



REPORT OF THE MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2025 FROM 0900HRS EAT AT THE IOM KENYA – LAVINGTON

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Maritime Coordination Group (MCG) was hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Sri Aurobindo Avenue, Off Mzima Spring Road. Lavington in Nairobi on 16 October 2025 from 0930 EAT. It was chaired by **Ms. Anuntawong Siripa**

Attendance

2 The meeting was attended by 15 participants from the following States:

Denmark

Germany

India

USA

And by the following International Organizations and Programmes:

CRIMARIO

IMO

IOM

UNITAR

UNODC

Absent with apologies.

The Secretariat received apologies from participants of the following organizations/countries:

AUSTRALIA

CANADA

NETHERLANDS

The list of participants is shown at **ANNEX A**.

Introduction

3. Ms. Siripa welcomed all participants to the meeting. She rendered apologies over the absence of the IOM Chief of Mission in Kenya, Mr. John McCue, who had another engagement.

4. Members introduced themselves and the Secretariat thanked members for availing themselves.

Summary of matters on Kenya's priorities arising of the previous meeting

5. Members were informed of matters arising from the previous meeting:

- In the previous MCG meeting, EU requested to share an update on infantry support intended for Kenya valued at 4.4 million euros.
- There was need to have incentives to make countries fuse shared information with each other.
- There was a need to meet with the chair of the NMSC to streamline the difficulties partners share when implementing activities.
- The issue of sea blindness and poor MDA due to a lack of proper info-sharing was raised
- There is growing concern over the reemergence of piracy in the region, and this evolving threat underscores the urgent need for collective action from all stakeholders to prevent a resurgence of piracy and maintain maritime security in the region.

Feedback from MCG participating countries/organizations

6. Cdr. Jeff Ryan (USA) provided an update on its ongoing support to Kenya through the Special Boat Unit, noting progress in engine maintenance and strong feedback from the Kenya Navy. The U.S. also highlighted preparations for Exercise CUTLASS EXPRESS, scheduled for 2–13 February 2026 in Seychelles and Mauritius, with Mombasa serving as a communication hub for operations linked to both locations. A follow-up meeting is planned for 9–11 December 2025, with DCoC invited to contribute input to the exercise design.

7 Ms. Patricia Davies (UNITAR) introduced the organization as a UN agency focused on training and research, with a permanent presence in Gigiri and several maritime projects across the DCoC region. The agency aims to complement ongoing initiatives, strengthen coordination, and empower women in maritime security. Current projects are supported by funding from Germany, the European Union and the World Bank.

8. Ms. Pooja Bissoonauthsing (UNODC) acknowledged ongoing interventions with support from the U.S., Canada, the EU, and Denmark. The agency manages a Prosecutors Network Forum funded by the U.S., bringing together regional prosecutors in Seychelles—where two piracy trials are currently ongoing. Additionally, with EU support, a Judicial Forum for Judges will be held in Kenya in November 2025, following previous sessions in Mauritius. UNODC also participated in Working Group 3 (WG3) in Mombasa on legal finish and will contribute to CUTLASS EXPRESS, where it will deliver several trainings in Seychelles.

9. Mr. Henrik Frandsen (UNODC)) provided updates on recent training activities, including Information Management and Sharing (IMS) sessions for Somalia and Kenya in August, designed to improve inter-agency collaboration. Additional Training-of-Trainers (ToT) courses are planned to develop national trainers and strengthen policy-level decision-making capacities.

10. Mr. Abdi Hussein (IOM) reported progress under its three-year border management project in Lake Victoria and Tanzania, which aims to counter transnational crimes such as smuggling, drug trafficking, and environmental offences. In September, IOM conducted maritime security training for border officials and local communities through Beach Management Units (BMUs) to enhance cooperation and reporting of suspicious activities. An upcoming ToT session with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in October will help cascade skills to other officers, supported by the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) based in Nairobi and Mombasa. Following a proposal by UNODC, IOM agreed to co-host a joint training session involving previously trained ToT officers.

11. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) highlighted strong collaboration with UNODC, INTERPOL, Denmark, and other partners, noting progress made through combined workshops and the upcoming enhancements for the Assistance Matrix and DCoC website under the EU-funded Safe Seas for Africa project. The IMO acknowledged Kenya's growing leadership role in maritime security, emphasizing the Kenya Navy's engagement with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and upcoming responsibility for CTF 154 and WG3 Chairmanship. The National Maritime Security Committee (NMSC) continues to play an active role despite leadership transitions, and efforts are underway to convene another session soon.
12. IMO also reported on the ongoing development of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs), a key DCoC/JA requirement. The Safe Seas for Africa (SSA) and Crisis Response Project (CRP–Red WIO), funded by the EU, will support these centres in Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, and other signatory states. Kenya's NMISC will be based at the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) Centre, with equipment expected to be in place before CUTLASS EXPRESS to demonstrate proof of concept. The IMO further noted that a Regional Engagement Strategy has been developed to better coordinate partner interventions, following lessons learned from the Red Sea crisis. The strategy will be presented at the upcoming DCoC High-Level Meeting (HLM) in Mauritius.
13. Cdr. Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen (Denmark) reaffirmed its support to Kenya's regional maritime leadership and announced plans to second a senior Danish professional to Nairobi for two years. Denmark underscored its approach of supporting regionally led solutions rather than introducing external ones. It emphasized the importance of utilizing existing multi-agency centres established under IMO and discouraging duplication. Denmark continues to assist with Kenya Navy training, provision of equipment, and instructor education, with operations also supported from its Manda Bay base.
14. Gladys Kiprono (CRIMARIO III) reported that the upgraded IORIS platform is now more efficient and will support upcoming regional exercises running alongside the HLM in Mauritius. Kenya is also set to host the IORIS Steering Committee.
15. India announced plans to share a presentation focused on its maritime security support to Kenya, particularly in strengthening the NMISC and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). The upcoming visit of the Kenya Navy Chief to India will build on discussions held in Mombasa and reinforce collaboration under the DCoC framework through the IFC–IOR.
16. Ms. Pravina Gurung, Senior Programme Manager (IOM) thanked participants for gracing the meeting at the IOM Kenya office and reiterated that she was looking forward to more collaboration.
17. In conclusion, Denmark offered to support the hosting for the next MCG and align it with the National Maritime Security Committee (NMSC). The second half of January 2026 was proposed as a suitable timeline. Participants expressed appreciation to all implementing partners, with UNODC commending the IMO and IOM for hosting and emphasizing that the MCG remains a vital platform for interdisciplinary collaboration in maritime security.

A.O.B

18. Denmark will host the next MCG meeting, possibly in mid-January 2026 in Mombasa Kenya. Communication will be shared with members beforehand.
19. UNODC proposed organizing an interagency workshop to ensure the participation of all relevant agencies, including the work carried out by IOM Kenya.
20. There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1140hrs EAT.

References

Annex A – List of Participants

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE
CRIMARIO	Gladys Jebiwott
DENMARK	Commander senior grade Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen
	Colonel Lasse Sand
GERMANY	Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Michael Günther Lux
INDIA (hybrid)	Cdr Nikhil Verma, MoD India/ Indian Navy/ DNO
	MoD/ Group Captain VS Srihari
IMO	Kiruja Micheni
	Esther Kung'u (Njonde)
IOM (HOST)	Pravina Gurung
	Anuntawong Siripa
	Abdirahman Abdi Hussein
	Philemon Mayieko
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME	Pooja Bissoonauthsing
	Henrik Winchell Frandsen
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Commander Ryan, Jeffrey

Annex B: Agenda

Item No.	Approx. Timing	Subject	Lead
1	15 min	Networking/Pleasantries	IOM
2	10 min	Welcome Remarks/Opening session - IOM Chief of Mission in Kenya John McCue	IOM
3	15 min	<p>Summary of matters arising from the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU requested to share an update on infantry support intended for Kenya valued at 4.4 million euros. • Need to have incentives to make countries fuse shared information with each other. • Need to meet with the chair of the NMSC to streamline the difficulties partners share when implementing activities. • The issue of sea blindness and poor MDA due to a lack of proper info-sharing was raised • There is growing concern over the reemergence of piracy in the region, and this evolving threat underscores the urgent need for collective action from all stakeholders to prevent a resurgence of piracy and maintain maritime security in the region 	IMO/All
4	55 min	<p>Feedback from the MCG participating Countries/ Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRIMARIO • Denmark • Germany • IMO • India • IOM • UNODC • UNITAR • USA 	All
6	15 min	Way Forward and Action Points (incl. next meeting's host & possible date)	IMO
7	5 min	Vote of thanks & MCG photo	UNODC

Annex C: Presentation on India's Maritime Security Interventions in Support of Kenya
