



REPORT OF THE MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT SHAMBA EVENTS, NAIROBI

Introductions

1. The meeting of the Maritime Coordination Group (MCG) was hosted by the Royal Danish Embassy in Nairobi on 13th Sep from 10:00 EAT. It was chaired by **Colonel Jens Lindvig**

Attendance

2 The meeting was attended by 20 participants from the following States:

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| AUSTRALIA | DENMARK | GERMANY | INDIA |
| NETHERLANDS | UNITED KINGDOM | UNITED STATES | |

And by the following International Organizations and Programmes:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|-----|
| CRIMARIO | GO BLUE PROJECT | IMO | IOM |
| UNODC | | | |

Absent with apologies.

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

| | | |
|--------|--------|-------|
| CANADA | FRANCE | JAPAN |
|--------|--------|-------|

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

Introductions

3. Col Jens (Denmark) welcomed all participants to the meeting. All participants also introduced themselves.

4. Col Jens added that areas for collaboration and the enhancement of synergy in investments made for Kenya, are available for members in the meeting and went on to sample some of Denmark's cooperative projects with the Go Blue project and the United Kingdom. The agenda for the meeting is attached at **ANNEX B**.

5. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) urged members to explore avenues for deconflicting efforts and to make use of the MCG forum to identify opportunities for amplifying their bilateral assistance to Kenya, as well as effective strategies for successfully implementing projects

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

6. IMO briefed the meeting on the points raised at the Mombasa [meeting](#) in April which include among other items:

- a) Support to Legal finish. Kenya has expressed interest in facilitating the transfer of suspects apprehended on the high seas by international naval partners, in line with the objectives of the Jeddah Amendment.
- b) Sustainability of existing maritime security investment
- c) Maritime security Governance project on the development of Kenya's National Maritime Security Strategy and the operationalization of its National Maritime Information Sharing Centre
- d) Kenya's proposed plans
- e) Opportunities following the completion of the Go Blue Project.

7. The IMO briefed partners on the progress made so far regarding the establishment of a multi-agency National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC) to be co-located with the Mombasa-based Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (RMRCC). The importance of a whole-of-government approach in setting up and operating the centre was emphasized, as it would eliminate the need for separate centres for each participating agency.

8. In his reference to the 3rd International Conference on Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea and Red Sea, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa (5-6 September 2024), Mr. Micheni highlighted one of the key recommendations: the promotion of better collaboration and cooperation with regional naval forces, including the Kenya Navy, in the implementation of the DCoC/JA. He also emphasized the successful multi-agency collaboration that contributed to the success of the EXERCISE USALAMA BAHARINI, organized by EUNAVFOR in Mombasa under the auspices of the DCoC/JA, with support from the IMO and GoBlue.

Feedback from MCG participating countries/organizations

AUSTRALIA

9. Mr. Stuart Smith reported Australia was keen to support sustainability in the maritime sector in Kenya.

CRIMARIO

10. Ms. Gladys Kiprono, informed the meeting that CRIMARIO has trained over 100 agencies from more than 50 countries on the IORIS platform, with Kenya, receiving training for over 140 officers from various agencies.

11. A refresher course for the Kenya Coast Guard Operational Centre (XOC), was held in August. CRIMARIO II, in partnership with Go-Blue, will offer a "Train the Trainer" course in

October to help Kenyan agencies develop their own trainers for sustainable and ongoing training efforts.

12. With participation from Kenyan agencies led by the State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, CRIMARIO had conducted successful Steering Committee workshops: the first in Bali, the second in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March this year and the third and final workshop will be held in Manila in May 2025.

13. In Nairobi, the project co-hosted the inaugural IORIS Policy Board and Steering Committee meetings with the Kenyan government, where Kenyan agencies actively participated in the Policy Board, Legal Working Group, Operational Working Group, and Technical Working Group. This demonstrates Kenya's commitment to enhancing maritime safety and security. The next Working Group meeting will be held in October in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with Kenyan agencies again playing a key role.

DENMARK

14. The meeting was informed of Denmark's intention to set up a Tri-service fully operational base, with a pier facility at Manda Bay, which will handle ship and air fuel through it. The project will be jointly implemented with the USA besides other partners

15. Cdr. Kjeld urged partners not to catalyze the silo mentality prevalent between some agencies and departments by funding more centres.

16. Denmark has also provided a maritime cooperation advisor at the Royal Danish Embassy in Nairobi, for a 9-year period. It also published Denmark's Strategy for Africa, which explores building strong (Pan-African) partnerships in Africa as attached in this report at **ANNEX C**.

17. While referring to the Stellenbosch conference, Denmark highlighted their projects in the Gulf of Guinea and the need to establish partnerships between foreign support in Africa. Additional talks on having training based in continental countries were made.

18. The meeting was also informed of discussions at the conference, on naval role in contemporary maritime security, rather than war-based roles. There is need for a paradigm shift on the current naval role on territorial protection.

19. Cdr. Kjeld added that Denmark is conducting a survey on the resurgence of piracy in Somalia, highlighting India's key role in counterpiracy efforts. Piracy in Somalia is increasingly linked to terrorism, with pirates operating further from the coast. The Red Sea crisis may fuel more illegal activities along the Somali coast.

20. Additionally, the Chief of the Kenya Navy (KN) will visit Denmark for an industrial visit and meet with industry representatives to explore providing facilities in Kenya. KN will celebrate its 60th anniversary in Mombasa this December, with invitations expected to be shared with embassies and agencies working in Kenya.

21. Members were informed of an MoU that is being established between the Kenya Navy (KN), Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS), and the Bandari Maritime Authority (BMA) for the use of Denmark-invested facilities. KN's decompression chamber, essential for diving operations and tourism, will be fully operational by December. Plans for extending KN's firefighting facility are

underway, with BMA expressing interest in using it. A joint project is also being considered to create a mobile decompression chamber, with calls for partner support.

22. It was reiterated that there is a lot of unused capacity. 25% use by some agencies and 75% spare capacity by other agencies.

Go Blue

23. Mr. Jérôme informed participants that the project, which began in 2021, was set to conclude in November 2024, leaving a gap in capacity building. It collaborated with KCGS, KMA (on Search and Rescue), Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS), and BMA.

24. He added that the XOC was created in February and was now running 24/7. Operational capacity remained weak, requiring coaching, training and equipment. It was reported that the KCGS was legally competent and capable of patrolling up to 24 miles offshore but required further support.

25. Participants were informed of the *Usalama Baharini* App, designed for fishermen and other maritime users along the coast, which allows for reporting SAR incidents, IUU fishing, marine pollution, or illegal sea traffic, with 680 active users so far. The technology works in the lakes, however potential users have not yet been investigated there yet. The app is integrated with IORIS, which provides to that system a perfect coastal complement to satellite systems such as SEAVISION and other systems. The application has been operational since August 29 and is manned 24/7 by Coast Guard personnel. Crimario will assume technical maintenance and managing its license once Go Blue concludes. The *Usalama Baharini* app is not designed to track vessels but is used for reporting small vessels that are not tracked by satellites and are suspected of wrongdoing.

26. Training for fishers on capsizing prevention and emergency response is ongoing, independently handled by the Coast Guard who have been trained as trainers by Go Blue. Requests for diver training were referred to the Navy rather than Go Blue.

27. KMA, through Go Blue, purchased five rescue boats stationed between Lamu, Shimoni, and Kilifi, with crews from KMA, Red Cross, County, and KCGS. KMA will handle maintenance and has requested SAR training support. Although IMO trained the MRCC for deeper-sea SAR, local authorities and KMA need to coordinate SAR efforts along the coast, which has steadily improved with Go Blue help but need finalization.

28. In fisheries, Jérôme highlighted that there was a great need for training to ensure food safety and combat IUU fishing, with opportunities for capacity building and a need for a school offering the 4-month curriculum already developed by Go Blue.

29. BMA, already specialized in training on port operations and seafarer jobs, can now deliver three-day courses targeting law enforcement agencies on Maritime Domain Awareness, IUU fishing, MARPOL, and SAR. Trainers have been trained to deliver them.

30. Jérôme added that the JOC remained underutilized. It is an information hub, not an operation center. Its personnel are assigned 24/7, but remain in their origin agency, they do not stand watch at the JOC.

31. It was reported that the Navy operates a Maritime Operations Center (MOC) for sea command and control. In addition to all the centers dedicated to the internal operations of each agency, a multi-agency center is planned, with focal points from all agencies including KN and KCGS.

Germany

32. Ms. Pohl appreciated the work of the IMO and DCoC secretariat in strengthening maritime security in the region. She affirmed that Germany who is supporting this important process actively through collaboration with UNITAR, especially via financing and supporting relevant conferences and trainings would attend the 7th DCoC/JA High Level Meeting scheduled for November 2024.

IMO

33. Mr. Micheni informed the meeting that the IMO has been supporting the implementation of the IMO model on the Whole of Government (WOG) approach to maritime security. This includes the establishment of the National Maritime Security Committee (NMSC), a National Maritime Security Risk Register (NMSRR), and a National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS) to discourage disjointed efforts. In Kenya, the work on the NMSC and NMSRR has been completed, while progress on the NMSS is ongoing.

34. Kenya's NMSC has various subcommittees, including the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) subcommittee, led by the Navy, which is a key focus area. Although the risk register has been developed, it is not yet public, and the NMSS is expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

35. Work is ongoing with the Port Security project, focusing on port security and the domestication of IMO safety and security instruments. A workshop on port security is scheduled for 23-27 September 2023.

36. He added that the upcoming High-Level Meeting (HLM) (28-30 November 2024) will discuss, among other issues, how the DCoC States can better collaborate with international partners in addressing the Red Sea crisis and the increasing threats against shipping. Given the recent incident with the Tanker Sounion, the need for an oil spill preparedness and response plan in the region is urgent. International partners are encouraged to attend the high-level meeting, which will be attended by key decision-makers. The IMO Secretary-General is expected to attend.

37. Additionally, EUNAVFOR will collaborate with the IMO on the ALDABRA III exercise in Seychelles at the end of the month. The first workshop on the development of the Regional Maritime security strategy (RMSS) will take place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 20-31 October 2024. Follow-up workshops will take place February 2025, with the RMSS expected to be adopted later in 2025.

India

38. Capt. Shirdikant mentioned that India has been actively participating in DCoC activities, including workshops in Jeddah (SOPs), Maritime Information Sharing, and counter-piracy initiatives in the Somali Coast. He noted that a 6-member Indian delegation visited Mombasa in July. India has expressed its support for the establishment of the NMISC, and during a 30 July meeting chaired by the National Maritime Security Committee, some agencies requested cubicles at KMA to improve interagency collaboration, though certain agencies, like wildlife, did not need to be consistently present. Cost estimates for establishing the NMISC including the roadmap are being deliberated upon and the same would be discussed at the HLM, with implementation expected by 2025.

39. He further stated that the Indian delegation would participate in the development of the Regional Maritime Security Strategy (RMSS) in Jeddah.

40. Additionally, India currently has many IN ships deployed in the region, including in the Mozambique Channel, Persian Gulf, and Gulf of Aden, with frequent port calls/ OTRs in Northeast African region. The aim of India is to be the first responder to any maritime incident/ event in IOR and be a Preferred Partner to collaborate in promoting maritime security in the region.

IOM

41. Mr. Shehryar reported that a project on Lake Victoria, supported by the US, is being implemented in Kenya and Uganda. While addressing the lack of coordination between agencies in Kenya. Maritime officials' frequent rotations in Kenya have been noted as disorienting, but a Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted in July with officials from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania to harmonize border management practices.

42. A community policing project, based on a policing survey, is also underway to link the Usalama Baharini app with the community to enable sharing information with the KCGS.

43. He indicated that a regional working group, established in 2022 for Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, meets two to three times a year and will convene again at the end of the year in Mombasa.

44. The Kenyan delegation attending a recent regional meeting expressed interest in establishing regional coordination centers on the lake. An in-country study tour was organized from Lake Victoria to the coast, and a Joint Operations Center (JOC) is being set up at Kisumu port to support border management operations at the lake.

Netherlands

45. Lt. Col Jeroen mentioned the Netherlands Ministry of Defence (MOD) is developing a document on Africa, focusing on two relevant topics: enhanced engagement with countries where Kenya is featured, and maritime security's role in shaping Africa's defense cooperation policy.

46. He added that Kenya has requested maritime security cooperation with the Netherlands, specifically regarding shipbuilding while in Seoul. Policy advisors have expressed interest in this

project, and funding proposals are expected to be agreed upon. A discussion on the matter will be announced at the end of the month.

UK

47. Lt Col Tim Bakewell informed members at the meeting that a trilateral five year project involving the Kenya Navy (KN), the UK, and the US is underway to develop the Kenyan Marine Commando Unit. The UK focuses on delivering training while the US will provide personal equipment and infrastructure. The project includes leadership training for junior and senior non-commissioned officers. With the project approaching the halfway point, Kenyan Instructors are now taking the lead in delivering the Kenyan Marine Basic Course.

48. A coordination meeting with AFRICOM, the Royal Marines and KN is scheduled for October. This meeting will identify future training requirements to build a coherent unit. As the US will provide both the communications and medical equipment, it is anticipated that they will train Kenyan Marine communicators and medics.

49. The KN / Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) requires a Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) capability, to counter the smuggling including narcotics and migrants and for counter piracy operations. The Kenyan Marines could enable the no-compliant boarding element of VBSS, the UK will conduct a Training Needs Analysis in January 2025 to determine the training and equipment required.

50. It is understood that the KCGS aims to develop a VBSS capability, but their operational range is limited to 24 miles from the coast. and they face challenges in retaining personnel, as many are seconded from the KN. A policy document is being prepared to permanently employ those seconded. Kenya is also seeking to integrate into the Combined Maritime Forces. While Kenya has competent lawyers, there is a shortage of those specializing in maritime law, indicating a need for legal support in this area.

UNODC

51. Ms. Adiele (UNODC) informed the meeting of the Foundation Training Programme carried out by UNODC, which is ongoing and currently in cohort 8. This program provides a baseline skillset and aims to train 80-90% of all KCGS workforce with a sustainability component using national instructors.

52. Under the same project, a policy development expert has been embedded into the Kenya Coast Guard Service to support the development of key human resource instruments.

53. She added that as a follow up to the Kenya Roadmap for Inter-Agency Collaboration to Combat Illicit Trade Along Kenya-Somalia Border, supported by Canada, plans were underway to establish a joint operation center in the maritime border of Lamu. UNODC and IOM maintain collaboration on some of these projects to establish synergies.

54. The UNODC will also have some basic instructors and information management and sharing training targeting officers from the Border Management Secretariat (BMS), KCGS and the existing JOCs

USA

55. Lt. Col Adriel indicated that several pieces of equipment to support the Kenyan Marine Commando Unit (KMCU) arrived this week (ending on 13 Sep), Infrastructure builds for the KMCU are currently on hold while the US negotiate a VAT exemption on US donations. An intelligence program, with fuel reimbursement was being worked on.

56. He reported that a ship visit is scheduled from September 25 to October 1. Although CUTLASS Express will not take place in Kenya, the country will still participate, with Tanzania serving as the focal point for the exercise. Ten personnel will be stationed at the Joint Operations Center (JOC) from the Regional Coordination Operations Center (RCOC).

57. Participants were made aware of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on maritime that is under discussion with the Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) in Mombasa. UNODC is implementing a foundation program funded by the US, that will train 80% of KCGS personnel over the next year and a half. Additionally, collaboration with IOM is ongoing for border management at Lake Victoria, with plans for a mini-CUTLASS Express exercise, set likely in March 2025.

58. UNOPS has been supporting KCGS through an embedded project management officer (Mahlet), though her contract will soon end. Last May, \$350,000 USD worth of equipment was procured for KCGS, with two containers arriving in Kilindini, Mombasa, and Lake Victoria on the week between 2-6 Sep 2024.

WAY FORWARD

59. Requests were made for annual workplans and the sharing of an activity matrix with the Secretariat.

60. Additionally, a contact list with emails and phone numbers of MCG members was requested to be circulated.

61. Denmark mentioned financing research through UNODC and indicated they would share what is possible.

62. UNODC highlighted their legal training segment, which could provide maritime law training in collaboration with Kenya's ODPP, as there is a recognized need for such training.

63. IMO emphasized the importance of a whole-of-government approach between agencies and noted that the development of the Maritime Security Strategy (MSS) would address the need for interagency cooperation in facility use.

64. IOM shared that they are conducting an assessment on border security, which will be presented at the next MCG meeting.

65. Members requested the IMO to liaise with Kenya in addressing gaps in interagency cooperation and resource sharing in border management, within the National Maritime Security Strategy

66. Germany raised concerns on the lack of interconnectedness or interoperability in Kenya's info-sharing centres. The use of IORIS, which is shared among KPA, KCGS, KMA, and JOC could

be a probable solution. The need for an integrated system rather than disjointed ones will be captured in the NMSS.

67. IMO announced an upcoming workshop on the completion of the NMSS, emphasizing the importance of fusing all systems and outputs from the centres to create a holistic maritime picture of Kenya's MDA.

68. Demonstrating fused systems within the IORIS system was suggested for the next MCG meeting.

A.O.B

69. IOM will host the next MCG meeting, possibly in January 2025. Communication would be shared with members beforehand.

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

References

Annex A – List of Participants

| ORGANIZATION | PARTICIPANT'S NAME |
|--|------------------------------|
| AUSTRALIA | Mr. Stuart Smith |
| CRIMARIO | Gladys Kiprono |
| DENMARK (HOST) | Jens Lindvig |
| | Kjeld Gaard-Frederiksen |
| EU GO BLUE SECURITY PROJECT | Jérôme Michelet |
| GERMANY | Cdr. Grossmann, Holger |
| | Lt. Arik Bekir |
| | Elke Pohl |
| INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION | Kiruja Micheni |
| | Esther Kung'u |
| INDIA | Capt. (IN) V Shirdikant |
| INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION | Mohammad Shehryar Ghazi |
| NETHERLANDS | Lt. Col Jeroen Nol |
| UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME | Lars Madsen |
| | Becky Adiele |
| UNITED KINGDOM | Lt. Col Tim Bakewell |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | Maureen Mimnaugh |
| | Sankar, Parvathy |
| | Lt. Col Adriel B. Schoenhals |

Annex B: Agenda

| Item No. | Approx. Timing | Subject | Lead |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | 15 min | Networking/Pleasantries | Denmark |
| 2 | 5min | Welcome Remarks | Denmark |
| 3 | 30 min | Summary of matters arising from the previous meeting where Kenya's priorities are: f) Legal finish in Kenya g) Sustainability of existing maritime security investment h) National Maritime Information Sharing Centre operationalization i) Kenya's proposed plans j) Go Blue Security project ends – opportunities | IMO/All |
| 4 | 60 min | Feedback from the MCG participating Countries/Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia • CRIMARIO • Denmark • European Union/ Go Blue Security • Germany • IMO • India • IOM • Netherlands • UK • UNODC • USA | All |
| 6 | 20 min | Way Forward and Action Points (incl. next meeting's host & possible date) | IMO |
| 7 | 5 min | Vote of thanks & MCG photo | Go Blue |
| LUNCH | | | |

Annex C: Equal partnerships for Africa

<https://um.dk/en/foreign-policy/africas-century>
