

## REPORT OF THE MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP MEETING

HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2024, AT THE EU DELEGATION TO KENYA – WESTLANDS

AT 1000HRS

### Introductions

1. The meeting of the Maritime Coordination Group (MCG) was hosted by the European Union Delegation to Kenya in Nairobi on 12<sup>th</sup> January from 10:00 EAT. It was chaired by **Ms. Alina Neacsu**

### Attendance

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

DENMARK

INDIA

JAPAN

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES

And by the following International Organizations and Programmes:

CRIMARIO

EU DELEGATION

IMO

UNODC

### Absent with apologies.

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

CANADA

IOM

NETHERLANDS

The list of participants is shown at **ANNEX 1**.

### Introductions

3. Ms. Alina Neacsu (EU Delegation) welcomed all participants to the meeting. All participants also introduced themselves.

4. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) gave a brief on the current challenges members are facing with the recent change of guard in various maritime docket; from the State department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs to related government agencies such as the KMA and the KCGS. The MCG met the former Principal Secretary Hon. Shadrack Mwadime in July 2023 before his reshuffle to the Ministry of Labor. PS Hon. Geoffrey Kaituko took over from Hon Mwadime.

5. Mr. Micheni added that he met the new PS on the margins of the 2023 IMO Assembly in London and affirmed he had been briefed on Kenya's priorities by his predecessor.

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

6. IMO briefed the meeting on the country's key maritime priorities under the current administration, as pointed out in the last MCG meeting:

a) Kenya needs to establish policies and strategies in the maritime industry that will help exploit resources within the Blue Economy with specific focus on Blue Space

b) Under the State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Kenya is exploring available opportunities in seafaring. The government intends to convert Bandari Maritime Academy to an autonomous regional Centre of excellence in a bid to produce quality workforce and provide the STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) course at basic and advanced levels.

c) Kenya is sourcing for approximately KES15Bn for Bandari Maritime Academy for infrastructural upgrading, software installation, training (through Training of Trainers), hiring quality trainers and course development.

7. In regard to the aforementioned, the European Union Delegation to Kenya team briefed the meeting that through the Go Blue Security project, it was providing Train-the-Trainers courses for the Academy. The EU has scheduled a Joint Scoping mission with the Deputy President's office in February-March 2024 on a bilateral level.

8. The EU has also met with the new Kenya Coast Guard Service Director General and made investments on Search and Rescue to the Joint Operations Centre adding the need for more staff deployment at the centre to ensure sustainable use of these investments.

9. Mr. Herve Delsol (EU), cited that Kenya's lack of a Blue Economy Strategic plan and roadmap was holding back investors from making financial commitments to support its priorities.

10. He added that the private sector has become the key agent driving Blue Economy and the EU had assigned funds to invite African Businesses to a private investors event scheduled for 3-4 July 2024. The event will cover among other things; Innovation, Sustainability, Climate neutral solutions and service delivery. Details of the event are linked as **ANNEX 2**

11. Col. Kjeld Gaard (Denmark) reiterated the vital role of the MCG in promoting interagency cooperation among government agencies by working to support Kenya's maritime agenda as a team. This means that members will work to reduce duplicity when providing support to capacity building programme requests from different state agencies.

12. Mr. Hatimy Abdalla (CRIMARIO) highlighted that Kenya has established the Blue Economy Implementation Standing Committee, through two gazette notices, which is answerable to Kenya's Cabinet and from which the Blue Economy Strategy should stem from. Follow up communication to the Secretariat confirms that the Blue Economy Implementation Standing Committee has now developed into **the Oceans & Blue Economy Office in the Executive Office of the President**. Gazette notices are attached as **ANNEX 3**.

### **Feedback from MCG participating countries/organizations**

#### **CRIMARIO**

13. CRIMARIO reported its continued work with Kenya; that through collaboration with DCoC, was able to build an engagement framework by offering the signatory states the opportunity to participate in first IORIS regional SOP course, held in Nairobi over the period 9th – 11th October 2023.

14. In the week that followed, The SOP training course was succeeded by a CRIMARIO hybrid exercise called Watchful Eye, from 12th to 13th October 2023, testing and evaluating the SOPs, with a scenario based on narcotics trafficking. After the SOP training, CRIMARIO conducted a hybrid assimilation training on legal finish and data protection for members states, Kenya included.

15. Over 90 delegates from 53 countries worldwide attended this important meeting that was officiated by the Head of the Eu Delegation in Kenya, Amb. Henriette Geiger. In addition to this, CRIMARIO has also secured support from the EU Funded Go Blue Project focusing on maritime security. a series of trainings are lined up in the first quarter of 2024 to ensure these capacity building efforts are spread across the maritime enforcement agencies in Kenya. The next IORIS Steering Committee is scheduled to be held in March 2024, in Sri Lanka.

#### **Denmark**

16. Denmark's 4-year programme supporting the Kenya Navy's capacity building activities will end in 2026. It also promotes interagency cooperation between KN and other state agencies.

The meeting was also briefed that Denmark was working to help Kenya attain full membership under the Combined Maritime Forces and contribute actively to fighting maritime crime.

17. Denmark has also setup a firefighting facility at the Mtongwe Naval Base, to be used for training by state agencies; is supporting the Kenya Navy Training College in sailing training; is refurbishing a decompression chamber, in collaboration with the EU and Go Blue Security programme, to be established at the KN. A bridge simulator has also been provided.

18. It has encouraged Kenya to engage cross-financing among ministries and state departments to support existing investments.

## **EU**

19. Through the EU-funded Go Blue project, it was reported that the EU Blue Economy programme, which embeds a maritime security component, will end this year. EU-Kenya agreement to support legal finish on drugs, ammunitions and related crimes is underway. A contribution agreement with Seychelles has been signed and will be replicated for Kenya. The agreement is attached as **ANNEX 4**

Due to the interconnected nature between IUU fishing and internal crime organizations, the EU is providing funding for a fishery monitoring centre for various countries.

## **Japan**

20. Cdr. Kawashima Keiko informed the meeting that Japan continues its work with the KCGS and has donated boats for the fisheries department (KeFS) and training on utilization will be conducted by the EU. Donations have been made to UNODC from the Japan Government.

## **IMO**

21. IMO acknowledged the growing voice of the region in the maritime security dialogue where Kenya has been playing a key role. It also highlighted Kenya's role as a DCoC/JA signatory in calling for action against the attacks against shipping happening at the Red Sea.

22. It was also reported that the Organization is working on plans to support the region in developing a stakeholder engagement strategy, enabling regional states to collaborate more closely with international organizations, and to support the goal to achieve legal finish. This will also include the development of a regional Maritime Security Strategy and

a regional Maritime Security Risk Register, following recommendations from the DCoC/JA High-Level Meeting held in South Africa in October 2023

23. The IMO also notified of Kenya's recent election as the Chair of the DCoC sub-working group on Illegal trade in wildlife and other items in contravention of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which was established as an expanded scope of the Capacity Building Working Group.

24. IMO also reported the ongoing support to Kenya to enhance safety and security of navigation through the EU-funded Port Security project, covering effective implementation of the ISPS code, safety of life at sea (SOLAS XI-2) and marine environmental protection.

## **India**

25. Mr. Rakesh Mohan (India) noted that following Kenya's presidential visit to India in December 2023, the two countries made a joint statement on areas of collaboration and support on maritime issues, among others. The visit of Indian Navy Ship Sumedha to Lamu Port also happened in December 2023 and was the first visit of a war ship to Lamu Port.

26. It also briefed the meeting of its successful intervention and recovery of the hijacked Liberian-flagged MV *Lila Norfolk* vessel by pirates along the coast of Somalia, following opportunistic piracy incidents stemming from the unrest in the Red Sea.

## **United Kingdom**

27. Cdr. Shaun Quinn informed the meeting of the three workshops conducted on Port Facility Security, Crisis Management and Cyber Security with maritime stakeholders and lawyers at the BMA.

28. The UK highlighted King Charles' visit to Kenya in October 2023 and the two countries' focus on close cooperation on economic development, climate change and security issues. It also trained Kenya Navy Marines in May last year and intends to support the KN as its training college lacks a commandant. A course to training regional navies at the BMA is slated for July 2024.

29. Cdr. Shaun acknowledged IMO's support in translating to Swahili, its Insider Toolkit video feature, and its noted plans to support ISPS curriculum implementation at the BMA.

## **UNODC**

30. Ms. Becky Adiele highlighted that UNODC was working on a proposal to establish a JOC in Lamu and Mandera which will be based on the policy document approved by the government. The two centres will replicate the JOC in Mombasa. Discussions over the specific location and structure of the two centres will occur in two weeks.

31. The UNODC in collaboration with the US Coast Guard will deliver training focused on policy development on Human Resources with the KCGS.

32. Approved project key result areas for Kenya's Strategic Plan is also underway.

### **United States of America**

33. The United States reported that containment of attacks against shipping in the Red Sea is its current priority. Kenya's support through information sharing to CMF has been ongoing.

34. Members were informed that the USA had funded training on interdiction to Kenya, but the latter is expected to progress legal finish efforts, which can affect future support, negatively.

### **Way forward & Action Points**

35. Noting the importance of discussions in the meeting, IMO called for redoubled efforts among MCG members to discourage silo mentality.

36. A suggestion to meet the new PS for Maritime and Affairs and Shipping Hon Geoffrey Kaituko by the end of Feb/early March, was made as well as meeting the Chair of the Blue Economy Committee (currently held by Dr. Eric Ligula).

37. The meeting was informed of the need to focus on multi-user programmes that involved all state agencies and the call to support legal finish agreement with Kenya as was the case with Seychelles.

38. Members were requested to share their country/organizational annual workplans with the Secretariat to deconflict capacity building activities.

39. Denmark reiterated the need for a sustainable supply chain structure for funding and/or support to ensure investments made to the country were not wasted or underutilized.

### **AOB**

40. MCG members were requested to reach out to the Secretariat in order to host the next meeting which, based on practice, is expected to occur during the second quarter of the year.

41. There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1300hrs

## References

### Annex 1 – List of Participants

<b>MCG confirmed attendees</b>		
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### Annex 2: African Businesses - Private Investors Event

<https://www.b2match.com/e/blue-invest-africa-2024>

### Annex 3: Gazette notices of Kenya's Blue Economy Implementation Standing Committee (which has now developed into the Oceans & Blue Economy Office in the Executive Office of the President)

2017 Kenya Gazette Notice: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/ke-government-gazette-dated-2017-01-06-no-2.pdf>

2018 Kenya Gazette Notice: <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-Kenya-Gazette.pdf>

### Annex 4: Agreement in the Form of an Exchange of Letters Between The European Union and The Republic Of Seychelles:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8cc7e1cf-364f-11ee-bbbf-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

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