



**Inaugural Workshop on the Establishment of Working Group 3 On Operational
Cooperation And Coordination at Sea.**

Serena Beach Resort & Spa,

Mombasa, Kenya

1-4 September 2025

Record of the Meeting

Executive Summary

- 1 The International Maritime Organization (IMO), pursuant to the request of Signatory States to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) 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, herein (Participants), convened the inaugural Workshop on the establishment of Working Group 3 on the 1 – 4 September 2025 in Mombasa, Kenya, in line with the recommendations of the HLM held in Dar es Salaam between 28 – 30 November 2024. This is in implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct / Jeddah Amendments.

Convened by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in partnership with the Republic of Kenya, and with support from the Kingdom of Denmark, UNITAR, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the workshop marked a pivotal moment for regional maritime security and successfully translated the strategic intent of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) into a clear and actionable operational framework.

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

Regional Countries

Bahrain	Comoros	Djibouti	Ethiopia
Jordan	Kenya	Madagascar	Maldives
Mauritius	Mozambique	Oman	Seychelles
Saudi Arabia	Somalia	South Africa	
United Republic of Tanzania		Yemen	

The workshop was supported by a strong contingent of observers and partners, reflecting the global nature of maritime security. These included key international and regional organizations that play a vital role in supporting the DCoC's objectives:

F/DCoC

Denmark India United Kingdom (MTO/FCO/BPST EA)
United States of America United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

European Union (EEAS, EUNAVFOR/ATALANTA CRIMARIO, EUCAP Somalia)

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) AFRICOM

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)
Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)
The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
Regional Coordination of Operations Centre (RCOC)
Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC)

The active participation of this diverse group underscored a shared recognition that addressing the complex and evolving maritime threats in the region requires a multi-sectoral, multi-national approach.

The list of participants is set out in **Annex 1**.

3 Over the four days, participants engaged in a series of high-level discussions, presentations, and working sessions. The meeting formally established Working Group 3, elected Kenya and Djibouti as its Chair and Deputy Chair, and developed three foundational documents: a Concept of Operations (CONOPS), Terms of Reference (TORs), and a comprehensive five-phase roadmap. These documents are designed to guide the Group's efforts in enhancing maritime domain awareness, building national and regional capacities, and coordinating operational responses to a dynamic range of maritime threats.

4 A strong emphasis was placed on the need for a "whole-of-government approach," a "legal finish" for successful prosecutions, and the crucial role of international partners as a "force

multiplier." The workshop underscored the importance of securing a sustainable funding model, with Kenya and South Africa volunteering to lead resource mobilization efforts and also drafting a paper to be presented at the next IMO MSC 111 meeting. The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to move forward with the implementation of the agreed-upon plans, solidifying a new era of proactive, coordinated maritime security in the region.

Introduction and Background

5. Mandate and Purpose of the Workshop

The inaugural workshop on the establishment of Working Group 3 (WG3) was convened as a direct result of Resolution #1 from the Seventh High-level Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA), which was held in Dar es Salaam from November 28-30, 2024. The Dar es Salaam meeting had, in turn, built upon the outcomes of the Sixth DCoC High-level Regional Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, and the "Regional Workshop on Development of the DCoC Regional Maritime Security Strategy (RMSS)" held in Jeddah.

The core purpose of this workshop was to provide a unique and practical platform for DCoC signatory states to formally establish Working Group 3. It was designed to move beyond policy-level discussions and into the concrete, operational planning required to achieve coordinated action at sea. The workshop's objectives included:

- .1 Formally establishing the working group and electing its leadership.
- .2 Drafting and adopting a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) to serve as a comprehensive framework for collaborative efforts.
- .3 Developing a clear Terms of Reference (ToRs) to provide a detailed operational framework.
- .4 Creating a phased roadmap to guide the group's work from establishment to long-term sustainability.
- .5 Fostering strengthened cooperation, interoperability, and trust among the maritime security forces of member states and international partners.

6. Participants and Observers

The workshop was a highly inclusive event, bringing together a broad range of stakeholders critical to maritime security in the region. Representatives from DCoC signatory states were in attendance, ensuring regional ownership of the outcomes.

7. Day 1: Laying the Foundation

The first day of the workshop was dedicated to setting the stage, with a focus on high-level opening addresses, presentations on the current regional threat landscape, and an overview of existing coordination mechanisms. The goal was to establish a shared understanding and a sense of collective purpose before delving into the detailed work of the following days.

8. Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks

The opening ceremony featured a series of distinguished speakers who emphasized the urgency and importance of the workshop's mission.

.1 Kenya Host Representative

Brigadier M. S. Shemote, the Commander of the Kenya Navy Fleet, delivered the welcome remarks. He reiterated the importance of the workshop's goals and emphasized that securing the seas is a shared regional responsibility. He highlighted Kenya's strong commitment to this initiative, acknowledging the crucial support from international partners, particularly the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He concluded by welcoming all delegates and expressing his hope for a productive and collaborative workshop.

.2 IMO Representative

Mr. Kiruja Micheni, the DCoC Project Manager for the IMO, highlighted the pride the organization takes in supporting the initiative as the UN's specialized agency for maritime safety and security. He expressed gratitude to sponsors such as the Kingdom of Denmark and UNITAR and to the Kenya Navy for hosting the event. Mr. Micheni called for the development of a concept of operations, terms of reference, and a roadmap for the working group. He also urged navies to be viewed as multifaceted actors in maritime governance and encouraged the exploration of "sea riders" to enhance interoperability.

.3 IOC Representative

The IOC Representative provided clarity on the organization's role, noting that as the lead agency for the Regional Maritime Security Architecture (RMSA), the IOC has participated in DCoC activities as an observer since 2018. He acknowledged the concern about potential duplication of efforts in the Western Indian Ocean due to the presence of many players and programs. To address this, he proposed strengthening collaboration between the DCoC and the IOC's RMSA centers—the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC). He noted that six DCoC signatory states are also part of the RMSA, making close collaboration essential to ensure coherence, avoid duplication, and maximize available resources.

.4 UNITAR Representative

Sascha Weh, Chief of UNITAR's Division for Peace office in Brussels, underscored the establishment of WG3 as a crucial step towards practical cooperation at sea. He highlighted that while piracy has declined, new illicit activities like illegal fishing and smuggling point to ongoing instability. UNITAR's role, he stated, is to provide training, technical expertise, and capacity building. He outlined three key points for the workshop to focus on: being ambitious yet realistic with tangible outputs, building trust across agencies and borders, and ensuring the signatory states maintain ownership of the working group. Mr. Weh affirmed UNITAR's readiness to support the group with training modules, simulation exercises, and satellite imagery analysis.

.5 DCoC/JA Chair

Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada of South Africa, the acting Chair of the DCoC Jeddah Amendment, delivered a speech emphasizing the concept of "holism" and a "Whole of Government Approach." She stated that unifying individual components creates a framework that can better address multifaceted maritime threats. The establishment of WG3, she noted, is a direct result of the 7th High-Level Meeting and aligns with the IMO's theme of "From Policy to Practice." Her objective was for the new working group to "yield tangible outputs" and fully embrace the "three Cs": Coordination, Collaboration, and Cooperation.

.6 Denmark

His Excellency, Nicolai Ruge, Denmark's Special Representative for Maritime Security, emphasized the global nature of maritime security. He highlighted that Denmark, as a major seafaring nation, is directly affected by threats at sea. Ruge made three key points: first, countries must recognize the opportunities of the "Blue Economy"; second, while international partners can address symptoms, the enduring solution to maritime threats in Africa lies with the countries in the region themselves; and third, working together acts as a "force multiplier," increasing effectiveness and reducing costs. He concluded by confirming Denmark's commitment to providing support and wished the working group success.

.7 Keynote Address

Major General Paul Owuor Otieno, Commander of the Kenya Navy, delivered the official opening keynote address. He highlighted the importance of establishing Working Group 3 to operationalize the DCoC's goals and enhance regional maritime security through cooperation and coordination.

at sea. He reaffirmed Kenya's unwavering commitment to these partnerships and recognized the contributions of various signatory states and strategic partners.

9. Statements from Member States and Navies

Following the opening, several member states and navies delivered statements, providing their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for the new working group.

.1 Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

Cdr Greenhill introduced the CMF, its mission, and values. He outlined the CMF's command structure, and the training and subject matter expert exchanges it conducts throughout the region. He described the modus operandi of its 48 member states, calling for collaboration and partnerships. The CMF's priorities, he stated, include deterring illicit non-state actors, engaging with partners, and strengthening interoperability.

.2 India MEA

Commodore Nitin Parvataneni, Director (Military Affairs), MEA brought out the need to recognise that different partners have different organisational structures, training cultures and procedures and that there is a need to find a common path to beat perpetrators' OODA (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) loops to succeed in any operations. Therefore, among the five pillars of Maritime Collaboration; information sharing pillar, as the foundational requirement, precedes the pillar of 'operational coordination' and so the need to strengthen it first. To enhance this, he noted India's engagements in various bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral constructs in the region. He emphasised India's efforts in DCoC-JA with regard to ILO to IFC-IOR, NMISCs set up, assistance in amendment of the CB Matrix and ISN SOP formulation to name a few initiatives in this direction. He emphasised the need for ability to 'detect, track & attribute' and then 'deter and respond' adequately. He introduced the Indian delegation comprising experts in all domains- surface, sub surface and aerial warfare- and assured DCoC-JA of India's steadfast support in the inaugural workshop as well as future endeavours.

.3 UNODC

Pooja Bissoonauthsing from UNODC stated that the establishment of Working Group 3 is a "praiseworthy initiative" and is in compliance with the DCoC. She cautioned that for the working group to be effective, all stakeholders must share the same vision and reinforce cooperation with national institutions. She stressed that a fragmented approach to fighting maritime crime in the region is "doomed for" failure. Singh highlighted the importance of a coordinated effort from all actors in the criminal justice system to ensure a "legal finish" and successful prosecution.

.4 Somalia Navy

Lt. Mohamed Daud Muse, Head of Planning and Strategy for the Somali Navy and Coast Guard (SNCG), presented on Somalia's participation and its strategic maritime context. He highlighted challenges such as limited assets and gaps in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), which contribute to threats like IUU fishing, trafficking, and terrorism at sea. He outlined the SNCG's dual mission of naval defense and law enforcement. Muse also identified gaps in patrol assets and shore infrastructure and requested long-term support for capacity-building.

.5 United Republic of Tanzania

Stella J. Katondo outlined Tanzania's position as a strategically important maritime state with an extensive coastline. She noted that while Tanzania's waters are crucial for its economy, they are vulnerable to threats such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, and environmental degradation. To address these challenges, Tanzania has established a National Maritime Committee (NMSC) and a National Joint Operation Center (NJOC). Tanzania affirmed its support for WG3, viewing it as a critical step to operationalize resolutions.

10. Regional Threat Update and Operational Context

A dedicated session was held to provide an up-to-date regional threat assessment, providing a crucial operational context for the workshop.

.1 CMF Threat Brief

Commander Matt Greenhill explained the CMF's operational aspects, detailing the five distinct Combined Task Forces (CTFs) and their missions. He covered CMF's priorities, which include deterring illicit non-state actors and strengthening interoperability. He also shared CMF's core values: integrity, transparency, and collaboration with regional partners and industry.

.2 IFC-IOR Threat Brief

Captain (IN) V. Shirdikant resident Indian DA at Nairobi presented the IFC-IOR regional threat brief and made the audience aware of India's pivotal role in maritime security through a multitude of operations against illicit maritime activities (IMA) in the region. The regional maritime threats from January to July 2025 included a rise in hybrid attacks, a notable resurgence of Somali piracy,

and ongoing concerns with contraband smuggling. He also highlighted the importance of India's response architecture, including the Indian Navy, Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) and Indian Coast Guard, which work together to ensure real-time MDA.

.3 Denmark's Global Strategy

A presentation on Denmark's Global Maritime Security Strategy was also received. The strategy aims to broaden Denmark's response by addressing international maritime security challenges beyond its own waters. It is built on three pillars: engaging in activities at sea, building partnerships on information-sharing and monitoring, and investing in international capacity building.

11. Mapping of Current Operational Coordination Mechanisms

This session provided an overview of existing operational coordination mechanisms in the region, with presentations from key organizations.

.1 RCOC and ACSS

The RCOC proposed a model that would either use an existing mechanism or establish a new one. The ACSS highlighted best practices, including the need to determine a national maritime security strategy, understand the constraints of contributing nations, and build trust through combined training and exercises.

.2 Indian Navy Perspective

Commander Nikhil Verma, Indian Navy spoke about joint operations to combat illicit maritime activities. He indicated that similar operations modelled on Indian Navy's approach can be organised. He emphasized the need for regional security cooperation to enhance defense capabilities in the IOR and expand the scope of operations through participation in regional maritime forces like CMF. The important and significant role of IFC-IOR in coordinating information flow and efficient tackling of maritime incidents was also highlighted.

.3 CMF Perspective

The CMF perspective highlighted the need for deconfliction to know where to allocate assets, emphasizing that planning and communication are important for efficiency. They noted that members provide vessels and direct, coordinated, or associated support, and that messaging needs to be combined due to scarce resources.

.4 EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Perspective

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, which has provided maritime security since 2008, stressed the focus on joint international operations and synergies. They emphasized that having a common framework document with common SOPs is key to achieving success in joint operations.

The day concluded with a main panel discussion focused on teasing out ideas for a working model for WG3. The discussion emphasized the need for shared situational awareness and legally sound, systematic cooperation to overcome challenges like communication barriers and non-standardized procedures.

Day 2

12. Developing a Working Model

Day 2 of the workshop saw the culmination of the previous day's discussions, with participants engaging in a series of panel discussions aimed at formulating a working model for WG3 and beginning the drafting of its foundational documents.

13. Panel Discussion 1: Ideas on a Working Model for WG3

Moderated by Mr. Sascha Weh from UNITAR, this session featured interventions from Col. Robert Birech (Kenya Navy), Col. Al Bakheshi Marwan Qasem Ahmed and Eng. Adeeb Ahmed Abdulsattar (Yemen), Rear Admiral SF du Toit (RSA), and Maj. Ivel Ernesta (Seychelles). The central theme was the need for a practical, action-oriented model that moves beyond discussion to tangible on-the-water operations.

14. Key Discussion Points

The panel focused on the purpose of WG3, its challenges, and how to build effective partnerships.

- .1 WG3's Purpose:** To provide a practical platform for joint maritime operations, interdiction, and patrols, building on existing information-sharing mechanisms.
- .2 Challenges:** The region faces significant gaps in capacity, sustainability, and legal frameworks, with a general over-reliance on external forces.
- .3 New Threats:** Discussions acknowledged the need to address emerging threats like missile and drone attacks, as highlighted by the representative from Yemen.
- .4 Partnerships:** There was a strong emphasis on building partnerships with international bodies (e.g., EU, NATO, CMF) and the private sector to secure resources and expertise.

15. Agreed-Upon Actions & Recommendations

The session produced a consensus on several actionable areas:

- .1 **WG3 Structure:** The group agreed on the importance of an organizational structure, with suggestions for a rotational chairman and operational subgroups.
- .2 **Operational Framework:** The need to harmonize Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was a key recommendation to ensure interoperability.
- .3 **Information Sharing:** The group recognized the need to leverage existing tools and centers, such as the Information Fusion Centre- Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC), to create a collective Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) system.
- .4 **Funding and Sustainability:** It was agreed that a sustainable funding model is crucial, with suggestions including member state contributions, donor support, and the creation of a trust fund.
- .5 **Legal Framework:** Participants stressed the need to strengthen legal frameworks, referencing existing international treaties and ensuring that legal tools are in place to support interdiction and prosecution.
- .6 **Phased Implementation:** A phased rollout of WG3 activities, starting with pilot patrols and exercises, was recommended to build capacity and demonstrate success before expanding.

16. Panel Discussion 2: Developing a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for WG3

Moderated by Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada (RSA), this session marked the transition from theoretical discussions to the practical development of a CONOPS document. The panel, consisting of representatives from the South Africa Navy, Kenya Navy, RCOC, CMF, and India MoD, offered insights to guide the drafting process.

17. Key Takeaways from Panel

The panel provided a strategic foundation for the CONOPS:

- .1 **Move to Drafting:** The CMF representative stated there is a "good foundation" and the main task is to "get on and draft" the CONOPS.
- .2 **Strategic Planning:** Kenya outlined a structured military-style planning approach, emphasizing that "plans are nothing, but planning is everything."
- .3 **Harmonization and Challenges:** The MoD representative from India highlighted the need to harmonize different national laws, mandates, and operational procedures to overcome institutional hurdles. He also stressed the importance of trust-building measures and addressing gaps in capacity.

18. Agreed-Upon Actions & Recommendations

The participants reached a consensus on the critical elements to include in the final CONOPS document:

- .1 **Clear Purpose:** The CONOPS will focus on "enhanced maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden".
- .2 **Operational Objectives:** The key objectives were confirmed as enhancing maritime domain awareness, building national and regional capacities, coordinating operational responses, and ensuring an effective legal finish.
- .3 **Roles and Responsibilities:** The CONOPS must clearly define the roles of national authorities, regional centers, and international partners.
- .4 **Performance Metrics:** The Indian representative suggested including specific performance metrics to measure success, such as response time, training outcomes, and mission success rates.
- .5 **Sustainability:** The document should outline how the group will manage resources, personnel, equipment, and finances, including leveraging support from international partners.

19. Panel Discussion 3: Drafting the Terms of Reference (ToRs)

This session was an open forum to refine the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the working group. The discussion was highly interactive, with members actively contributing corrections and suggestions to ensure the document accurately reflects the group's objectives and operational realities.

20. Key Discussion Points

The session debated several key points of the TORs:

- .1 **Objectives:** The group debated the wording of objectives, with a proposal to change "ensuring" the safety of vessels and crews to the more realistic "contributing to" their safety.
- .2 **Approval Process:** It was clarified that the TOR and CONOPS do not need to go to a high-level meeting for approval but can be approved by the steering committee to save time.
- .3 **Operational Scope:** Suggestions were made to broaden the scope to include the marine environment (e.g., dumping) and cyber maritime security, recognizing them as new and evolving threats.
- .4 **Capacity Building vs. Training:** A crucial point was raised regarding the distinction between capacity building (providing infrastructure and assets) and capability development (training and skill development).
- .5 **Funding and Resources:** This was a central and highly debated topic. A strong argument

was made for a regional funding mechanism supported by international donors, given the regional nature of maritime threats.

21. Agreed-Upon Actions & Recommendations

The following actions were agreed upon to finalize the TORs:

- .1 **Refined Objectives:** The wording for objectives will be changed from "ensuring" to "contributing to" to reflect a more realistic and measurable goal.
- .2 **Scope Expansion:** The TORs will be updated to include the protection of the marine environment and the emerging threat of cyber maritime security.
- .3 **Differentiated Terminology:** The document will differentiate between capacity building and capability development (training and skill development)
- .4 **Approval Process:** The TORs will be submitted to the steering committee for approval.
- .5 **Funding Mechanism:** The group will explore a regional funding mechanism that combines voluntary contributions from member states with support from international partners.
- .6 **Inter-Group Responsibilities:** A need was identified to create a clear "border" or a consolidated overview of responsibilities between WG1, WG2, and WG3 to avoid duplication of effort.

Day 3

22. Formalizing the Structure

Day 3 was dedicated to formalizing the structure of the new working group, with a focus on electing its leadership, presenting and discussing the strategic roadmap, and continuing the detailed refinement of the CONOPS document.

23. Elections for Chair and Deputy Chair

The session included a formal election process to appoint the leadership of WG3 in accordance with DCoC procedures. Eligibility for nomination was restricted to signatory states of the Jeddah Amendment.

24. Election Results

The election process was swift, with nominations sought for each position.

- .1 **Chair:** Kenya was nominated by South Africa, seconded by Saudi Arabia, and further endorsed by Mozambique and other delegations. With no other nominations, **Kenya was unanimously elected as the Chair** of Working Group 3.

.2 Deputy Chair: Djibouti was nominated by South Africa and seconded by Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya and other delegations. With no other nominations, the **Republic of Djibouti was declared duly elected as the Deputy Chair.**

25. Remarks and Acceptance

Brigadier Mohammed Shemote, Commander of the Kenya Navy Fleet, delivered a speech accepting the role on behalf of Kenya. He expressed gratitude and humility for the confidence placed in Kenya, reaffirming a commitment to serving the interests of the region and all member states. He emphasized that the WG3's operational-level work converts shared commitments into practical activities at sea. He highlighted that the threats facing the region are evolving, including new criminal networks, emerging technologies, and climate-driven challenges, and stressed the need for WG3 to align with WG1 (Information Sharing) and WG2 (Capacity Building) for a coherent and effective response. Lt. Saad Ibrahim Ali of the Djibouti Coast Guard pledged Djibouti's full support as Deputy Chair.

26. Roadmap for Establishment and Operationalization

Brigadier Mohammed Shemote presented a structured, five-phase roadmap for the group's establishment and operationalization. The roadmap is designed to transform the high-level goals of the DCoC into concrete actions.

27. Key Components of the Roadmap

The roadmap outlines five distinct phases with specific objectives and deliverables:

.1 Phase 0: Establishment (0–2 months): Aims to formally constitute WG3, with steps including formal endorsement, drafting the TORs, adopting the CONOPS, and appointing the leadership.

.2 Phase 1: Framework Development (2–12 months): The objective is to build an operational framework, involving the development of draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and legal/policy alignment.

.3 Phase 2: Capacity Building and Pilot Operations (12–24 months): This phase will focus on building capacity and testing the operational model, including mobilizing resources and launching pilot joint operations.

.4 Phase 3: Full Operationalization (24–36 months): The goal is to institutionalize WG3 by establishing a fully functioning Joint Operation Centre and a rotating Joint Maritime Task Force.

.5 Phase 4: Consolidation and Sustainability (36+ months): The final phase focuses on long-term sustainability and ownership, involving the institutionalization of WG3 outputs into national systems and expanding partnerships.

28. Feedback and Recommendations from the Session

Participants provided valuable feedback on the roadmap:

- .1 **Communication:** A delegate suggested including a step for navies and international partners to provide designated points of contact to improve communication with national focal points.
- .2 **Funding:** A strong recommendation was made to move the donor engagement process to an earlier stage in the roadmap due to the significant resources required.
- .3 **Shared Calendar:** A participant highlighted the need for a shared calendar of activities to help de-conflict and synchronize events. The Secretariat agreed to take this up with the other working groups.
- .4 **Partner Support:** UNITAR and CRIMARIO representatives offered their continued support in providing technical expertise and capacity-building efforts.
- .5 **Maintaining Momentum:** It was suggested that the next WG3 meeting could be held on the sidelines of the upcoming high-level meeting in Mauritius to ensure momentum is not lost.

29. Refinement of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

The session was an open forum to refine the draft CONOPS document. Participants discussed and proposed numerous amendments to improve the document's clarity and effectiveness.

30. Key Discussion Points

- .1 **Strategic Importance:** The session began by reaffirming the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden, emphasizing the need for cooperation to ensure the safety of shipping lanes.
- .2 **Command and Control:** This was a major point of discussion. Indian MoD representative brought out certain gaps in the formulation which led to extensive debate. Participants felt the section was too vague and did not adequately define the authority of WG3. It was suggested that the group must be seen as exercising authority, not just identifying a center. India was asked to formulate a paragraph for the same. This was subsequently discussed and adopted.
- .3 **Legal Finish:** The wording was debated to reflect a more realistic goal of "increasing the likelihood of a legal finish" rather than "ensuring" it.
- .4 **Public Communication:** Questions were raised regarding the meaning of "transparency programs" in the public communication section.

Day 4

31. Consolidation and Next Steps

Day 4 was the final day of the workshop, dedicated to consolidating the work of the previous three days, presenting on resource needs, and concluding the meeting with a shared vision for the future.

32. Review and Endorsement of Key Documents

The first session of the day focused on a comprehensive review and endorsement of the three key documents for Working Group 3: the Terms of Reference (TORs), the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), and the roadmap. The collective review was crucial for ensuring the foundational documents were sound and ready to be implemented. The meeting concluded with the formal adoption of all three key documents. The chair expressed gratitude for the participants' cooperation and contributions, noting that some minor corrections were made and the documents would be shared with all member states for further feedback.

33. Resource Needs and Support Presentation

The second session featured a presentation by Mr. Kiruja Micheni on the essential resource needs and capacity-building priorities for Working Group 3. He stressed that while resources are crucial, the most important factors for success are the **political will and commitment** from member states.

34. Key Priorities and Needs

The workshop enabled a comprehensive assessment of operational gaps among DCoC signatory states. The identified key priority areas for capacity building include:

- .1 Maritime surveillance and maritime domain awareness.
- .2 Interoperability.
- .3 Legal frameworks for joint operations.
- .4 Training for coordinated joint maritime law enforcement operations.

35. Leveraging Partnerships and Funds

He highlighted the critical role of the Friends of the DCoC as partners whose continued engagement is vital for supporting operations, sharing best practices, and mobilizing resources. The DCoC Trust Fund was identified as a key mechanism for supporting WG3 activities. Signatory states were encouraged to submit proposals, collaborate on joint initiatives, and ensure the

transparent and results-driven use of resources. Working Group 3 will also align with existing regional and international programs to avoid duplication of efforts, including the EU SAFE SEAS Project, Ex AIKEYME, IOS Sagar, Exercise Cutlass Express, and the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

36. Next Steps for Resource Mobilization

The CONOPS, TORs, and roadmap are to be submitted to the Steering Committee for adoption and will be endorsed at the 8th DCoC High-Level Meeting in November 2025. Resource mobilization initiatives will commence immediately, with Kenya and South Africa volunteering to draft a MSC paper to be presented at the 111th Session and request support from the IMO.

37. Planning the Next WG3 Meeting

The session discussed proposals for the date, venue, and agenda of the next WG3 meeting. The dates and venue will be communicated on the sidelines of the upcoming high-level meeting in Mauritius in November 2025. Brigadier Shemote extended his sincere appreciation to all delegates, participants, and partners, including Denmark, UNITAR, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the IMO. He also thanked the organizing teams from the Kenyan Navy, the DCoC Secretariat, and the Serena Hotel.

38. Final Closing Remarks

The workshop concluded with a series of final remarks from distinguished delegates.

.1 DCoC Chair (Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada)

Ms. Nepfumbada emphasized the importance of creating tangible and sustainable outputs for the region. She congratulated Kenya and Djibouti on their election and called for greater participation of women in maritime security. She concluded by quoting, "For alone we are a drop in the ocean. But together we are an ocean."

.2 UNITAR (Mr. Sascha Weh)

Mr. Weh, representing UNITAR, praised the workshop's success, highlighting that WG3 is now a "real engine for cooperation at sea." He advised the group to "be ambitious but don't promise a fleet of aircraft carriers" and to build trust. He stated that UNITAR and other "friends of the DCoC" are ready to offer support in the roadmap's implementation.

.3 Denmark (Commander Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen)

Commander Frederiksen congratulated Kenya and Djibouti for taking the helm. He stated that the region has proven it is "more than capable of taking the lead and finding solutions" and that by working together, they can act as a "force multiplier." He announced that Denmark is ready to support Phase 0 of the roadmap and will send a seconded officer to the DCoC Secretariat for two years to provide more manpower.

.4 Kenya (Brigadier Mohammed Shemote)

Brigadier Shemote, representing the Kenyan Navy, delivered the final closing remarks. He extended his sincere appreciation to all participants and strategic partners, and noted the milestones achieved, including the agreement on the TORs, CONOPS, and the roadmap. He formally declared the workshop on the establishment of Working Group 3 officially closed.

List of Appendices

Annex 1: List of Participants

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-WG3-List-of-Participants.pdf>

Annex 2: Opening Addresses

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-IOC-Officer-in-Charge.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-Commander-Kenya-Navy.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-IMO-Project-Manager.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-DCoC-Chair-and-RSA-NFP.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-Chief-of-UNITARs-Division-for-Peace-office-in-Brussels.pdf>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Opening-Remarks-H.E-Nicolai-Ruge-Denmark-Special-Representative-for-Maritime-Security.pdf>

Annex 3: Agenda for the WG3 Meeting

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/01092025-IMO-DCoC-Working-Group-3-Programme.pdf>

Annex 4: Terms of Reference (TORs) of WG3

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Terms-of-Reference-for-Working-Group-3-on-Operational-Coordination-and-Cooperation-at-Sea.pdf>

Annex 5: Concept of Operations (CONOPS) of WG3

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Concept-of-Operations-CONOPS-for-Working-Group-3-on-Operational-Coordination-and-Cooperation-at-Sea.pdf>

Annex 6: Roadmap for WG3

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Roadmap-of-DCoC-Working-Group-3-on-Operations-at-Sea.pdf>

Annex 7: Workshop Communiqué

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Communique-for-Working-Group-3-on-Operational-Coordination-and-Cooperation-at-Sea.pdf>

Annex 8: Workshop presentations

CMF - Cdr Matthew Greenhill 1st Statement:

https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Statement-by-CMF_Cdr-Matt-Greenhill.pdf

INDIA MEA – Commodore Nitin Parvataneni 2nd Statement: https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2nd-Statement-delivered-by-India_MEA-Commodore-Nitin-Parvataneni.pdf

UNODC - Pooja Bissoonauthsing 3rd Statement: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/3rd-Statement-delivered-by-UNODC-Pooja-Bissoonauthsing.pdf>

4th Statement delivered by Somalia - Lt. Mohamed Daud Muse: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/4th-Statement-delivered-by-Somalia-Lt.-Mohamed-Daud-Muse.pdf>

United Republic of Tanzania - Katondo Stella Joshua 5th Statement: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/5th-Statement-delivered-by-Tanzania-Ms.-Stella-Joshua-Katondo.pdf>

RMIFC – Capt. Harifidy Andrianjaka Alex Regional Threat Update: https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Regional-Threat-Update-by-RMIFC-%E2%80%93-Capt.-Harifidy-Andrianjaka-Alexa_compressed.pdf

CMF - Cdr Matthew Greenhill: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Regional-Threat-Update-CMF-by-Cdr.-Matt-Greenhill.pdf>

INDIA HCI - Capt (IN) V Shirdikant Regional Threat Update: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Regional-Threat-Update-by-INDIA-HCI-%E2%80%93-Capt-IN-V-Shirdikant.pdf>

Danish Maritime Ambassador H.E Nicolai Ruge: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Presentation-on-the-new-Global-Maritime-Security-Strategy-by-the-Kingdom-of-Denmark-Danish-Maritime-Ambassador-H.E-Nicolai-Ruge.pdf>

Session 1: Recap of DCoC/JA and Resolution One by Mr. Kiruja Micheni:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfKfzrUvcyo>

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/DCoC-Recap-and-Dar-HLM-Resolution-One-IMO-Kiruja-Micheni.pdf>

Session 2: Opportunities and Challenges in Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea by

UNODC - Pooja Bissoonauthsing:

INTERPOL - Nestor Macaulay:

Session 3: Mapping Current Operational Coordination Mechanisms

RCOC - Cdr Nelson Délicieux: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Session-3-RCoC-Cdr.-Nelson-Best-practice-to-counter-illicit-maritime-activities.pdf>

ACSS - Capt. (Rtd.) Jeff Landsman: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Session-3-ACSS-Capt.-Jeffrey-Landsman-Best-practice-to-counter-illicit-maritime-activities.pdf>

INDIAN NAVY - Commander Nikhil Verma: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Session-3-India-Navy-Cdr.-Nikhil-Verma-Best-practice-to-counter-illicit-maritime-activities.pdf>

CMF - Cdr Matthew Greenhill: https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Statement-by-CMF_Cdr-Matt-Greenhill.pdf

EUNAVFOR – Cdr. Massimo Spitale: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Session-3-EUNAVFOR-Cdr.-Spitale-Best-practice-to-counter-illicit-maritime-activities.pdf>

Panel Discussion: Ideas on formulation of a working model for implementation for DCoC states

Kenya Navy – Brig. Mohamed Shemote:

RSA - Rear Admiral SF du Toit: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-Discussion-South-Africa-Rear-Admiral-SF-du-Toit.pdf>

Seychelles - Major Ivel Ernesta: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-Discussion-Seychelles-Major-Ivel-Ernesta.pdf>

Yemen - Col. Al Bakheshi Marwan Qasem Ahmed/ Engineer Adeeb Ahmed Abdulsattar: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Panel-Discussion-Yemen-Col-Al-Bakeshi-and-Eng.-Adeeb.pdf>

Session 4: Developing a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for WG3 and

Session 5: Presentation of Breakout Group Inputs on CONOPS

Group 1: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/GROUP-1.pdf>

Group 2: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/GROUP-2.pdf>

Group 3: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/GROUP-3.pdf>

Group 4:

Session 6: Drafting the Terms of Reference (ToRs) – refer to ANNEX 4

Session 7: Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Chair WG3 - Brig. Mohamed S. Shemote (Kenya): <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Acceptance-Speech-WG-3-Chair-by-Kenyas-Brig.-M.S-Shemote.pdf>

Deputy Chair WG3 - Lieutenant Saad Ibrahim Ali (Djibouti):

Session 8 & 9: Developing and Final Review of CONOPS, ToRs, and the Roadmap - refer to ANNEX 4, 5 & 6

Update on Working Group 3 and Way Forward by Chair WG3 - Brig. Mohamed S. Shemote (Kenya): <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Update-on-Working-Group-3-and-Way-Forward-by-Chair-Brig.-M.S-Shemote.pdf>

Response by Commodore Nitin Parvataneni, Director (Military Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, India on the Question of 'Whole of Region' efforts and 'Short Term Threats':

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Response-by-Commodore-Nitin-Parvataneni-Director-Military-Affairs-Ministry-of-External-Affairs-India-on-the-Question-of-Whole-of-Region-efforts-and-Short-Term-Threats.pdf>

Annex 9: Closing Remarks

RSA, DCoC Chair - Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Closing-Remarks-Ms.-Mashudu-Nepfumbada-RSA.pdf>

IMO Kiruja Micheni: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Closing-Remarks-Mr.-Kiruja-Micheni-IMO.pdf>

Denmark's Cdr Kjeld Gaard Frederiksen: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Closing-Remarks-Cdr.-Kjeld-Gaard-Denmark.pdf>

Chair WG3 - Brig. Mohamed S. Shemote (Kenya):
