



6th HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JEDDAH AMENDMENT TO THE DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT

CAPE TOWN – REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

24- 26 October 2023

Statement on supporting key themes of the DCoC HLM agenda - Seychelles.

I am deeply honored to address this esteemed gathering at the Djibouti Code of Conduct High-Level Meeting. I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Republic of South Africa for their gracious hosting of this meeting in the beautiful city of Cape Town.

The passion and commitment demonstrated by our host minister, my colleague Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga, in her opening remarks exemplified the spirit of the DCoC/JA and set the stage for productive discussions and collaboration during this event. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to convene in this wonderful nation and build on the important work we do under the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

Allow me to thank those partners that have continued to support the work we value so much, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UK, and the EU.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to congratulate the Republic of South Africa on being elected as the new Chair of the DCoC Steering Committee. I would also like to congratulate Yemen and the Republic of Seychelles on being elected Chairs of Working Group 1 and 2, respectively.

The Seychelles is most encouraged by the commitment of everyone in this meeting to continue to work together with determination and unity. We are very pleased that the meeting has been a great success, which is a testament to our collective commitment to a safer and more secure maritime environment in the region. We believe that the agreement to develop the DCoC regional maritime Security Strategy and the expansion of the structure of Working Group two to allow for better coordination of all thematic areas covered under the Jeddah Amendment will be a game changer.

We extend our gratitude to the Friends of DCoC present here today and commend your collective efforts and determination to collaborate as a cohesive team through the forums created for that purpose by the DCoC. This collaborative approach not only prevents redundancy but, more importantly, ensures that technical assistance is tailored to the specific needs, priorities, and gaps identified by the participating states.

At this juncture, recognizing the multifaceted nature of maritime threats, the imperative for economic growth through sustainable exploitation of our blue economy, and the progress achieved in the DCOC-JA thus far, I wish to reiterate the importance of regional cooperation.



It is evident that no single state can effectively address maritime threats single-handedly. The DCOC-JA has proven to be a valuable mechanism, and it will continue to serve us well.

As I conclude, it is my earnest desire that under the framework of the DCoC, Signatory States embrace the IMO's whole-of-Government approach to maritime security. This approach will establish the legal foundation and provide a mandate for multi-agency National Maritime Security Committees, National Maritime Security Risk Registers, and National Maritime Security Strategies. These initiatives will address maritime threats comprehensively and provide overarching leadership for the maritime security agenda from the highest levels of the state's leadership.

Furthermore, dedicating a specific office within each state to oversee the implementation of the National Maritime Committee's work will ensure sustainability, continuity, and more efficient progress monitoring. This, in turn, will guarantee accountability and follow-up on key decisions at the national level.

I sincerely hope that these recommendations, as well as any others agreed upon in this meeting, will be acted upon by the Signatory States in a timely manner. This commitment will ensure that every milestone is reached and progressed, solidifying the DCoC and its signatory states as a framework for other regions to benchmark best practices and success stories. This will demonstrate that regional coordination is not only a possibility but can be a resounding success.

Before I conclude, I would like to appeal to our donor partners to consider contributing to the DCoC Trust Fund to keep the work going. The Secretariat has been doing a fantastic job in coordinating the implementation of a most successful project, but I must remind all that the ambitious goals we have set will require funding. We count on your support.
