



DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT/JEDDAH AMENDMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 12

Virtual via Teams

Monday, 7 April 2025

Record of the Meeting

1. A meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017 (DCoC/JA), was held virtually, via TEAMS on Monday, 7 April 2025

2. It was chaired by Mr. Metse Ralephenya Director at Department of Transport-Republic of South Africa, and current Chairperson of the DCoC. The following attended the meeting:

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA- Chair of the DCoC

YEMEN- Chair of Working Group 1 (WG1) and SC Member

COMOROS – Vice Chair of Working Group 1 (WG1) and SC Member

SOMALIA – Vice Chair of WG2 and SC Member

KENYA – Chair, Working Group 3 on Operational Coordination and Cooperation at Sea

DJIBOUTI – D/Chair, Working Group 3 on Operational Coordination and Cooperation at Sea

and by representatives of IMO as the Secretariat.

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

Aim

3. To deliberate on the draft agenda for the upcoming 8th DCoC High-Level Meeting, update Steering Committee members on the outcomes of the inaugural Workshop of Working Group 3 and address other pending issues concerning the implementation of the DCoC/JA.

Opening Remarks, Updates on WG3 workshop and the FDCoC meeting

4. Mr. Metse Ralephenya opened the meeting by welcoming participants, including the newly joined representatives from Kenya and Djibouti, who now serve as Chair and Deputy Chair of Working Group 3, respectively. He commended the successful WG3 workshop held in Mombasa and highlighted the ongoing engagements with the South African Navy in preparation for further discussions in Cape Town. He also reviewed the preparations for the upcoming High-Level Meeting in Mauritius (12–14 November 2025), noting that invitations had already been issued and that the Secretariat remained ready to support members with visa and travel arrangements.

5. Mr. Ralephenya emphasized the need for the DCoC to remain resolute and to assert its role as the regional maritime security coordination mechanism. He underlined that, with 21 Member States, the DCoC must be at the centre of all maritime security discussions, while continuing to foster open collaboration and information sharing with partners. He urged members to align their priorities so that the Mauritius meeting would demonstrate clear regional leadership and translate the day's discussions into concrete action.

6. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) agreed with the Chair's comments on the importance of the DCoC/JA, noting the theme of the upcoming DCoC High-Level Meeting (HLM), "From Policy to Practice." Mr. Micheni emphasized the need to deliver clear, measurable outcomes, echoing the IMO Secretary-General's call at the 7th HLM in Tanzania to "move from policy to practice and to demonstrate measurable progress and tangible results."

Agenda

7. The meeting adopted the agenda that had been circulated in advance. The agenda is attached as **Annex B**

IMO Updates - Secretariat

8. Ms. Winnie Maina (IMO) highlighted that the establishment of Working Group 3 (WG3) was a significant achievement and noted that this year's High-Level Meeting would focus on translating policy into practical action. She added that the Working Group would be responsible for enhancing operational coordination and cooperation at sea. Her speaking notes are attached as at **Annex C**.

9. Mr. Kiruja Micheni highlighted that the establishment of WG3 has created significant opportunities. Both EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) have already shown great interest. The Commander of EUNAVFOR has confirmed his attendance at the upcoming High-Level Meeting (HLM) for further discussions, while the Secretariat has held follow-up meetings with the Commander of CMF Task Force 154, followed by a joint meeting with other CMF Task Forces (CTF 150, 151, 152, 153, and 154) to explore ways of advancing collaboration. A parallel WG3 meeting has been scheduled during the HLM, and Member States were encouraged to ensure the participation of senior-level navy and coast guard representatives.

10. Mr. Micheni requested the meeting to consider and endorse the outcome documents of WG3. The WG3 Concept of Operations, Terms of Reference (TORs), and Roadmap were endorsed following a proposal from the Republic of South Africa, seconded by the Republic of Kenya. The Secretariat was tasked with engaging partners such as the EU and UNODC to support the participation of WG3 representatives at the 8th HLM, while also encouraging countries to sponsor their own delegations.

11. Mr. Metse Ralephenya welcomed these developments, noting the positive momentum and stressing that unity among member states is key to consolidating regional progress. He encouraged members to remain committed to advancing the work of WG3.

12. Esther Njonde (IMO) briefed the meeting on the Friends of the DCoC session held on 17 September 2025, referring to Annex C. Mr. Micheni further shared outcomes from his meeting with Egypt's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his team, noting that Egypt has

since nominated a National Focal Point (NFP) and signalled intent to start actively engaging with the DCoC. He also updated members on progress in the regional engagement strategy, with the first draft expected to be presented at the HLM.

13. The Steering Committee then reviewed the draft HLM programme. Mr. Ralephenya thanked the Secretariat for its work, stressing that adjustments would be required to accommodate senior participants as the meeting approaches. Mr. Micheni requested additional regional volunteers to serve as speakers or moderators. The draft programme will be circulated to Steering Committee members for input.

Plenary

14. The meeting agreed to proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for WG1 and WG3, reflecting that decisions should be made by consensus. Where consensus is not possible within WG3, a two-thirds majority will be adopted, with dissenting views formally recorded. This measure is intended to avoid stalemates that could hinder regional decision-making.

15. The meeting discussed India's strong contribution to regional maritime security efforts and to the work of the DCoC, as well as the merits of inviting India to become a party to the Jeddah Amendment. However, it was noted that membership is restricted to States in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden area. While India's contributions were acknowledged, members agreed that collaboration with DCoC States can continue under India's current status as a "DCoC Observer" and through the Friends of the DCoC forum.

16. On Ambrey's inclusion as a Friend of the DCoC, Mr. Ralephenya noted that he had the opportunity to visit their operations centre in the United Kingdom, which he found to be very impressive. He expressed his belief that the region could benefit from Ambrey's expertise and response capabilities. The meeting agreed that Ambrey should be recognized as a Friend of the DCoC and invited to the forthcoming HLM, to provide an opportunity to discuss potential areas of collaboration with DCoC Member States.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

18. Member states were encouraged to ensure Senior Navy/Coast Guard participation at the 8th HLM.

19. More regional volunteers were requested for speaking/moderation roles at the HLM and the Programme would be circulated to Steering Committee members.

20. Following the WG3 workshop in September 2025, WG1, WG2 and WG3 decisions will be made by consensus and where consensus is not possible, a two-thirds majority will apply, with dissenting views recorded.

21. The meeting agreed to recognize Ambrey International as a Friend of the DCoC and to explore avenues for strengthening collaboration with India in its current status as a DCoC Observer and through the Friends of the DCoC Forum.

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1612 hours EAT with a word of appreciation from the Chair of the DCoC, who noted that work was still in progress and that more changes would be expected to the DCoC HLM preparations as the days drew near.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Agenda
- Annex C – Secretariat Meeting notes
- Annex D - Col. Wais O. Bogoreh meeting notes

- **Annex A- List of Participants**

Name	Country
Metse Ralephenya	Republic of South Africa
Mashudu Nepfumbada	Republic of South Africa
Capt. Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
Anfifdine Ali	Comoros
Yonis Adan Adan	Somalia
Brigadier Mohamed S. Shemote	Kenya
Major (Rtd) George N. Okong'o	Kenya
Colonel Wais O. Bogoreh	Djibouti
Lieutenant Saad Ibrahim Ali	Djibouti
Kiruja Micheni	IMO
Winnie Maina	IMO
Esther Kung'u (Njonde)	IMO
Capt Daniel Adam	Seychelles (absent with apologies)

Annex B- Agenda

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-for-the-SC-Meeting-held-on-23-Sep-2025-on-Teams.pdf>

Annex C – Secretariat Meeting Notes

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Secretariat-Meeting-notes-for-the-SC-Meeting-held-on-23-Sep-2025-on-Teams.pdf>

Annex D - Col. Wais O. Bogoreh Meeting Notes

<https://dcoc.org/wp-content/uploads/Col.-Wais-O.-Bogoreh-notes-for-the-SC-Meeting-held-on-23-Sep-2025-on-Teams.pdf>
