other after the meeting.
35. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1440hrs.



## **List of Annexes**

### **Annex 1: List of Participants**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/3092024-List-of-Participants-Donor-Meeting-London-for-online.pdf>

### **Annex 2: Opening Remarks by IMO SG Arsenio Dominguez**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Remarks-by-IMO-SG-Arsenio-Dominguez-DCoC-Donor-Meeting.pdf>

### **Annex 3: Agenda**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-DCoC-Donor-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

### **Annex 4: DCoC Priorities Workplans**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/01102024-DCoC-Priorities-Workplans.pdf>

### **Annex 5: DCoC Trust Fund - Contributions and Achievements to Date**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/01102024-DCoC-Trust-Fund-Contributions-and-Achievements-to-Date.pdf>

### **Annex 6: Remarks/Presentation of the DCoC Steering Committee Chair by Capt. Getinet Abay**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/01102024-Remarks-of-the-DCoC-SC-Chair.pdf>

### **Annex 7: Remarks/Presentation of Working Group One Chair's Remarks - DCoC Donor Meeting by Mr. Mohammed Almajashi**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/30092024-Working-Group-One-Chairs-Remarks-DCoC-Donor-Meeting.pdf>

### **Annex 8: Remarks/ Presentation of Working Group Two Chair's Remarks - DCoC Donor Meeting**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/30092024-Working-Group-Two-Chairs-Remarks-DCoC-Donor-Meeting.pdf>

### **Annex 9: Remarks by Mr. Kamal Al Junaidi - Saudi Arabia Delegation**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Remarks-by-Saudi-Arabia-Delegation-.pdf>

### **Annex 10: Remarks by the Acting Deputy HoD, Giovanni Cremonini**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Remarks-by-the-European-Union-Delegation.pdf>



**Annex 11: Briefing Notes by Op Commander ATALANTA**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/10102024-Briefing-Notes-by-Op-Commander-ATALANTA-.pdf>

**Annex 12: Remarks by the Director CRIMARIO II Martin Cauchi-inglott**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Remarks-from-CRIMARIO-II.pdf>

**Annex 13: Supporting Statements by DCoC NFPs – Tanzania, Somalia and Mauritius**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/01102024-Supporting-Statements-by-DCoC-NFPs-Donor-Meeting.pdf>

**Annex 14: Remarks by Commodore Nitin Parvataneni, Director Military Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs – for the Delegation of India**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/09102024-Remarks-by-the-Delegation-of-India.pdf>

**Annex 15: Remarks by Captain Harifidy Alex Ralairivony (RMIFC)**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Remarks-from-RMIFC-Director.pdf>

**Annex 16: Remarks by Mr. Eric Lavert - France**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Remarks-by-French-Delegation.pdf>

**Annex 17: Closing Remarks - Director Maritime Safety Division Hiroyuki Yamada**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/03102024-Closing-Remarks-from-IMO-Maritime-Safety-Division.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*