



DCoC (JA) Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual via Teams

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

Meeting Notes by the Secretariat

On WG3 Workshop:

The formal establishment of WG3 in Mombasa was a key achievement. This working group will focus on operational coordination and cooperation at sea, with a goal to improve information sharing and capacity building against threats like piracy and maritime terrorism. Kenya was elected as the inaugural chair, with Djibouti as deputy chair.

Participants highlighted that the workshop addressed a wide range of relevant and engaging topics, with particular emphasis on the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), the Terms of Reference (TORs), and the Roadmap for WG3. Many also valued discussions on opportunities and challenges in operational cooperation at sea, the WG3 elections, and presentations on broader maritime security strategies, including input from Denmark. Issues such as command and control, legal frameworks, and joint operations were also noted as highly relevant.

Feedback further underscored the importance of strengthening legal frameworks, integrating search and rescue activities, and exploring synergies with regional security mechanisms such as the SADC Standby Force and the East Africa Standby Force. A few participants suggested practical improvements, such as translation support for non-native English speakers, while others called for more interactive approaches to ensure effective participation.

Overall, the workshop was described as well-organized, fruitful, and a milestone for operational planning in the Western Indian Ocean. Participants praised the clear roadmap adopted during the session and expressed appreciation for Kenya's hosting and IMO's facilitation. Several constructive suggestions were offered for future workshops, including reducing text-heavy presentations, introducing a social or cultural component for participants, improving venue conditions (e.g., air conditioning), and establishing a virtual communication group for continued engagement among WG3 members.

Participants concluded that the workshop provided a solid foundation for operational cooperation under WG3, while also stressing the need for interim measures to avoid gaps in maritime interdiction efforts until the roadmap is fully implemented.

On the Friends of the DCoC Meeting highlights:

Last week, on September 17, 2025, a virtual meeting of the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) took place to discuss maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Attendees included DCoC Steering Committee members, implementing partners, and international organizations.



An IMO consultant conducted consultations in Bahrain and Egypt, as well as virtual meetings with various organizations, to inform the development of a stronger Engagement Strategy. The strategy aims to enhance cooperation between regional and international actors.

Progress was noted in establishing NMISCs in Mauritius, Comoros, and Kenya, with India providing targeted support. The EU's Crisis Response Project is also expected to help standardize these centers.

The IMO showcased planned enhancements to the DCoC website and a Members-Only portal, funded by the Safe Seas Africa program. These upgrades will include a site redesign, a request management board, events registration features and progress tracking for the Website and the microsite.

India recommended consistently calling it the "Assistance Matrix" instead of the "Capacity Building Matrix". It was proposed that the automated system used in the request management board, be used to remove completed requests from the grid to improve transparency.
