



## **DCoC/JA NFPs Extraordinary Meeting No 9**

**Virtual via Teams**

**Thursday, 11 December 2025**

### **Record of the Meeting**

1. The Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA), together with States eligible to sign these instruments (hereinafter collectively referred to as the Participants), met through their National Focal Points (NFPs) to discuss and plan upcoming activities for the implementation of the DCoC/JA in 2026 and beyond. The meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 11 December 2025.

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

<b>BAHRAIN</b>	<b>COMOROS</b>	<b>EGYPT</b>	<b>FRANCE REUNION</b>
<b>KENYA</b>	<b>MALDIVES</b>	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	<b>SOMALIA</b>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<b>KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA</b>	<b>TANZANIA</b>	
<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	<b>YEMEN</b>		

and the Secretariat.

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

### **Aim**

3. The aim of the meeting was to advance planning for the implementation of the DCoC/JA in 2026 and beyond, building on the outcomes of the 8th High-Level Meeting (HLM), including consideration of the DCoC Engagement Strategy and discussion of matters related to the mandate of Working Group 3 (WG3).

### **Opening Remarks and HLM Format**

4. The Chair, Mr. Metse Ralephenya (South Africa), welcomed the Participants and thanked them for their contributions following the successful High-Level Meeting held in Mauritius. Egypt was commended for its renewed engagement in the NFPs meeting, while France was welcomed for participating for the first time.

5. The Chair recalled that a key issue raised at the HLM concerned the format of DCoC meetings, with advice from the Director TCID to consider adopting the style of IMO Committee meetings to ensure greater Member State involvement.



6. To support the adoption of an IMO-style format, it was recommended that all stakeholders submit papers in advance outlining their interventions and recommendations, rather than conference style meetings, as has been in the past. This format will be piloted at the next HLM in October 2026.

7. The meeting received clarity that the IMO style applied to only the HLM leaving flexibility for other Working Group meetings scheduled throughout the year. The next HLM is tentatively planned for October 2026.

8. Following the adoption revised agenda, Ms. Mashudu Nepfumbada (South Africa) presented the DCoC Value Proposition, recommending measures to strengthen the effectiveness and inclusivity of DCoC High-Level Meetings. These included adopting IMO-style meeting standards, processes, and procedures; enhancing Member State ownership and participation; promoting multilingualism to better accommodate non-English-speaking States; ensuring timely agenda setting supported by advance submission of papers; and encouraging structured engagement with industry stakeholders.

The revised agenda is provided at **Annex B**, and the presentation is set as **Annex C**.

### **Engagement Strategy**

9. The Engagement Strategy was presented to the meeting. France expressed agreement with its overall direction and objectives, while requesting clarification and the inclusion of additional elements.

10. Captain Aizier Gonzague (France) emphasized the need for clarification on national ownership and the establishment of NMISCs (National Maritime Information Sharing Centres). He proposed adding references to national, regional, and international involvement, the Mozambican Channel and Horn of Africa, and the link with regional centres. They also re-emphasized the need for neutrality regarding information-sharing tools like IORIS involvement.

11. As the proposed changes were not considered substantial, the Chair invited NFPs to formally move for the adoption of the Engagement Strategy. The proposal was made by Tanzania and seconded by South Africa and Somalia. The Chair further noted that any serious concern raised by a Member State following adoption would be duly recorded, discussed, and, where necessary, addressed through a dedicated meeting for clarification and review. The latest copy of the Engagement Strategy, with France's track changes is set as **Annex D**.

### **Plenary: India's Inclusion in the DCoC and Working Group Three**

12. The meeting considered a request from Mauritius for India to join the DCoC/JA. Member States recalled that the DCoC is a regional framework, allowing for the participation of States within the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden region. It was noted that admitting India could set a precedent for other non-regional States and fundamentally alter the DCoC from a regional mechanism to an international framework.



13. The meeting agreed that India continue its engagement as a Friend of the DCoC, providing tangible support to the region under that status.

14. Captain Asiva Coopen (Mauritius) expressed appreciation for the active participation and constructive engagement of Members during the recent DCoC meeting held in Mauritius. He noted that Mauritius had taken full account of the collective decision regarding its request. However, he requested that the Chair issue a formal letter explaining the reasons for the decision and clarifying how cooperation with India would continue under its status as a Friend of the DCoC.

15. Concerns raised by the Director of IMO's Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID) during the Mauritius Meeting regarding the scope of WG3 were recalled, particularly that its work does not directly intersect with IMO's mandate on policy and regulation.

16. It was noted that WG3 was established by Member States in response to the 7th HLM's call for tangible outcomes, recognizing that discussions under the DCoC had not always translated into practical action. WG3 was described as a mechanism to support the implementation of HLM resolutions and to provide a platform for navies, coast guards, and maritime law enforcement agencies to enhance practical cooperation.

17. South Africa advised caution on the WG3's establishment, noting that the common denominators at the Inauguration of the Working Group were coordination challenges and legal inconsistencies in cross-border operations, using the RSA and SADC framework as a case scenario. RSA recommended reviewing WG3's Concept of Operations (CONOPs) and ToRs.

18. The Chair clarified that the DCoC is a non-binding agreement and that, while IMO does not have a mandate to coordinate operations at sea, Member States retain their sovereignty and may create the necessary space for operational cooperation, including through bilateral arrangements under WG3.

19. Participants agreed on the need to engage IMO leadership to discuss the work and outputs of WG3, with a view to clarifying guidance and identifying an appropriate way forward to support practical cooperation at sea.

20. It was agreed that the Steering Committee, or the Chair, would engage with IMO leadership to seek guidance and subsequently review the WG3 Terms of Reference. It was further noted that regional States, as provided for in the Code, should lead the work of WG3, with support from external partners.

### **Summary of Discussion and Next Steps**

21. The DCoC Value Proposition will be circulated to familiarise Members with proposed procedures for future High-Level Meetings. The Chair noted that it would form the basis for future regional meetings, with a revised draft incorporating Member inputs to be circulated ahead of the 2026 HLM.



22. The Chair further highlighted that the Steering Committee would reconvene before the end of February to provide feedback following the planned engagement with the IMO Director. The meeting concluded with expressions of goodwill for the holiday season and the New Year.
23. Member States agreed to defer the request for India's inclusion in the DCoC/JA.
24. The Chair undertook to issue a formal letter to Mauritius explaining the decision and outlining modalities for continued collaboration with India.
25. It was agreed that priority would be given to engaging in dialogue with IMO to clarify guidance on WG3.
26. The meeting noted the need to develop a roadmap for NMISCs across all DCoC States and to ensure their cooperation under the Crisis Response Project.
27. Mr. Metse Ralephenya thanked Members for their contributions and underscored the importance of early engagements in 2026, including a review of the annual DCoC workplan.

## AOB

28. There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 1516 hrs (EAT).

## Annexes:

- Annex A - List of Participants
- Annex B - Agenda
- Annex C – The DCoC Value Proposition document
- Annex D – Engagement Strategy (with track changes)

## Annex A- List of Participants

No	Name	Country
1.	Major Nayef AL Shaikh	Bahrain
2.	Major Abdulla Alhasan	Bahrain
3.	Anfifdine Ali Tohir	Comoros
4.	Mrs. Enas Soliman	Egypt
5.	Capt. Gonzague Aizier, DGRIS	France
6.	Oliver Maina	Kenya



7.	Ian Kanyi	Kenya
8.	Ali Ibrahim	Maldives
9.	Capt. Asiva Coopen	Mauritius
10.	Capt. Ibrahim Althomali	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
11.	Yonis Adan	Somalia
12.	Metse Ralephenya	Republic of South Africa
13.	Mashudu Nepfumbada	Republic of South Africa
14.	Stella Katondo	Tanzania
15.	Capt. Jaber Saif AL Shehhi	United Arab Emirates
16.	Capt Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
17.	Kiruja Micheni	IMO
18.	Winnie Maina	IMO
19.	Esther K (Njonde)	IMO

- **Annex B- Agenda**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-NFPs-Meeting-11-December-2025.pdf>

- **Annex C – The DCoC Value Proposition document** <https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Annex-C-%E2%80%93-The-DCoC-Value-Proposition-document.pdf>

- **Annex D – Engagement Strategy (with track changes)**

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Annex-D-%E2%80%93-Engagement-Strategy-with-track-changes.pdf>

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