



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

TANZANIA – Chair, IUU fishing thematic sub-working group

and by representatives of IMO as the Secretariat.

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

Aim

3. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming Inaugural Workshop of DCoC's Working Group 3 on operational cooperation and coordination at sea, including a review of the draft programme before it is circulated to the partners.

Opening Remarks, Updates, and follow up on pending tasks.

Metse Ralephenya

4. Mr. Metse Ralephenya (South Africa), Chair, welcomed the participants and noted the significance of the upcoming meeting to establish Working Group 3 (WG3) on operational cooperation and coordination at sea. He emphasized that this would be a major step forward for the DCoC, enabling the practical implementation of previous discussions. He encouraged Member States to nominate participants who can contribute meaningfully to ensure a strong foundation for the group's work. He informed the meeting that South Africa has nominated Navy officials who are familiar with the DCoC and participated in the Africa Naval Symposium, where the DCoC was recognized as a viable regional architecture. He highlighted that this alignment with naval initiatives demonstrates progress in closing operational gaps and enhancing timely responses to maritime threats in the region.

5. He noted that the meeting would help establish common ground within the Steering Committee and ensure that discussions are guided by input from Coast Guards and Navies, reflecting the organizational structures of Member States. He encouraged participants to share their ideas and recommendations, including proposed deliverables, and to actively advocate for their implementation.

Agenda

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

IMO-Updates from Secretariat Kiruja Micheni

7. Mr. Kiruja Micheni (IMO) echoed the Chair's remarks on the significance of this milestone for the DCoC, noting that it elevates the initiative to a higher level. He observed that while previous efforts had primarily focused on maritime administrations as regulators, the DCoC is now transitioning toward operational engagement at the front line. He further noted that considerable coordination of operations at sea is already underway in the region, including through existing mechanisms such as MASE, and that this development will support further progress.

8. He introduced Brigadier (Rtd) John Waweru as the designated Lead Facilitator for the workshop and invited him to present the read-ahead paper and the draft programme.

Read Ahead Paper and Agenda/Program of the WG3 Workshop Brig (Rtd)John Waweru.

9. Brigadier (Rtd) John Waweru (IMO Consultant) provided an overview of the Read-Ahead paper and guided participants through the workshop programme.

Plenary

10. It was noted that the Read-Ahead paper effectively captures the spirit of the DCoC and demonstrates the progression of ongoing discussions. The paper will receive further input as the Navies and Coast Guards contribute their perspectives, based on their operational experience.

11. It was noted that the Read-Ahead paper should emphasize the necessity of Working Group 3 (WG3). It was highlighted that most joint operations in the region have been conducted by international partners with minimal participation from regional states. WG3 will ensure that regional states take an active role in these operations. It was also suggested that the paper should showcase successes in operational coordination at sea, mentioning the Tripartite Agreement between Mozambique, Tanzania, and South Africa, and the MASE architecture, which has been successful but geographically limited. This would confirm the feasibility of the proposed actions. Additionally, it was recommended to amend the section referring to "International Navies" to "Participating Navies" to better reflect the inclusive nature of the collaboration.

12. It was noted that in the Read-Ahead paper, wherever the term "Navy" is used, "Coast Guard" should also be added to account for states with Coast Guards instead of Navies, ensuring inclusivity.

13. It was noted that to secure early buy-in from states, provision should be made for states to make statements in support of the workshop and its objectives. The Secretariat will support the process of obtaining these statements well in advance.

14. It was agreed that the opening session should include the IOC, and that the section on Information Sharing should include RMIFC alongside INTERPOL on the panel.

15. It was noted that efforts must be made to ensure a strong regional voice in the agenda, and that the regional voice is heard throughout the workshop. It was recommended that countries in the Gulf region also be involved in various areas, including panel sessions and presentations.

16. Under the Concept of Operations session, it was agreed that one Navy official should be identified to present on concepts of operations and their implications. During the group work, the Consultant will need to organize the participants equitably, ensuring expertise and skills are balanced. A moderator should also be identified for each group session.

17. It was noted that for the Terms of Reference (TORs), working groups may not be necessary. Instead, a zero draft should be prepared in advance and projected during the workshop for consideration. The idea of zoning the region into North, South, and Central, as was originally proposed in the DCoC, was discussed. This zoning could be reflected in the agenda, with a session dedicated to deliberating the best DCoC modality and considering zoning for better management and implementation.

18. It was noted that preparatory plans for the elections should be in place to ensure states attend the workshop with mandates from their principals. It was agreed that the Read-Ahead paper should include a concluding section to prepare attendees for the possibility of being elected as Chair or Co-Chair of the Working Group.

19. Feedback was provided on the Mauritius meeting regarding the coordination of operations at sea. It was noted that participants emphasized the importance of working in complementarity and avoiding duplication, in order to strengthen partnerships and add mutual value to the work of all parties for the benefit of the region.

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

20. Following the meeting, the SC agreed on the following as summary of discussion and way forward;

.1 The Agenda of the meeting will be shared with the South African Navy team attending the meeting for their input and suggestions before it is circulated to the larger team.

.2 The Agenda of the meeting will be shared with the relevant partners for their input and consideration.

.3 The Secretariat will support the process of obtaining statements from States in advance, as outlined in the programme.

.4 Participants were encouraged to ensure their commitment to this Working Group, which will significantly advance the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment and make practical the progress made under the DCoC.

21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1620 hours EAT with a word of appreciation from the Chair of the DCoC, who noted that this is still a work in progress and that additional input will be circulated in the documents as we finalize and approach the workshop dates.

Annexes:

- Annex A- List of Participants
- Annex B- Agenda

Annex A- List of Participants

Name	Country
Metse Ralephenya	Republic of South Africa
Mashudu Nepfumbada	Republic of South Africa
Yeslem Mubark	Yemen
Anfifdine Ali	Comoros
Said Lavani	Comoros
Yonis Adan Adan	Somalia
Kiruja Micheni	IMO
Winnie Maina	IMO
Esther Kung'u (Njonde)	IMO
Capt Ibrahim Althomali	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (apologies)
Capt Daniel Adam	Seychelles (apologies)

Annex B- Agenda
