



**Sixth High-level Regional Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the  
Djibouti Code of Conduct**

**Cape Town, Republic of South Africa**

**24 – 26 October 2023**

**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 sixth High-level Regional 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>COMOROS</b>      | <b>ETHIOPIA</b>   |                   |
| <b>JORDAN</b>       | <b>KENYA</b>      | <b>MALDIVES</b>   |
| <b>MAURITIUS</b>    | <b>MADAGASCAR</b> | <b>MOZAMBIQUE</b> |
| <b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> | <b>SEYCHELLES</b> | <b>SOMALIA</b>    |
| <b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> | <b>TANZANIA</b>   | <b>YEMEN</b>      |

by observers from the following States:

|                |                       |                      |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>DENMARK</b> | <b>INDIA</b>          | <b>NETHERLANDS</b>   |
| <b>QATAR</b>   | <b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> | <b>UNITED STATES</b> |

and by observers from the following intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations:

**CRIMARIO**  
**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**EUROPEAN UNION NAVAL FORCE SOMALIA OPERATION ATALANTA**  
**(EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA)**  
**EUROPEAN UNION CAPACITY BUILDING MISSION IN SOMALIA (EUCAP - SOMALIA)**  
**INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (IOC)**  
**INTERPORTPOLICE**



**INSTITUTE OF SECURITY STUDIES (ISS)**

**REGIONAL COORDINATION OPERATIONS CENTRE (RCOC)**

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

**UNITED KINGDOM MARITIME TRADE OPERATIONS (UKMTO)**

**SKYLIGHT**

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

3 The primary objective of the High-level Meeting was to review the status of the implementation of the DCoC/JA, follow up on agreed action points, and discuss new challenges with a view to finding common solutions. It also discussed the recommendations of Working Group 1 (WG 1) on information sharing and provided direction on the operationalization of the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN) in line with the agreed strategy and roadmap, as well as coordinate regional efforts to combat illegal activities at sea, as provided for in the Jeddah Amendment. Additionally, the meeting provided an opportunity to showcase developments of Working Group 2 (WG2) on the coordination of capacity-building efforts, including proposals for the establishment of sub-working groups to cover all thematic areas contained in the Jeddah Amendment. Furthermore, the meeting facilitated discussions with the Friends of DCoC focused on their support for regional priorities as captured in the DCoC Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, in order to ensure effective implementation of DCoC/JA.

4 The High-level Meeting built upon the outcomes of the DCoC High-level Regional Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, held in Jeddah from 22 to 24 November 2022; and was informed by the outcomes of the “Regional Workshop on developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the DCoC/JA Information Sharing Network” (ISN), held at the Jeddah Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies from 30 July to 10 August 2023 (the ISN SOP Workshop) and the Maritime Information Sharing Workshop for DCoC/JA Countries at the IFC-IOR, Gurugram-India from 14-16 September 2023. The High-level Meeting also took note of the outcomes and recommendations of Working Group #1 on the Information Sharing Network; Working Group #2 on the Capacity Building Coordination; and the Friends of the DCoC meeting held virtually on 5 October 2023.

5 The meeting was opened by Mr. Sobantu Tilayi from Republic of South Africa. On behalf of the Secretary-General of IMO, Ms. Heike Deggim, the Director of IMO Maritime Safety Division, delivered IMO’s [opening remarks](#). The welcoming ceremony also featured [comments](#) by Mrs Elisabeth Dahlberg Frisk, Political Advisor to the EU Delegation and [virtual remarks](#) by Major General Muhammad Abdullah Al-Shehri, Director General of the Border Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Chair of the DCoC Steering Committee). The [keynote address](#) was given by HE Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga MP, Minister of Transport of Republic of South Africa. Opening comments have been posted on the DCoC Website.

6 Participants nominated and approved Mr. Sobantu Tilayi (Republic of South Africa) to act as Chair of the Meeting. Rear Admiral Naji Al-Juhani, (Saudi Arabia) was nominated and approved as the meeting’s Co-Chair. The first order of business for the Chair was the approval of the Agenda of the High-level Regional meeting. This was proposed by the Chair and approved by the Participants. A copy of the agenda is attached at **annex 2**.

## 7 Summary of Decisions Taken at the High-Level Meeting of the Djibouti Code of Conduct

| Decision   | Action Taken   |
|--|--|
| Resolution One: Operationalization of the DCoC/JA Information Sharing Network and adoption of the <a href="#">DCoC SOPs for the Regional ISN</a> . | Approved – Full Text of Resolution at <b>annex 3</b> |
| Resolution Two: Development of a DCoC Signatory States’ Maritime Security Strategy   | Approved – Full Text of Resolution at <b>annex 3</b> |
| Resolution Three: Establishment of seven (7) Thematic Sub-Working Groups for WG 2 On Capacity Building Coordination                                | Approved – Full Text of Resolution at <b>annex 3</b> |

## Regional Threat Update

8 To set the scene for subsequent discussions and to update the National Focal Points (NFPs) on the maritime security picture in the Indian Ocean, a regional threat brief was provided by Captain Roland Le Goff on behalf of both EUNAVFOR and the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The briefing addressed a range of current threats including piracy, narcotics smuggling, weapon smuggling, conflict related maritime events, human trafficking, charcoal smuggling and IUU fishing.

[Link: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/EUNAVFOR-CMF-panel.pdf>]

9 A regional maritime security update through the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) lens was provided by Commander Kundan Singh, Indian Navy. In addition to piracy and armed robbery, smuggling and IUU fishing, IFC-IOR addresses irregular migration, safety, climate change, cyber and environmental challenges.



Collaboration is the key and lessons identified by IFC-IOR could be applied to the ISN, as well as inform the development of a maritime security strategy.

[Link: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/IFC-IOR-MARSEC-DCoC-HLM-Cape-Town-2.pdf>]

### **Progress since the Jeddah Meeting (22-24 Nov 2022)**

10 The meeting received an update on actions taken since the last high-level meeting held in Jeddah from 22-24 Nov 2022. [IMO reported on meetings held since Jeddah](#) and reinforced the importance of adopting a whole-of-government approach. The meeting also considered the reports of outcomes and recommendations of the Steering Committee by Rear Admiral Najj Al-Juhani (Saudi Arabia); Working Group #1 on the Information Sharing by Mr. Bruno Shioso, Chair WG1 (Kenya) and Working Group #2 on the Capacity Building Network by Capt. Getinet Abay, Chair WG2 (Ethiopia); and reports on the activities of the Friends of the DCoC by Ms. Winnie Maina (IMO Secretariat).

### **Steering Committee**

11 The Steering Committee (SC) Chair reported that the last meeting of the committee took place on 1st March 2023. The meeting deliberated on the follow up actions from the Dubai and Jeddah High-Level Meetings held in June and November 2022 and took action as set out below:

- .1 Noting that most signatory States have already identified their training needs through the DCoC Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, the SC had agreed to develop a regional training program and requested the IMO to coordinate the support needed through the Friends of the DCoC (FoDCoC) to support the various training activities. Unfortunately, the IMO was unable to develop the programme due to a lack of funding. Donor partners were requested to support this endeavor by contributing to the DCoC Trust Fund.
- .2 Saudi Arabia had agreed to host and sponsor one workshop on development of SOPs for the DCoC Information Sharing Network which took place from 30 July to 10 August 2023. Supported by India (MEA, MoD, Indian Navy and IFC-IOR), United Kingdom (JMISC), RMIFC Madagascar, IMO (MED), UNODC Maritime Crime Programme, European Union (CRIMARIO 2), INTERPORTPOLICE and the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, the United States Coast Guard and INTERPOL Maritime Security Unit.
- .3 The SC considered and agreed on the need to streamline collaboration on information sharing through an MoU between the DCoC and the two MASE (Maritime Security) centres, following deliberations and concurrence of the combined WG1 and WG2 meeting held in March 2023.

- .4 The SC agreed to establish a strong partnership with the RCOC Seychelles, whose main mandate is the coordination of actions at sea. Given that the Jeddah Amendment provides for joint efforts in dealing with illicit maritime activities, the DCoC signatory States can explore opportunities for collaborative efforts in coordinating actions at sea, particularly in addressing illicit activities at sea. This recommendation will be tabled at the High-level Meeting in October 2023 for final decision.
- .5 The SC had followed up on the recommendation to invite Bahrain and Qatar to sign the DCoC/JA with promising outcomes. This will be fast tracked as soon as formal communication is received from the two countries regarding the same.
- .6 The SC chair has coordinated, contacted, and discussed with Transport General Authority (TGA) in KSA concerning supporting the DCoC Trust Fund. We advise the Secretary of DCoC/JA to continue contacting the friends of the DCoC, international bodies and donors for contributing to support the DCoC Trust Fund.

12 The SC reiterated the importance of collective efforts within the DCoC framework. Maritime security is not a task for one nation alone but a shared responsibility that transcends borders. It is important to support the vital work of our two working groups, foster collaboration among member states, and uphold the commitments made during the Dubai and Jeddah high-level meetings. (Link: [DCOC-SC-CHAIR-UPDATE-HLM-1.pdf](#))

### **Working Group 1**

13 The Chair of WG 1 reported on the work of the working group, noting that the focus during this period was on the development of the ISN strategy and the establishment of NMISCs under the oversight of a National Maritime Security Committee. He emphasized the need for a whole-of-government approach, in alignment with the Strategy. The timeline for achieving initial operating capability for these NMISCs is set for March 2024, with the commitment to ensuring no state is left behind. The overarching goal is to maintain a whole-of-government approach, consistent with the agreed Strategy.

14 SOPs for the DCoC ISN had been drafted in August 2023 at a drafting workshop generously hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. India had kindly hosted a Maritime Information Sharing Workshop from 14-16 September 2023 to refine the SOPs and test the same by means of an exercise using the NISHAR Platform.

15 In order to expand the scope of MDA and information sharing, It was proposed for the DCoC ISN to conclude an MoU to collaborate with regional centres established under the MASE Framework. The DCoC already agreed to incorporate the two Centres i.e., the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and the Regional Coordination of Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles, to avoid duplicating the effort. DCoC national Centres now had platforms for information exchange such as SeaVision, MERCURY, IORIS and SkyLight.



16 WG 1 invited the High-level Meeting to adopt the DCoC SOPs; called upon NFPs to examine where they were in the establishment of their NMISCs; and proposed that sharing data on vessels of interest across the region by means of a database, would promote maritime threat awareness. WG 1 noted India's offer for the positioning of a DCoC ILO at the IFC-IOR as well support for establishment of some NMISCs and called upon the DCoC Secretariat to liaise with the India to explore these possibilities. [Link: [dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Slides-and-Recommendations.-WG1-1.pdf](https://www.dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Slides-and-Recommendations.-WG1-1.pdf) ]

## **Working Group 2**

17 The WG2 chair reported that its work had focused on the identification and prioritization of needs (through the matrix), resource mobilization, seeking technical assistance, and coordination with the Friends of the DCoC. Specific focus areas had included the development of a regional Capacity Building Coordination Matrix and efforts to ensure that no State was left behind.

18 With respect to the Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, it is important that there is continuous feedback and updates from member States receiving support and F oDCoC supporting the implementation of the DCoC/JA through various capacity building initiatives. This approach facilitates a coordinated approach towards capacity building and enables partners to access the necessary information, avoid duplicating efforts and maximizing resources.

It also motivates member States to continue populating the matrix as there is shared value from both parties.

19 WG 2 intends to make enhancements to the DCoC website and the Members Only portal. In this regard, WG 2 requested IMO to request the European Union to consider financing this initiative under the upcoming "Safe Seas for Africa" project expected to commence execution in January 2024.

20 WG 2 raised the proposal for the structure to be expanded to cover all areas outlined in the Jeddah Amendment (JA). Sub-working groups dedicated to seven (7) thematic areas will collaborate with relevant agencies and partners and report their progress to the Steering Committee through the National Single Window System. WG2 then went on to outline a number of successful projects that were being or had been implemented.

[Link: [dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-HLM-Working-Group-2-Report-of-Outcomes-1.pdf](https://www.dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-HLM-Working-Group-2-Report-of-Outcomes-1.pdf)]

## **Friends of the DCoC**

21 Having outlined the role of the Friends of the DCoC in the context of the DCoC governance structure, the High-level Meeting was informed of developments relating to the DCoC Website, Capacity Building Coordination Matrix, Members Only portal; progress with the DCoC Information

Sharing Network Strategy & Roadmap, DCoC NMISCs bilateral support ongoing in some countries, training mechanism and SOPs development, all achieved with the active support of the Friends of the DCoC.

[Link: [dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-HLM-Friends-Report-of-Outcomes\\_.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-HLM-Friends-Report-of-Outcomes_.pdf)]

### **Panel Discussion 1 – Creating synergies between the DCoC/JA and other regional capacity building initiatives.**

22 The first panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Metse Ralephenya (RSA), proposed a range of ideas for the enhancement of synergies between the DCoC/JA and other regional capacity building initiatives. The panelists were Ms. Dania Cossa from EUCAP Somalia; Mr. Martin Cauchi Ingloft (CRIMARIO II); Mr. Raj Mohabeer IOC [MASE & CGIMA]; Commander Arun K Yadav India Navy; Ms. Toral Vagdama (UNODC – GMCP) and Mr. Richard Morris (UK).

23 Key points from the brief presentations were as follows:

- .1 EUCAP Somalia – the need for national ownership, progress made in the development of Somalia’s NMISC [Link: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/20231024-EUCAP-Somalia-presentation-DCoC-26-28-October-2023-2.pdf>]
- .2 CRIMARIO – proposed the establishment of capacity-generating conferences and shared training establishments in response to the evolving global situation marked by increasing stresses. [Link: [dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/231024-CRIMARIO-DCoC-1.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/231024-CRIMARIO-DCoC-1.pdf)]
- .3 IOC, MASE, CGIMA – the need to work together with DCoC. [Link: [https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/IOC\\_Presentation\\_DCoC\\_24Oct23-1.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/IOC_Presentation_DCoC_24Oct23-1.pdf)]
- .4 Indian Navy – numbers of information fusion centres, overlaps in coverage and mandates, need for MoUs, support to the DCoC, and following the roadmap. “Collaboration is the key”. [Link: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCOC-HLM-NMISC-DB-1.pdf>]
- .5 UNODC GMCP – the evolving nature of transnational criminality at sea. The need for one integrated overall structure, and the importance of having a legal finish, and assessment of impact and results. [[dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/UNODC-GMCP-DCOC-Oct-Presentation-1.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/UNODC-GMCP-DCOC-Oct-Presentation-1.pdf)]
- .6 UK Royal Navy - national centres for sovereign MDA and shared capabilities; UK will continue to support workshops, need for national strategies. [<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/20231024-DCOC-HLM-CT-Panel-1-O.pdf>]



## **Panel Discussion 2 – Proposals for the enhancement of the DCoC ISN**

24 The second panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Joyce Awino (Kenya), proposed a range of ideas and proposals for the enhancement of the Information Sharing Network. The panelists were Captain Randrianantenaina (Deputy Chair WG 1), Mr. Said Lavani (Comoros), Mr. Martin Cauchi Inglott (EU CRIMARIO) and Lt. Cdr. Derek Wallin (USCG). This was followed by an open discussion.

[Links: [THE ROLE OF THE RMIFC AND THE RCOC IN SUPPORTING THE DCoC ISN](#)

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/LAVANI-Proposals-for-enhancement-of-DCoC-ISN-Recommendations-from-DCoC-Reg-Workshop-in-Jeddah-and-India-1-2.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-3-Maritime-Security-by-Lt-Cdr.-Derek-Wallin-USCG.pdf>

25 Speakers in Panel Discussion 2 made it clear that as proposed in the DCoC Information Sharing Strategy and Roadmap, Information Sharing Centres and monitoring tools are key for the achievement of the stated objectives. Key takeaways were:

- .1 An effective information exchange system with defined SOPs allows for better coordination in combating illicit maritime activities.
- .2 Information sharing is central to building trust and this is enhanced further by use of the common tools at the disposal of all Information Sharing Centres.
- .3 Information Sharing is also a basis for joint decision: actions and interdiction operations.
- .4 Information sharing also results in transparency through the multi-agency approach in use at the centres.

26 The discussants concluded that the formation of partnerships through Information Sharing and shared tools such as SeaVision and IORIS will lead to the strengthening of action on the maritime security situation in the Region at both national and regional levels, to ensure a collective global effect as well as enable identification of local and foreign improvements in the maritime security situation.

27 In the context of information sharing, the High-level Meeting received two further presentations, moderated by Ms. Stella Katondo (United Republic of Tanzania). Commodore Nitin Parvataneni (MEA India) presented on “India’s partnership with DCoC/JA for a robust regional maritime security architecture” He reaffirmed India’s support for DCoC/JA and enumerated the numerous measures already implemented to improve DCoC JA capabilities and capacities in ISN. He also reiterated the invitation for positioning the first ever DCoC ILO to IFC IOR and assured continued support in ISN SOPs in establishment of NMISCs. Mr. Ted Schmitt (SkyLight) presented on “[Artificial Intelligence to assist information sharing](#).”



28 Having taken the above-mentioned deliberations into account, the meeting reviewed and adopted its (Cape Town) Resolution 1 on Operationalization of the DCoC/JA Information Sharing Network. A copy of the resolution is at **Annex 3**.

### **Panel Discussion 3 - – Utilizing the DCoC ISN to support operations at sea against illegal activities – Building on the MASE experience.**

29 The third panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Raj Mohabeer (IOC), discussed aspects of countering illegal activities at sea. The panelists were Mr. Sam Gontier (RCOC) who, along with Mr. Alex Ralaivarivony gave a [presentation on MASE](#); followed by short interventions by Mr. Dave Natrass (CRIMARIO II), Captain Roland Le Goff (EUNAVFOR); Mr. Yonis Adan (Somalia); Col. Evans Oguga (Kenya); Capt. Yeslem Mubarak (Yemen); and Lt Cdr. Derek Wallin (USCG).

[Links: [https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-Discussion-3\\_CRIMARIO\\_Dave-Natrass-Vers-FV.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-Discussion-3_CRIMARIO_Dave-Natrass-Vers-FV.pdf)

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Col-Oguga-Interventions-Submission-to-Secretariat.pdf>

[dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Update-on-the-Rehabilitation-of-the-regional-maritime-information-sharing-center-Yeslem-yemen.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Update-on-the-Rehabilitation-of-the-regional-maritime-information-sharing-center-Yeslem-yemen.pdf)

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-3-Maritime-Security-by-Lt-Cdr.-Derek-Wallin-USCG.pdf>]

30 Mr. Sam Gontier (RCOC) and Mr. Alex Ralaivarivony (RMIFC) presented a case study and shared success stories regarding the collaborative efforts of the RCOC and RMIFC in coordinating operations at sea to combat illicit maritime activities under the MASE project. It was noted that extending the project to encompass the broader DCoC region within a more inclusive agreement framework would significantly enhance maritime security in the region. The panel recommended considering and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCoC member States and the two Centers to facilitate this same.

### **DCoC Maritime Security Strategy**

31 Mr. Chris Trelawny (INTERPORTPOLICE) outlined the proposals detailed in the “[Read Ahead](#)” paper and the associated [draft Cape Town Resolution Two on Development of a DCoC Signatory States’ Maritime Security Strategy](#), for further consideration by the signatory States and Friends of DCoC in their subsequent Parallel Meetings. The High-level meeting was invited to:

- .1 reaffirm the intent of, and provisions outlined in, Jeddah Resolution Two on Responding to Evolving Maritime Challenges and Security Priorities of Signatory States to the DCOC/JA;
- .2 to establish a group or initiate a project to further consider Goals (or “Ends”), Objectives (or “Ways” of achieving those goals) and Approaches (or “Means”) to

achieve the overall strategic objective of the Strategy, i.e., “to increase prosperity through enhanced maritime security and law enforcement throughout all DCoC signatory States”; in order to develop a comprehensive delivery and action plan; and

- .3 to invite the Friends of the DCoC to provide sufficient funding to the DCoC Trust Fund to facilitate the work of developing the DCoC MSS.

#### **Panel Discussion 4 – Aligning international efforts with regional needs and priorities.**

32 The fourth panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Alan Renaud (Seychelles), discussed civil / military cooperation aspects of countering illegal activities at sea. The panelists were Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO), Mr. Jens Gynther Lindvig (Denmark), Lt Cdr. Douglas Bell RN (UKMTO) and Mr. Delvin Jones (US State Dept. INL).

[Link: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-HLM-Cape-Town-Aligning-international-efforts-with-regional-needs.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Lt-Cdr.-R-Douglas-Bell-RN-UKMTO.pdf>

33 Key considerations emerging from the discussions included:

- .1 The need to work together;
- .2 Working with regional stakeholders, for example ship rider agreements;
- .3 facilitation of stakeholders' coordination
- .4 IMO as a common denominator;
- .5 Enhancing the capacity building coordination matrix to make coordination happen;
- .6 DCoC/JA requirement to cooperate to the fullest extent;
- .7 Support partners not to join with solutions from home – use and build local solutions;
- .8 Solutions to be sustainable, i.e., they work after the support partner has gone;
- .9 Assist signatory States in the development of plans, don't bring in prepared plans;
- .10 Plans rarely last longer than the government election cycle;
- .11 Break down silos;
- .12 Use local knowledge of what works;

- .13 Common solutions to maritime crimes;
- .14 Multi agency cooperation;
- .15 Tap into the various regional and international programmes, e.g., Cutlass Express, East Africa Transnational Organized Crime Programme;
- .16 Single points of focus.

### **Capacity Building Coordination: Proposed establishment of Thematic Areas -discussion and decision**

34 Ms. Mashudu Nephumbada (RSA) and Capt. Getinet Abay (Ethiopia) addressed matters arising from NFP meeting proposal to expand the scope of WG2 to create forums for coordinating different thematic areas covered under the code of conduct and to integrate existing mechanisms, as outlined in the RSA none-paper. [Link: [dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-Thematic-Areas-Presentation-by-Mashudu-RSA-and-Capt.-Getinet-Ethiopia.pdf](https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-Thematic-Areas-Presentation-by-Mashudu-RSA-and-Capt.-Getinet-Ethiopia.pdf)]

35 The proposals included establishing seven technical sub-working groups to cover the various thematic areas listed in the DCoC/JA. These sub-working groups were intended to promote specialization, efficiency, inclusivity, and flexibility. The challenges included communication, diverse perspectives and opinions, time management, ensuring collaboration and teamwork, accountability, goal alignment, and the potential for duplication.

36 In the subsequent discussion it was noted that the threats listed in the DCoC/JA and the proposed themes for the sub-working groups were not aligned with the recently developed SOPs, and that some current threats in the DCoC/JA were not addressed. India suggested that alignment of all the parameters may lead to smoother and seamless co-ordination while dealing with envisaged threats.

### **Parallel Meeting 1**

37 Within the wider context of capacity building coordination, two parallel meetings were held. [Parallel Meeting 1](#), the DCoC National Focal Points meeting, took actions as detailed in the following paragraphs.

38 A new DCoC Steering Committee was elected as follows:

Steering Committee.

- Chair - Republic of South Africa
- Deputy Chair - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Working Group One

- Chair - Yemen
- Deputy Chair- Comoros

Working Group 2

- Chair -Seychelles
- Deputy -Somalia

39 The Chairs of thematic areas as sub-working Groups of WG2 were appointed as follows:

| Thematic Area  | Chair      |
|--|------------|
| 1. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing-   | Tanzania   |
| 2. Port and Ship security and protection of vital coastal installations  | Ethiopia   |
| 3. New and emerging threats to maritime security   | Vacant     |
| 4. Trafficking in arms, narcotics, and psychotropic substances   | Madagascar |
| 5. Illegal trade in wildlife and other items in contravention with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) | Kenya      |
| 6. Threats to maritime environment   | Mauritius  |
| 7. Human trafficking and smuggling   | Maldives   |

40 **MOU between DCoC Countries and the two MASE centres.** The meeting discussed the draft MOU and agreed that the draft be revised to clarify the legal status of the relationship between the DCoC and the two Centres. The incoming Chairs of WG1 and the secretariat were tasked to lead consultations with Seychelles and Madagascar and to resubmit the draft for consideration.

41 **DCoC Collaboration with IFC-IOR.** The meeting expressed its appreciation for the assistance provided by India thus far and accepted India's offer to sponsor one ILO to be deployed at the IFC IOR. It was proposed that the nomination process be rotational. Working Group 1 to develop the Terms of Reference for this secondment.

This should include the criteria for the selection of the seconded personnel in accordance with DCoC procedures, addressing financial and legal implications, and any issues that may arise from India's preference. India's offer to provide technical assistance in the development of the DCoC regional maritime security strategy as and when requested was also noted.

42 **Revision of the TORs for WG2.** The Chair of Working Group 2 was tasked to coordinate with the Chairs of the thematic working groups to revise the Terms of Reference (TORs) for WG2.

43 **Oman.** The Secretariat was tasked to confirm with Oman their acceptance to lead the thematic area on new and emerging threats to maritime security.

44 **Steering Committee.** The Steering Committee was tasked with amending the TORs to include the thematic leads as members of the Steering Committee.

45 The meeting agreed to request the Friends of DCOC to provide technical assistance in the various thematic areas as identified in the expanded structure and to work closely with the Secretariat and WG2 to maximize on the Capacity Building Coordination Matrix to enhance coordination and to minimize duplication.

46 It was agreed that there is the need for the development and maintenance of the DCoC annual training programmes, as has been in the past and the meeting tasked the Secretariat to liaise more closely with donors and to step up resource mobilization efforts to boost the DCoC Trust Fund.

47 The need to engage with the Friends of DCOC (FoDCoC) to ensure that their support aligns with regional needs and priorities, was also agreed upon. It was emphasized that they should utilize the structures developed by the DCoC to discuss new projects during the development phase, rather than simply expecting the region to rubber-stamp agreements already made with implementing partners.

48 The Secretariat and WG2 will continue to actively engage the donor partners to have them consider donating to the Trust Fund and provide technical assistance in implementation of the DCOC-JA objectives.

49 Participants of Parallel Meeting 1 also agreed on the necessity of continuous fundraising, the importance of sustained coordination, and the sharing of information among countries to ensure effective coordination and capacity building. The Steering Committee should consider establishing a dedicated focus on resource mobilization, actively engaging with the Friends, especially in light of the geopolitical changes in the region and the world at large.

50 The proposal to develop the DCOC regional Maritime Security Strategy was equally accepted and tasked to the secretariat to develop the concept paper to guide the process. The concept paper will lay out the modalities of the same and the same will be shared through the Steering Committee.

51 The meeting then called on Signatory States to fast track the implementation of the Whole of Government approach including development of NMSC, NMSRR and NMSS which will create strong foundations for addressing maritime security in their respective states and ensure attainment of Initial Operating Capabilities of their respective NMISCs by March 2024 as agreed upon in the ISN Strategy.

52 The efforts of CRIMARIO II in supporting the region, including through the provision of IORIS, were acknowledged with appreciation.

53 The meeting also acknowledged with appreciation the support of other partners and agreed on the benefit to continue working with other complimentary systems including SEAVISION, SKYLIGHT, MERCURY, Maritime Awareness System (MAS), and NISHAR.

54 Having considered the need for inclusivity and wider sharing of information, it was agreed that Signatory States have the sovereign right to choose the systems they want to use at their centre. The principle under DCoC, in establishing the Information Sharing Network (ISN), will focus on complementarity and connectivity, and where applicable learning from best practices from the RMIFC and RCOC. The aim is to determine what will be most compatible to provide a comprehensive maritime domain picture, without endorsing or directing the use of only one particular system.

## **Parallel Meeting 2**

55 In [Parallel Meeting 2](#), the Friends of the DCoC/JA discussed ways to support the implementation of the DCoC/JA in the context of both the proposed draft maritime security strategy and the proposal to form thematic sub-working groups for WG2.

56 In the context of the proposed draft maritime security strategy, opinions expressed included that:

- .1 the draft strategy must be driven by those who want it;
- .2 the draft strategy covers wide range of subjects including environment and needs to fit into the overall maritime framework;
- .3 Friends of DCoC should provide advice in response to requests, not try to sell ideas;
- .4 it would be beneficial to standardize strategies. There was some discussion over whether standardization should relate to outcomes or to standardization of organization. This will need further consideration going forward;
- .5 the strategy should make best use of what assets and capabilities that Signatory States have;
- .6 a harmonized regional strategy will be more useful than a diverse range of individual national strategies
- .7 a DCoC Point of Contact should be appointed to oversee and coordinate strategy development;

- .8 some of the entries in column 3 of the draft framework may be more appropriate to column 2. This will need further consideration going forward;
- .9 there was some discussion on whether it is a maritime security strategy or a maritime security and safety strategy. The consensus was that it should focus on maritime security writ large as safety was covered under different regimes.
- .10 Requirement to review the parameters/actions listed in the 'ways' and 'means' of the concept draft strategy table that was circulated in the 'Read ahead'.

57 In the context of the proposal to form thematic sub-working groups for WG2, the meeting noted that the proposal was to establish sub working groups on:

- Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing,
- Port and Ship security and protection of vital coastal installations,
- New and emerging threats to maritime security,
- Trafficking in arms, narcotics, and psychotropic substances,
- Illegal trade in wildlife and other items, in violation of CITES;
- Threats to maritime environment and,
- Human trafficking and smuggling.

58 Opinions expressed included:

- .1 The need to clarify whether the sub-working groups were for operational coordination of technical assistance for capacity building, or for or policy development;
- .2 if they were for operational coordination, then wouldn't they be better combined as a new single WG3?
- .3 the thematic areas should be aligned to the SOPs that had been developed ( Cape Town Resolution 1)

59 Specific offers of assistance in relation to thematic areas are detailed in the table below.

| Theme       | Comments   |
|-------------|--|
| IUU Fishing | IUU fishing is purview of FAO, UNODC uses term "fisheries crime"<br>Get FAO on board<br>OP ATALANTA mandate includes IUU fishing |





USCG, SkyLight happy to help

Port and ship security

Core area for IMO

New and emerging threats The RSA Minister had raised the issue of cyber security in her opening address.

Drone attacks are happening (MT Mercer Street and others)

Recommendation to reconnect with CMF on assessment of emerging threats

Trafficking

UNODC GMCP is happy to help on trafficking and narcotics.

UNODC Border Management Branch could help

Illegal wildlife trade

SkyLight is happy to assist.

UNDP working on capacity building for IWT

Environment

USCG, ATALANTA, happy to help.

SkyLight does lots of work on marine protected areas.

Environmental damage not just from oil spills

Human trafficking

No specific offers

General

ISS is happy to help on organized crime and terrorism.

CRIMARIO is prepared to support all Thematic/Sectoral working Groups, with a focus on exercising.

Development of

India offered assistance as and when requested to the concerned WG/POC nominated by DCoC/JA

Regional Maritime

Security Strategy

60 Further recommendations on capacity building included:

- .1 Encouraging the resurgence of capacity building cooperation initiatives such as the African Maritime Law Enforcement Programme (US AFRICOM) and the Africa Partnership Station (US NAVAF);
- .2 Offer training on planning, concept building and strategy development;

- .3 There is a lack of coordination on exercises which could be addressed, including through the sharing of timetables; and
- .4 The focus is on incrementally raising standards, not achieving perfection (the best is the enemy of the good).

### Further discussions

61 During the closing deliberations, Madagascar and Seychelles reported that they had clarified the independence of RMIFC and RCOC, affirming that these centres can be affiliated with the DCoC. It was agreed that the Chair of WG1 would follow up on this matter with the two Centres and recommend the next course of action.

62 Mr. Alan Renaud (Seychelles) made a [statement](#) on behalf of Signatory States, expressing gratitude to the Republic of South Africa for hosting a highly successful meeting. He commended the significant strides made and the unwavering commitment displayed by all participants. He recommended that participating States consider establishing a dedicated office to oversee the implementation of National Maritime Security Committees, ensuring sustainability, continuity, and more efficient progress monitoring. This, in turn, will guarantee accountability and follow-up on key decisions at the national level.

### Conclusions

63 The participants discussed and approved [the conclusions and recommendations](#) of the meeting, and a communique was subsequently issued by the participants after the meeting and is attached as **annex 4**.

64 The participants thanked the Republic of South Africa for generously hosting and sponsoring the meeting, the IMO Secretariat for their administrative support and the INTERPORTPOLICE for facilitating the meeting.

65 [Closing remarks](#) were given by Tsepiso Taoana - Mashiloane (Republic of South Africa).

66 The next Plenary session will take place in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 22 – 24 Oct 2024. Meetings of the Steering Committee, Working Group 1 and Working Group 2 will continue to be held in line with the DCoC laid down protocols for meetings.

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## **List of Appendices**

### **Annex One: List of Participants**



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OCTOBER 2023.xlsm

### **Annex Two: Agenda for the High-level Meeting**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/241023-Agenda-6th-High-Level-meeting-on-the-Implementation-of-the-DCoC-JA-.pdf>

### **Annex Three: Full Text of Resolutions Agreed at the High-level Meeting**

Cape Town Resolution 1: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Cape-Town-draft-Resolution-1-25-Oct.pdf>

Cape Town Resolution 2: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Cape-Town-draft-resolution-2-on-MSS-25-Oct.pdf>

Cape Town Resolution 3: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Cape-Town-draft-resolution-3-25-Oct.pdf>

### **Annex Four: Communique: High-level Regional Meeting on Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Communique-HLM.-Cape-Town-Draft.pdf>