

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### WORKING GROUP 3 ON OPERATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AT SEA

#### Background

1. The Seventh High-Level Regional Meeting (HLM) on the Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC/JA), held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 28–30 November 2024, considered the evolving maritime security challenges in the region and emphasized the importance of strengthening civil–military cooperation.
2. In response, the Meeting adopted **Resolution 1 on the Establishment of Working Group 3 on Operational Cooperation and Coordination at Sea**. DCoC/JA Signatory States, as well as Friends of the DCoC, were invited to nominate suitable personnel from navies, law enforcement agencies, and civilian authorities to serve as members of the Working Group. The resolution further mandated that the inaugural meeting of Working Group 3 elect a Chair and Co-Chair and develop Terms of Reference and a Work Plan.

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### Introduction

3. These Terms of Reference (ToR) provide guidelines and operational framework for conducting Regional Maritime Security Operations. These operations will be aimed at ensuring the safety and security of maritime routes, vessels from threats such as piracy, smuggling, maritime terrorism and other illegal maritime activities.

#### OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives of the WG3 operations may include:
  - i. Contribute to safety of vessels and seafarers operating within the designated maritime zones.
  - ii. Prevention and responding to maritime threats such as piracy, maritime terrorism, smuggling, human trafficking and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.
  - iii. Safeguarding national and international shipping lanes.
  - iv. Provide assistance in maritime search and rescue (SAR) operations when required.
  - v. Foster regional and international cooperation in combating maritime threats and enhancing maritime security.

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5. Working Group 3 shall develop a Work Plan highlighting the short, medium and long term plans relevant to the following areas:
  - i. Identification of the lead Agency/Chair whose role will be to:

- Oversee coordination and implementation of maritime security operations
  - Ensure compliance with national maritime security laws and international conventions
  - Coordinate with national security agencies, regional and international partners and stakeholders
  - Coordination of the allocated resources and logistics for the operations
  - ii. Identification of the roles of the maritime security forces
  - iii. Identification of a central information sharing/operations centre
  - iv. Modalities for cooperation with Regional and International Partners
  - v. Identification of relevant maritime safety agencies that will form part of the support for the operations especially in Search and Rescue, coordination of safety measures for vessels in high risk areas and humanitarian assistance in maritime emergencies.
6. Working Group 3 shall ensure coordination with other stakeholders on maritime security, including (but not limited to), industry, naval operations and countering transnational maritime crimes.
7. Working Group 3 shall monitor the ongoing delivery of the Work Plan, providing reports on delivery implementation to the Steering Committee, highlighting any issues along with appropriate recommendations for their mitigation, at least ten (10) working days in advance of each Steering Committee meeting.
8. Working Group 3 shall provide ad hoc updates, technical advice and guidance to the Steering Committee as and when requested by the Steering Committee.
9. Working Group 3 shall ensure effective programme management consistent with the principles of transparency and accountability.
10. Working Group 3 shall follow the decisions and direction provided by the Steering Committee.

## **SCOPE OF OPERATIONS**

6. The maritime security operations will cover the scope provided for in Article 1 of the Jeddah Amendments and related activities in the following areas:
- i. Safety and security of vessels contribution to freedom of navigation
  - ii. Surveillance and monitoring
  - iii. Joint response operations
  - iv. Regional and international cooperation in compliance to international law.
  - v. Capacity building and capability development
  - vi. Joint exercises
  - vii. New and emerging threats security including but not limited to cyber security, technological integration such as AI, submarine cable and infrastructure security, critical surface and subsurface infrastructure.

## **MEMBERSHIP, CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARIAT AND CONVENING OF MEETINGS.**

7. Membership of Working Group 3 will comprise navies and coastguards of members that are signatory to the DCoC and eligible to sign the DCoC.

8. The Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson of Working Group 3 will be appointed every two years renewable once by way of consensus of majority Signatory States of the DCOC/JA. If consensus cannot be reached, an absolute majority rule shall apply, with dissenting views recorded.

9. The Secretariat of Working Group 3 will coordinate and facilitate meetings and the work of the Working Group and ad hoc meetings as required.

### **COMMUNICATIONANDREPORTING**

10. The Working Group 3 Secretariat will communicate the deliberations and decisions of Working Group 3 in writing to the Steering Committee within ten (10) working days of the completion of the meetings.

11. The Secretariat will promote communications on maritime security matters between the members of Working Group 3 and facilitate the implementation of the Work Plan including the updating priorities areas for cooperation.

### **DECISIONMAKING/AUTHORITY**

12. Decisions of Working Group 3 will be taken by consensus and where consensus cannot be reached, the two thirds majority rule shall apply on condition that dissenting views are put on record.

### **FUNDING,RESOURCESANDBUDGET**

18. Signatory States jointly with international partner/s or donor/s when the need arises, will be responsible for sourcing funding for Working Group 3. The DCoC Secretariat will provide administrative support.

### **REVIEWS**

19. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by Working Group 3 and further approval by DCoC Signatory States by consensus and thereafter at least every second year. Recommendations for amendments should be sent to the Secretariat.

## **ANNEX A**

### **LIST OF MEMBERS**

#### **Regional Countries**

Bahrain  
Comoros  
Djibouti  
Ethiopia  
Eritrea  
Egypt  
Jordan  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Maldives  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Oman Seychelles  
Saudi Arabia  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sudan  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Yemen  
United Arab Emirates

#### **F/DCoC (at invitation of the Chair)**

Denmark  
India  
United Kingdom (MTO/FCO/BPST EA)  
United States of America.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

European Union (EEAS, EUNAVFOR/ATLANTA CRIMARIO, EUCAP Somalia) \*  
Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

AFRICOM  
CMF  
IFC-IOR  
INTERPOL  
ReCAAP  
RCOC  
RMIFC