



**DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT  
THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION SHARING  
HELD VIA ZOOM**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**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 (Djibouti Code of Conduct), the Signatory States to the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017(Jeddah Amendment) and the States eligible to sign these instruments (participants) organised a virtual inaugural meeting for Working Group 1 on Information Sharing on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, to deliberate on the need to enhance and strengthen the DCoC Information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment. The meeting was a follow up to a virtual National Focal Points (NFP) meeting held on Wednesday, 07 April 2021, which led to the adoption of the terms of reference for Working Group 1, Working Group 2, and the Steering Committee.

2. The objective of the meeting was to create greater awareness and understanding of the DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN) and develop better plans and prioritization for a more efficient and effective information sharing architecture, which will ensure safety and security within our area of focus, the Western Indian Ocean.

**Opening Remarks by the Chairman of Working Group 1**

3. The meeting was opened by the Chairman of Working Group 1 Brigadier Naisho Loonena. Key among his highlights was the need for member states to develop an effective information sharing architecture that meets the objectives of the JA; the consideration to establish NMISCs as a key pillar for regional networks; leveraging on emerging regional centres that have maritime monitoring capacity but are not directly linked to the DCoC/JA and maximizing on the new DCOC Website for the enhancement of information sharing, within the region. The remarks are attached as Annex 1.

The opening remarks were followed by a round of introductions of all the participants.

**Introductions**

4. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following participating States.

ETHIOPIA, KENYA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, MOZAMBIQUE, SAUDI ARABIA, SEYCHELLES,  
SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, UAE, YEMEN.

## **Agenda**

5. The meeting adopted the Agenda that had earlier been circulated by the Secretariat, and the Chairman of the WG on Information Sharing continued to chair the meeting. The Agenda is attached as Annex 2.

### **Enhancing the DCoC information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the JA -**

6. Ms. Nyambura Kimani (IMO) moderated the first panel discussion by reminding member states of the purposes and scope of the Jeddah Amendment to the DCoC, as envisioned in article 2 in sharing and reporting any relevant information on transnational organized maritime crimes as well as the commitment of each member state by way of the designated national focal point to facilitate coordinated, timely, and effective information flow among the Participant member states.

She also pointed out eight pertinent issues concerning Information Sharing Networks, that were raised in the High-Level Meeting held in Jeddah in 2019 and which are detailed in the remarks as attached as Annex 3.

### **Panelists presentations on the DCoC Information Sharing Network.**

7. Ms. Joyce Awino (Kenya) discussed on why, how, and when Signatory States could enhance the DCoC Information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment. She also emphasized the importance of the establishment of NMISC and their contribution on effective governance as part of the “whole of government” approach to maritime security.

8. Mr. Emmanuel Lusuva of the United Republic of Tanzania took Signatory States through the presentation on the role National Maritime Information Sharing Centres. He added that these centres were a key component in facilitating and strengthening maritime cooperation and improving security.

9. Mr. Mohammed Al Mugashi from Yemen covered the role of the DCoC in enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness citing that the awareness generated through information sharing will enhance understanding of the maritime environment, including adjacent ungoverned areas in which criminals operate.

The presentations are marked as Annex 4.

10. An open discussion session was opened to all participants to act in response to the presentations made during the meeting. Contributions were as follows:

- i. Andrew Clarke (IMO) reiterated the organization’s focus on MDA, NMISCs and the whole of government approach. He emphasized the need for countries looking to address and tackle maritime security risks to adopt a National Maritime Security Strategy. He added that to actualize an effective NMSS, a National Maritime Security Committee should develop a National Maritime Risk Register which lists the whole breath of maritime security risks.
- ii. Muhammed Al Mugashi from Yemen pointed that even though various implementing organizations and partners were contributing generously to maritime security initiatives and projects within the region, an abiding concern on unified cooperation and coordination among these partners which would result in duplication of efforts on the ground.

He highlighted the need for implementing partners/organizations to work with or alongside the DCoC (JA) in initiatives such as the EU-sponsored Port Security and Safety of Navigation project (which covers the Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region) and the Red Sea project.

### **Considerations for effective interaction with international partners**

11. Captain Getinet Abay, who doubles up as the Chair for Working Group 2 on Capacity Building, shared Ethiopia's perspective on how the DCoC/JA should interact with potential international partners. He recalled requests made by several countries and organizations in two past Jeddah meetings, to join the Friends of the DCoC, including those that have never supported any work of the DCoC or contributed to the Trust Fund.

The conclusion to this matter was for the DCoC/JA to take action to ensure that the Forum of Friends brings together partners that have the interest of the region at heart and have the resources and commitment to add value to the work of the DCoC/JA. The presentation is attached as Annex 5.

### **Development of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres**

12. Joyce Awino (Kenya) moderated the second panel discussion on the development of NMISCs and the challenges and opportunities this process presents. She asserted the need for a maritime strategy would support the economy and stability of a state if the latter is aware of its actual, and not assumed maritime potential.

13. Captain (Navy) Randrianantenaina of Madagascar covered his experience in the three-year development and establishment of the National Maritime Info Fusion Centre (NMIFC).

14. Mr. Albano Gove (Mozambique) highlighted that the strengthening of cooperation between the national institutions is vital for improvement of the maritime information sharing. He added that Mozambique was keen to establish its NMISC and welcomes the support of IMO in doing so.

The IMO is currently collaborating with Mozambique to develop the National Maritime Security Committee, which will be a core feature in the establishment of its NMISC.

15. Mr. Yonis Adan (Somalia) mentioned that a NMISC in the country will reflect on a lot of goodwill and positivity to enhance maritime security given the issues that Somalia has dealt with in matters related to maritime security threats and risks.

Somalia is in the advanced stages of developing a NMISC which will position it as a pace setter to countries that lack in that respect.

The presentations are marked as Annex 6.

### **Way forward on strengthening the DCOC.**

16. The Chair summarized the meeting by underscoring eight pointers brought forward by the different panelists in the discussion segment, which are as follows:

- i. Participants are committed to working together in the implementation of DCOC-JA. It was reiterated that the main objective would be for Signatory States to establish NMISCs, as this is the key to ensuring regional network.

- ii. IMO is committed to a whole of government approach in handling maritime security. They are open to providing technical assistance for the NMSCs and NMSSs.
- iii. To avoid duplication, recommendations were made to have a DCOC mechanism that incorporates and harmonises all the development partners' work in the Region to ensure that Signatory States harness all efforts for a maximum benefit.
- iv. Make use of the Friends of DCOC TORs, to incorporate committed members and use the DCOC Trust Fund.
- v. Develop a DCOC Strategic Plan Document to guide modalities of work and develop common SOPs and structures of operation and reporting frequencies and progress monitoring.
- vi. Benchmark with Madagascar on the NMISCs and find out if Madagascar would like to share documents with Signatory States. It was noted that the new DG will be requested to share the SOPs and MOUs used in the development of its NMIFC. The only challenge will be that Madagascar is a French- speaking country and hence documents are in French and not English.
- vii. Create a sub-committee to develop with a Plan of action to capture all issues and recommendation addressed in this meeting and the same to be developed ahead of next WG 1 meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat can follow up on this with signatory states bilaterally and develop a sub- committee.  
  
(It should be noted that Yemen, Seychelles, Kenya, and Madagascar, volunteered to support the sub-committee's work, in follow-up done by Mr. Micheni shortly after the meeting. A second follow up will be made to the United Kingdom government in support of the same.)
- viii. Member stated should consider inviting International partners in the next Working Group 1 meeting.

#### **A.O.B.**

17. Members were encouraged to use the DCOC Website and UK was thanked for their support in developing the website.
18. It was agreed that launching the Website be held on 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 at 1400hours EAT/1100hrs GMT.

#### **Update of the Red Sea Project**

19. The beneficiary countries were encouraged to respond to the letter from the IMO to allow for planning of the Inception Briefing.
20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1700hrs EAT, with a vote of thanks from Mr. Kiruja Micheni.

## **Annex 1. Opening remarks by the Chairman of the WG1**

*By Brigadier (Rtd) Loonena Naisho, EBS 'ndc' 'psc' (K) Director General Kenya Coast Guard Service*

### **Salutations**

- Chairman of the Steering Committee and Director General of the Saudi Border Guard, Major General Muhammad Abdullah Al-Shehri.
- Distinguished National Focal Points and Members of Working Group 1
- Project Manager Djibouti Code of Conduct
- IMO Representatives present

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Let me take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the inaugural meeting of the DCOC (JA) Working Group 1. It indeed has taken long to convene the forum noting the time taken to agree on the terms of reference. It is my hope that the foregoing debate that was based on openness and honesty will build trust to meet any new challenges and turn them into gains. I trust that we shall keep focus of the objective for greater awareness and understanding to develop better plans and prioritization for a more efficient and effective information sharing architecture that will ensure safety and security within our area of focus, the Western Indian Ocean.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Recognizing that we have a shared interest in international maritime law, need for peace and stability in view of the open Sea Lines of Communication that call for safe and secure waters and effective protection of resources and the marine environment; Recognizing also that the ability to offer security in the maritime domain requires capabilities to directly confront common threats and that no single Nation can achieve this this alone;

Recalling consensus on the need to review the DCOC Information Sharing Network (ISN) to ensure that it is fit for purpose to meet the regional needs vis-à-vis the expanded scope of the JA that extends beyond piracy; and that the DCOC ISN must be able to fulfil the objectives of the DCoC (JA) within the scope of all maritime crimes identified;

Observing that all member states agreed in the Jeddah Amendments to identify National Focal Points (NFPs), nominated by relevant national organizations and that the individuals represent, members of their national maritime security and facilitation committees and must be the single representative of whole of Government;

Recognizing the original ISC network of the DCOC of Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Sanaa and further considering as agreed in the JA that it is establishment of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) in all member states that will be the pillars of the entire DCOC Member States ISN;

Recognising that in addition to the National ISCs within the Region that are not part of the DCOC original structure of Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Sanaa (currently not operational), there are regional centres which have emerged and have capacity to monitor maritime activities. These are: the Jeddah Maritime Information Sharing Centre; the Regional Maritime Operations Coordination Centre in Seychelles, and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar.



Recalling further that at national level it is the NMISCs that will be critical in establishing the regional network necessary and implement the work directed by the respective NFP;

This being a working group on information sharing and based on the foregoing, I therefore call for an understanding of the importance of NMISCs as a core national instrument as proposed in the DCoC (JA) including the National Focal Point system. **I further recognize that an opportunity to popularize the NMICs lies with the establishment of the new DCoC Website which can be used to highlight progress and create confidence to all stakeholders and partners. I reiterate that the NMISCs are** the solid foundation at national level that will be the basis for stronger regional cooperation. I welcome all of you to the meeting and look forward to your contributions and fruitful discussions in this regard. I welcome IMO to take over the program.

**Thank you all for your attention.**

## Annex 2. Agenda

S. No	Agenda	Speaker	Duration
	Opening Remarks by the Chairman of Working Group 1;	Brig. Naisho Loonena Chairman WG1	10 Min
	Introductions	All	5 Min
	Adoption of the Agenda	Chair	5 Min
	Panel Discussion - Enhancing the DCoC information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the JA.	Moderated by Ms. Nyambura Kimani, IMO	45 Min
	Why, how, and when	<b>Panelists:</b> Ms. Joyce Awino – Kenya	
	The role of NMISC	Mr. Emmanuel Lusuva - U.R Tanzania	
	The role of the DCoC in enhancing MDA.	Mr. Mohammed AlMugashi - Yemen	
	Open Discussion	All	
	Considerations for effective interaction with international partners, (Friends of DCoC (JA) - who, how and why	Capt. Getinet Abay - Ethiopia	20 Min
<b>Break</b>			
	Panel Discussion - Development of NMISCs – Challenges and opportunities – open discussion/sharing of experiences.	Moderated by Ms Joyce Awino, Kenya	30 Min
	<b>Panelists –</b> Madagascar, Mozambique, and Somalia	Capt. (Navy) Randrianantenaina Madagasgar, Mr. Albano Gove, Mozambique Mr. Yonis Adan, Somalia	
	Way forward on strengthening the DCOC (JA) ISN	Chair	15 Min
	Any other business. a. Launch date for the DCoC website	All	10 Min

### **Annex 3: Remarks under Agenda item four by Ms. Nyambura Kimani, Maritime Security Governance Officer, DCoC.**

Good afternoon Colleagues,

I am glad that the inaugural meeting of this working group is finally upon us following lengthy discussions over several months to approve the Terms of Reference. I take this opportunity, to thank you all for your efforts and commitment to this end.

As we all may know, one of the purposes and scope of the Jeddah Amendment to the DCoC, as envisioned in article 2, is to share and report relevant information on transnational organized maritime crimes;

Further, and as guided under article 11, each participating signatory member State should, by way of the designated national focal point through their respective national maritime security committee, be able to facilitate coordinated, timely, and effective information flow among the Participant member states.

You will recall, that under the DCOC, the piracy information exchange centres were identified as Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen.

You will further recall that, following the High-Level Meeting held in Jeddah in 2019, several issues pertaining to Information Sharing Networks were discussed.

For the benefit of the discussion that we are about to have, specifically on enhancing the DCoC Information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment, the eight key issues agreed at the High-Level meeting were: -

1. The Participants agreed that there was an inherent need to enhance the existing regional information sharing network to meet the increased requirements of the Jeddah Amendment; as well as operational information; such an enhanced network would facilitate sharing of experience, national legislation, best and promising practices and national maritime security strategies;
2. The aim of the enhanced information sharing network is to facilitate improved regional maritime security, law enforcement and governance capabilities in order to support maritime sector development and a sustainable blue economy, within the context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. The Participants agreed that it was important to establish national information sharing centres, in order to coordinate the activities of national agencies engaged in maritime security and maritime law enforcement, and to facilitate the activities of the national maritime security committees envisaged in Article 3 of the Jeddah Amendment;
4. The Participants noted that while the regional information sharing centres detailed in Article 11 of the Jeddah Amendment had originally been intended to provide effective communications related to piracy and armed robbery against ships, some may be challenged to carry out this mission across the wider set of maritime crimes addressed under the Jeddah Amendment.



5. The Participants agreed that in order to improve the situation, a neutral assessment of the functions and capacity requirements of the three Djibouti Code of Conduct information sharing centres should be conducted, with a view to identifying any areas in need of capacity building assistance. In this regard, it was agreed that clarity was needed on what information needed to be shared, and how such information should be shared. In developing the terms of reference for the assessments, the views and operational requirements of signatory States should be taken into account. The report of the assessment should be shared with signatory States for discussion at a subsequent meeting in order to agree the way forward;
6. The Participants noted the report of Yemen that the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Sana'a was no longer operational and that it was the intention of the Government of Yemen to re-establish the ReMISC in Aden. In this regard the Participants requested assistance for Yemen to re-establish the ReMISC in Aden;
7. Notwithstanding Article 11 of the Jeddah Amendment, the Participants reaffirmed that signatory States were sovereign and were free to host, establish or make use of information sharing centres other than those established pursuant to the Djibouti Code of Conduct. Lastly;
8. The Participants noted that some signatory States had requested to use the Jeddah Maritime Information Sharing Centre as a regional Centre. Similarly, signatory States acknowledged the contribution of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and the Regional Coordination and Operations Centre (RCOC) in the Seychelles.

This is the premise and foundation for discussion under this agenda item, and with that, I welcome our first panelist, Ms. Joyce. Awino from Kenya, to take us through why, how, and when we may enhance the DCoC Information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment.

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## **Annex 4: Enhancing the DCoC information Sharing Network to meet the objectives of the JA: Why, How and When**

*By: Joyce Awino (Kenya)*

### **Salutations**

- Chairman of the Steering Committee and Director General of the Saudi Border Guard, Major General Muhammad Abdullah Al-Shehri.
- Distinguished National Focal Points and Members of Working Group 1
- Project Manager Djibouti Code of Conduct
- IMO Representatives present

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

My task today is to highlight the why and how the DCoC ISC Network can meet the objectives of the JA. I wish to recall that in the context of the DCoC (JA) signatories undertook to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of transnational organized crime in the maritime domain, maritime terrorism, IUU fishing and other illegal activities at sea based on available resources and related priorities, respective national laws and regulations and applicable rules of international law.

I posit in this regard, that Maritime Domain Awareness is key to achieving any coordinated action at sea. You cannot mitigate what you do not know. There is definitely a link between internal (national) and external (contribution by a nation state to regional /international) initiatives. There is need to build national capacity to benefit and effectively contribute to regional and international initiatives in securing the littoral boundaries and addressing maritime threats.

As highlighted by the Chairman, I wish to stress the importance of the establishment of NMISC and their contribution of effective governance as part of the “whole of government” approach to maritime security. Recall that the DCoC (JA) also called for the ‘establishment of a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary national maritime security and facilitation committee or other system for co-ordinating the related activities between the departments, agencies, control authorities, and other organizations of the State, port operators, Companies and other entities concerned with, or responsible for the implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of, measures to fight transnational organized crime in the maritime domain, maritime terrorism, IUU fishing and other illegal activities at sea.

The role of the National Maritime Security Committee would therefore be overseeing the work of the Centre and the strategic national level MDA capability.

Noting that all DCoC (JA) are at different levels in establishing this capability or establishing a NMISC I propose that this meeting agrees on:

1. The minimum national MDA capability, including the establishment of National Maritime Information Sharing centres in each member state;

There is therefore need for understanding that the national Capabilities should take priority that includes;

- a) Capability Gaps
  - b) Resource Gaps
  - c) Multi-agency Gaps
2. Where needed, that a Member State can seek for assistance for a needs assessment mission to assess its current and/or planned capability;

Capability Assessments on current and future MDA centres (NMIC style) may include;

- a) Information (embedded and sharing)
  - b) Multi agency and interoperability
  - c) Infrastructure
  - d) Mandate/Governance
  - e) Organisation
  - f) Training
  - g) 24/7/365
3. That a national roadmap document for each member state be developed as to how 1) above will be achieved, taking into account the output from 2), and highlighting the gaps which the DCoC WG can then collectively use to approach international partners to address those gaps. The roadmap should articulate gaps to achieve a level of capability as well as prioritisation of the gaps.
4. A commitment to a coordinated approach through the WG to address national gaps in MDA capability, NOT just taking what is offered on a first come first served basis. Focus should be on national, regional and international resources to be directed at gaps identified at '3' (maybe IMO managed at the international support level)

To ensure progress and accountability by the Working Group, I propose National reports at agreed frequency of progress etc to IMO/DCoC to build a regional picture and also measure progress.

Any attempt at collaboration will only be meaningful when the initiatives look first within a State to develop the capacity for collaboration to build the foundation for a strong resilient regional collaborative framework. I envisage that a key output from this meeting will be consensus on the need to develop common SOPs for the NMISC/ Regional ISC network to ensure a coordinated mode of collaboration for the future.

**I submit for your consideration.**

## Mr. Emmanuel Lusuva's (URT) presentation on Roles of National Maritime Information Sharing Centre



18\_MAY\_NMISC  
presentation Tanzania

## Mr. Muhammed AIMugashi's (Yemen) presentation on Role of DCoC –JA in Enhancing MDA



Yemen DCoC-  
workshop 1.pptx

## Annex 5: Considerations for effective interaction with international partners, (Friends of DCoC (JA) - who, how and why

*By: Capt. Getinet Abay  
Acting Director, Maritime Admin and Nautical Adviser  
Ethiopian Maritime Affairs Authority*

Charman of WG 1  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen

As the chair of the working group on capacity building coordination, I would like to share with you Ethiopia's perspective on how the DCoC(JA) should interact with potential international partners.

You will recall that during the last two Jeddah meetings, a number of countries and organizations requested to join the Friends of the DCoC, including those that have never supported any work of the DCoC or contributed to the Trust Fund. We therefore need to take action to ensure that the Forum of Friends is not just a talking shop but brings together partners that have the interest of the region at heart and have the resources and commitment to add value to the work of the DCoC/JA.

### **Necessity**

There are two main reasons why we should rope in more other international partners:

1. To provide technical support in areas that do not fall under the purview of IMO.
2. Funds in the DCoC Trust Fund have dwindled. We need to work with committed well-wishers to progress the important work of the DCoC/JA.

I would therefore like to raise the following points to be considered when deciding on interacting with the Friends of DCoC:

1. Resolution 1 of the Jeddah meeting report (2017) refers to interaction on the basis of **mutual respect for the sovereignty, sovereign rights, sovereign equality, jurisdiction, and territorial integrity of States;**
2. The TORs for the Friends of the DCoC clearly defines the Friends of DCoC as **“Organizations and/or countries committed to, and capable of making a substantial contribution to, the work of the DCoC(JA)”**

#### Recommendations

Taking into consideration the above points, Ethiopia proposes that the Secretariate reaches out to potential partners that have previously expressed an interest in supporting the work of the DCoC JA, to formally request to join. The request will then be considered by the SC and only those that can clearly demonstrate the set criteria will be approved.

**I submit for your consideration.**

#### **Annex 6: Captain (Navy) Randrianantenaina Jean Edmond on Development of NMISC:**

##### **The Madagascar Experience**



7\_PANEL  
DISCUSSIONS\_DEVEL

##### **Mr. Albano Gove on Opportunities and Challenges Available for NMISCS – Mozambique**



CHALLENGES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES OF N

##### **Mr. Yonis Adan on Opportunities and Challenges Available for NMISCS - (Somalia)**



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**END**