



## **FRIENDS OF THE DCoC/JA MEETING NO. 5**

**Virtual via Teams**

**Tuesday 23 April 2024**

**Record of the Meeting**

1. The Djibouti Code of Conduct (hereinafter referred to as DCoC/JA), facilitated a meeting of the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (FoDCoC,) on behalf 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 (the Djibouti Code of Conduct), (hereinafter referred to as "the Jeddah Amendment"), and States eligible to sign these instruments.

2. The meeting was attended by the following DCoC Steering Committee members:

**COMOROS SEYCHELLES SOMALIA SOUTH AFRICA YEMEN**

And by the following Implementing partner States:

**DENMARK JAPAN USA**  
**INDIA UNITED KINGDOM**

And by the following International Organizations and Programmes:

**CRIMARIO IFC-IOR ISS**  
**EUCAP IMO RCOC**  
**EUNAVFOR ATALANTA IOC RMIFC**  
**EUROPEAN UNION INTERPOL UNITAR**

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

### **Aim**

3. The meeting aimed to review progress updates provided by the Secretariat on a range of topics, including the 8-point action plan as discussed with the IMO-SG. Additionally, discussions focused on the implementation of WG1 objectives, such as the establishment of NMISCs, and aspects of capacity-building coordination from WG2.

4. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the Steering Committee Mr. Metse Ralephenya (RSA) highlighted that DCoC Implementing partners shared mutual interests with the region on maritime security challenges and were vital in the joint effort to combat them. Drawing from the High-Level meeting held in Cape Town (2023), he affirmed that the work on the identified

areas under Working Group One on Information Sharing and Capacity Building, inclusive of the newly formed thematic areas, was ongoing and called on partners to suggest improvements or changes to make them more efficient.

5. Mr. Ralephenya highlighted concerns about program duplication and overlapping efforts in the Western Indian Ocean due to the presence of many players and programs. He emphasized the necessity to coordinate support and ensure collaboration with other partners alongside the DCoC, noting the inefficiency of multiple organizations undertaking similar tasks in the same space. Discussion on resource allocation, beyond technical support, was also mentioned, along with the need for diplomatic approaches to address these challenges..

6. Mr. Ralephenya referenced the meeting held early in January 2024 with the IMO Secretary General (SG) where the DCoC shared their action plan, with the IMO SG committing IMO's support for advocating and implementing the DCoC's 8-point action plan, which is attached at **ANNEX B**.

7. He encouraged the Friends to review the Action Plan and specify their support based on their areas of expertise. Mr. Ralephenya also highlighted challenges in information sharing and operationalizing NMISCs and information-sharing platforms, calling for assistance in shaping the DCoC's work in the region and within countries, and sought advice on the plan's focus areas.

8. He also called for the adoption of the agenda which is attached at **ANNEX C**.

### **Update from Secretariat**

9. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) noted that the DCoC had intensified its efforts and clearly demonstrated its readiness for business, emphasizing its preparedness to address maritime security challenges in the region. He underscored the importance of inclusive collaboration with other stakeholders and support for the framework. Regarding the establishment of a robust DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN), it was noted delays were being experienced in establishing and operationalizing the National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs), as the deadline was set for March 2024. NMISCs were expected to align with the standards set by the 2021 DCoC Strategy and Roadmap for ISN.

10. He highlighted the significance of information sharing in operational coordination, stating that effective information sharing is essential for addressing operational coordination and achieving legal finish. He added that Kenya had reaffirmed its support for legal finish efforts, while Seychelles had already signed an EU agreement to combat maritime crimes and ensure legal finish through prosecution of apprehended suspects.

11. Mr. Micheni expressed gratitude to FoDCoC for their support and mentioned that, as agreed in Cape Town, the next High-Level Meeting would take place in Tanzania. He noted that a request had been received from Tanzania to reschedule the meeting to November to coincide with the visit to Tanzania of the IMO Secretary-General, who will also be invited to attend the meeting. He expressed the desire for the IMO Secretary-General to attend the DCoC meeting and requested any FoDCoC to co-sponsor the event with Tanzania.

### **Working Group 1 Chair remarks**

12. Captain Yeslem Mubark (Yemen) reported on the working status of the NMISCs citing that only 3 were operational being Seychelles (NMISC), Kenya (JOC), and Madagascar (CFIM). Other countries such as Comoros, Mauritius, and Yemen are in the process of operationalization.

13. He also pointed to the integration of the MASE Centers (RCOC – Seychelles and RMIFC-Madagascar) into the DCoC ISN, for information sharing and operation coordination at sea against illicit maritime activities. A call for action on partners' support was made to operationalize the remaining NMISCs with Premises, Personnel, Technical assistance, Equipment, and Infrastructure.

14. The process of seconding an International Liaison Officer (ILO) at the IFC-IOR, based on India's Offer was also under discussion with the Steering Committee, and it was reported that the DCoC would be expected to nominate their candidate for posting to the IFC-IOR by May 2024.

The presentation is in **ANNEX D**.

**Working Group 2 Chair remarks  
Capt. Daniel Adam (Seychelles)**

15. Capt. Daniel Adam talked about the three thematic areas of the sub-working groups that they are focusing on:

- IUU Fishing (Chaired by Tanzania)
- Protection of Ships, Ports, and Coastal Installations (Chaired by Ethiopia)
- Protection of the Marine Environment (Chaired by Mauritius)

He informed the meeting that concept papers would be developed to outline guidelines for operating the thematic areas.

16. He also mentioned that countries elected to chair the thematic areas should identify a subject matter expert to assist the National Focal Points (NFPs) in managing the affairs of the thematic area, particularly for those areas outside the core work of IMO. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of addressing risk assessments for each threat to mitigate risks in a structured manner. Lastly, he stated that a DCoC statement for MSC 108 should be prepared.

The Working Group Two presentation on Capacity Building and Coordination is attached at **ANNEX E**.

**Plenary (All)**

**Reactions to the presentation made by the Chair of Working Group One were as follows:**

17. Commodore Nitin Parvataneni (India) expressed gratitude to WG1 for considering the proposal to establish an ILO at the IFC-IOR. He mentioned that India is currently upgrading the IFC-IOR to accommodate 40 ILOs from the current 14 and affirmed India's readiness for the DCoC ILO. He expressed India's willingness to integrate NMISCs of DCoC/JA States and regional Information Sharing Centres, when ready, into IFC-IOR as indicated in the presentation by WG 1.

18. Regarding the selection of the first ILO for the IFC-IOR, it was recommended to have a Kenyan ILO due to the presence of Kenyan Navy officers regularly undergoing Navy professional courses on communications, navigation, operations etc in India and therefore possibility of easier coordination at the centre in this pioneering engagement. In addition, due to Kenya's already existing Information sharing infrastructure and having chaired the working group on Information Sharing, with the Secretariat being based in Nairobi, it stood as the most preferable candidate for the first DCOC-JA ILO to IFC-IOR who would be required to set the procedures in place, for all DCOC-JA States, for effective future collaboration. However, it was

stated that any decision taken by DCOC-JA Member States would be supported and approved. A decision on the selection of the ILO will be made and communicated within the next two weeks, as suggested by Mr. Metse Ralephenya.

19. To ensure the effectiveness of the ISN, India is allocating sufficient time and resources, including delegations to support the operationalization of NMISCs. India indicated readiness to assist any country in need by sending a scoping delegation upon request. India, in the previous HLM at Cape Town, offered assistance, as and when requested, to the concerned WG/POC nominated by DCoC/JA for Development of Regional Maritime Security Strategy and awaits requests if any.

20. IMO's Mr. Micheni emphasized the need for coordination, noting that some of the support offered by partners has not aligned with the multi-agency constitution of the centers, as outlined in the Strategy and roadmap guidelines.

21. RCOC's lead, Capt. Sam Gontier highlighted the unique autonomy of MASE centers, which are independent from any specific national influence, emphasizing the genuine regional approach in their operation and governance through the role of International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from various countries.

**Reactions to the presentation made by the Chair of Working Group Two were as follows:**

22. The Chair requested support for capacity building in implementing the thematic areas.

23. IMO stated that they had faced challenges with feedback from partners regarding the CB Matrix and urged partners to provide feedback on areas of support and reach out to the Secretariat.

24. Somalia thanked India for its support against the resurgence of piracy off the coast of Somalia and called for partner support aligned with the CB Matrix to ensure equal and adequate capacity support for all DCoC countries.

25. India gave an overview of the extensive ongoing operations and information-sharing efforts to combat resurgent piracy. India carried out a recent anti-piracy operation 1400 NM from its own coast, captured all pirates, facilitated release of all crew, and concluded with legal finish as well. Additionally, India volunteered to conduct an ISPS Code workshop for DCoC-JA States, in India.

26. Denmark appreciated the DCoC's work and India's efforts in combating piracy. They requested more concrete suggestions from the DCoC Steering Committee on how to support the member states, better visibility of the DCoC works and underlined the importance of regional responsibility and initiatives.

27. RCOC reported its recent discussions with CMF concerning collaborations between the CMF, DCOC and RCOC and the potential for strategic alliances via Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs). He mentioned the anticipation of further meetings for the MOU and discussed the potential for upcoming one-on-one meetings aimed at cementing this cooperative relationship.

28. Seychelles called for the implementation of the ISPS Code regionally and advocated for a whole-of-government approach to maritime security.

29. IMO urged partners for training support for Yemen and Somalia's coastguards to combat piracy and requested support for the development of the Regional MSS.

30. Somalia reported on the return of a Turkish vessel and thanked India for technical support. He also called for additional funding for DCoC ISN countries.

### Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

31. Having heard the presentations from WG 1, WG 2, Secretariat, and the reactions from the plenary, the meeting noted with appreciation the observations and recommendations and adopted the summary of the discussion and way forward as follows:

.1 India is upgrading the IFC-IOR to accommodate more ILOs and affirmed readiness for the DCoC ILO. It was recommended to have a Kenyan ILO for the center due to Kenya's already existing regular maritime training engagements with India and familiarity with India's information sharing structures, in addition to Kenya's already existing information sharing infrastructure and its role in WG1 in DCOC-JA. However, any decision by the DCOC-Member States would also be respected and supported. A decision on the selection of the ILO will be communicated within the next two weeks.

2. India pledged sufficient time and resources to support the ISN's operationalization and reiterated readiness to assist countries in need by sending scoping delegations for NMISCs upon request.

3. India volunteered to conduct ISPS Code workshop for DCoC-JA States.

4. India also offered assistance, as and when requested, to the concerned WG/POC nominated by DCoC/JA for Development of Regional Maritime Security Strategy.

### Vote of thanks:

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

33. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1545 hours EAT.

### ANNEXES:

#### ANNEX A- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Country/Organization
1.	Lavani Said	Comoros/RMIFC
2.	Capt. Daniel Adam	Seychelles

3.	Yonis Adan	Somalia
4.	Metse Ralephenya	South Africa
5.	Capt. Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
6.	Col. Jens Lindvig	Denmark
7.	Cdr. Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen	
8.	Commodore Nitin Parvataneni	India
9.	Captain (IN) Pradeep Raman	
10.	Captain (IN) Vishnu V Reddy	
11.	Captain (IN) Abhishek Pathak	
12.	Commander Opesh Kumar Sharma	
13.	Commander Kundan Singh	
14.	Cdr. Kawashima Keiko	Japan
15.	Cdr. Shaun Quinn	United Kingdom
16.	Patricia Davies	
17.	Thomas Frear	
18.	Terry Gibson	
19.	Munroe, Lane (USCG)	United States of America
20.	Dave Natrass	CRIMARIO
21.	Dania Cossa	EUCAP
22.	Stefan Sivaro	

23.	Lt. Antonio Martorell Dominguez	EUNAVFOR ATALANTA
24.	Alina Neacsu	EUROPEAN UNION
25.	Commander Naveen Deshmukh	IFC-IOR
26.	Hassani Ahamada Soilihi	IOC
27.	Farghaly Ibrahim	INTERPOL
28.	Al-Jobouri Saad	
29.	Timothy Walker	ISS
30.	Capt. Sam Gontier	RCOC
31.	Emmanuelle Hoareau	RCoC/RMIFC-Auxilium Worldwide
32.	Antje Pittelkau	UNITAR
33.	Henri Gomez	
34.	Kiruja Micheni	IMO
35.	Winnie Maina	IMO
36.	Esther Kung'u	IMO

## ANNEX B - DCOC'S 8-POINT ACTION PLAN

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/The-DCOCJA-regional-8-POINT-Action-Plan-detailed-version.pdf>

## ANNEX C: AGENDA



Agenda-Friends%20o  
f%20DCoC%

## ANNEX D – Working Group One Presentation

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Presentation-of-WG1-Update-on-DCoC-Information-Sharing-23042024.pdf>

**ANNEX E - Working Group Two Presentation**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Presentation-of-WG2-Update-and-DCoC-Capacity-Building.pdf>