

Summary of Discussion and Way Forward

26. Having heard from the National Focal Points on the various items on the Agenda being Progressing WG1 on ISN and enhancement of the DCoC ISN including deliberations on signing the MASE MOU and considering proposal from India on sponsoring an ILO at the IFC IOR, the RSA None paper which seeks to expand the WG2 structure to include thematic areas, capacity building and resource mobilisation initiatives and elections. The meeting noted with appreciation the observations and recommendations and adopted the summary of discussion and way forward as follows:

- ❖ The Steering Committee was elected, and all elected States accepted the nomination. The new Steering Committee is as follows;
 - Chairperson- Republic of South Africa
 - Deputy Chairperson-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Chair Working Group 1- Yemen
 - Deputy Chair-WG1- Comoros
 - Chair Working Group 2 -Seychelles
 - Deputy Chair Working Group 2-Somalia
- ❖ It was resolved that the members of the DCoC continue working closely with the 2 Regional Centres (RMIFC and RCOC) until the grey area and legal opinion which will advise on the best way forward regarding the signing of the MOU is finalised and agreed upon.
- ❖ A sub-committee comprising of the incoming Chair of WG1 -Yemen and Dep Chair of WG1-Comoros, Seychelles, South Africa, Madagascar and Secretariat were tasked to research and draft a legal opinion on what it entails to include the 2 centres to the DCOC ISN and the legal implications of signing the MOU in relation to the text of the Jeddah Amendment.
- ❖ It was resolved that the Signatory States will continue to collaborate with IFC IOR and accepts in principle the request from India. It was proposed that the nomination be rotational, and India can have a selective process to choose whom they want based on their preference. Working Group 1 was tasked with mandate on developing Terms of reference for this secondment including who will be seconded in line with DCOC rules of engagement, financial and legal implications, and any matter arising out of India's preference if expressed to any particular signatory states thereto.
- ❖ Working Group 2 and the leads of the thematic working groups was tasked to amend the Terms of Reference to include the thematic leads of the working groups. The team leads were agreed as follows;
 - Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing-Tanzania
 - Port and Ship security and protection of vital coastal installations- Ethiopia
 - New and emerging threats to maritime security-Oman
 - Trafficking in arms, narcotics, and psychotropic substances- Madagascar
 - Illegal trade in wildlife and other items- Kenya

- Threats to maritime environment- Mauritius
- Human trafficking and smuggling- Maldives
- ❖ The Secretariat was tasked to confirm with Oman their acceptance to lead the thematic area on new and emerging threats to maritime security.
- ❖ The Steering Committee was tasked with amending the TORs to include the thematic leads as members of the Steering Committee.
- ❖ It was resolved that a request be made to the Friends of DCOC to provide technical support on the various thematic areas as identified in the expanded structure. It was also noted that the secretariat works closely with the Friends to coordinate their calendar and schedule of events to ensure we enhance coordination and avoid duplicity.
- ❖ The Secretariat was authorised to share proposals with donors so as to look for funds for the DCOC Trust Fund and technical support in implementation of the DCoC-JA as long as the donor's assistance will be led by the identified gaps and needs to ensure regional support is provided based on regional needs.
- ❖ The Secretariat and WG2 will continue to actively engage the partners to have them consider donating to the Trust Fund and provide technical assistance in implementation of the DCOC-JA objectives.
- ❖ The meeting noted the need for continued fundraising, need for continued coordination and countries to share information on engagements to ensure coordination and capacity building. The Steering Committee to consider having a dedicated focus on resource mobilisation working to actively engage the Friends amidst the geopolitical changes in the region and world at large.
- ❖ The meeting agreed in principle the need to develop a RMSRR. IMO was tasked with developing a concept paper on laying modalities of the same and the same will be shared through the Steering Committee.
- ❖ The meeting called on Signatory States to fast track the implementation of the whole of Government approach including development of NMSC, NMSRR and NMSS which will create strong foundations for addressing maritime security in their respective states and ensure attainment of Initial Operating Capabilities of their respective NMISCs by March 2024 as agreed upon in the ISN Strategy.
- ❖ It was agreed that Signatory States appreciate the efforts of CRIMARIO so far and their support to the DCOC. It was noted that the Signatory States are at liberty to use whatever systems they want to use and as DCOC every country is free to use whatever system and they will be complementary to each other.