



DCOC HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JEDDAH AMENDMENT TO DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY

28 – 30 JUNE 2022

OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. MRS. MARIAM AWEIS JAMA, MINISTER OF PORTS AND MARINE TRANSPORT, SOMALIA

Your excellences, the UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, H.E. Mr. Suhail Mohammed Faraj Al Mazroui, EU Ambassador to the UAE, H.E. Andrea Matteo FONTANA, Heads of delegations, distinguished participants, ladies, and gentlemen

I am very pleased and honoured to be here at the opening ceremony of this high-level meeting to discuss how to effectively streamline capacity building coordination to enhance safety and security of navigation in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden Area in order to fulfil the requirements of Art 17 of the Jeddah Amendment.

Let me start by thanking the government of the UAE and the EU CRIMARIO programme for sponsoring the meeting. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the IMO and DCOC signatory states for selecting Dubai as the venue for this meeting, having taken into consideration its strategic location and the leading role of the UAE in championing regional initiatives to ensure that our waters are safe and secure.

On behalf of Federal Government of Somalia, I would also like to convey my sincere condolences to the Government and people of UAE following the untimely demise of President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Insecurity at sea is among the modern challenges affecting the maritime industry as characterized by piracy, armed robbery, illicit fishing, drugs and human trafficking, and pollution of the marine

environment, among others. Terrorism, piracy, armed robbery has particularly had adverse impact in international trade and global security. In the past, the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden remain hot spots for armed robbery and piracy against commercial ships. Furthermore. Security and political crises witnessed by some regional countries cause increased tensions and create an environment that can be exploited by terrorist organizations to target ships and coastal installations.

More recently, we have witnessed illegal acts in the region such as direct attack on oil tankers using limpet mines, drones, and cyber-attacks, which is a major cause of concern for the region. It is therefore imperative that regional countries find ways to protect their economic interests, including oil producing areas, shipping lanes, and the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

In 2012 Somalia ended a transitional period, approved a provisional federal constitution, and elected a president, marking a significant milestone and progress towards the process of restoration of a viable governance system. Concurrently, and with the substantial efforts of the international community in countering acts of piracy, criminal incidents off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden have sharply declined.

The sustainability of the maritime security gains, however, necessitated the presence of a numerous international naval forces at least until Somalia resumes its full responsibilities in this regard. It has also received substantial support from the international partners IMO; UNSOM EUCAP ,WFP to set up competent Somali maritime administration (SMA) after long-term absence of an effective maritime administration system in Somalia and hosts important national initiatives/events such as the consultative conference of women empowering in maritime industry and world maritime day. I hope almost all Members of DCOC are well-capable and equipped of promoting gender Equality in this sector. Governments needs to encourage women to opt for ocean and maritime Careers – whether it is on board ship or ashore.

Somalia as well as its international partners were always convinced that the long-term solution to maritime insecurity emanating from the country is to develop its own capacity, as a sovereign state, to underwrite its own national maritime security governance systems and meet global responsibilities while reclaiming its rights.

As you all know, the end of UNSCR 2608 that mandated International naval Forces to patrol regional waters will have now places greater responsibility on coastal states in the region to implement effective measures to address all maritime security threats.

We hope that we have all learnt valuable lessons that can be effectively applied while making considerations for other forms of international interventions post UNSCR 2608. Most important is to remember that you cannot purport to be supporting the region without the full and active participation of regional countries. Under the Jeddah Amendment, the region has now come up with very good initiatives for what we can consider as regional solutions for regional problems. The Jeddah Amendment also offers very good framework for such cooperation. In this regard, we call on the EU, CMF, and other players genuinely interested in supporting the region to discuss with the IMO secretariat and through them the DCoC Steering committee to come up with initiatives that will bring meaningful positive change to the region.

The DCoC and more particularly the Jeddah amendment were beneficial to us insofar as it allowed the Somali Coast Guard to benefit from a lot of training and equipment in maritime security. It also will enable us to revise the Somali Penal Code and criminal procedure in order to take into account the new provisions of the Jeddah Amendment, In particular, Somalia to employ various policies used by DCoC to enhance its existing maritime laws to reflect the current challenges in the maritime industry.

Increased cooperation among the countries in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden will help minimize CMF and DCoC's over reliant on donor funding and political goodwill. Establishing a stronger and more local security framework will help not only reduce insecurity but also cater for the interests of the signatory states

DCoC should build more Information Centers in the region and integrate them with the international centers. This will make the response to insecurity more effective and contribute immensely towards attaining Security and Growth in the region. For a change, the DCoC should include maritime research, industrial development, promoting education and cultural activities, establish best policies for growth of the blue economy, and weather and climate change monitoring, and green energy issues.

I would like to conclude by highlighting the following:

- Peace and development in Somalia is ultimately the long term solution to ending of piracy, illegal fishing and dumping toxic waste in Somali Territorial waters

- While piracy is most visible to international partners, the region sees a need to also address other threats that are more harmful to our people and our economies; that is why the Jeddah Amendment is so dear to us.
- Somalia agrees with the need to transition away from a piracy-only organization to one that now helps the region in our next steps towards building on the potential of the blue economy.
- We are working on a transition away from seeing the sea as a threat - and towards viewing the sea's potential to help improve our economies and standard of living.
- The resolutions that will be discussed here over the next 3 days lay a roadmap for regional leadership - both in information sharing to support law at sea and by developing a capacity building plan based on regional priorities.
- We are at a critical time where international partners are shifting focus to address other threats - so the region must begin to assume leadership and responsibility for our own maritime security, and we are starting that with some important decisions that will be taken at this meeting.
- Somalia urges the international partners to seriously consider developing regional capacity building initiatives in coordination with the Jeddah Amendment, so as to build trust and confidence.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Mariam Aweis Jama

Minister of Marine Transport & Ports

Federal Republic of Somalia