



## **High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the DCoC/JA,**

**Dar es Salaam, 28-30 November 2024**

### **The Statement of the State Minister on DCoC Member States Regarding the Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden Region**

The Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) and its Jeddah Amendment is a vital framework that aims to enhance maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden region. It was originally developed in response to piracy and armed robbery against ships, but now also addresses other illicit activities that disrupt trade and regional stability. Signed by 21 states, the Code of Conduct facilitates regional cooperation and coordination to address these challenges. Please allow me to address how the 21 signatory states can work together, to improve maritime security:

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#### **DCoC/JA Regional Interventions and Unified Maritime Security framework**

The DCoC represents a critical commitment by the signatory states to enhance maritime security in one of the world's most strategically significant and vulnerable maritime regions. The shared goal is to ensure safe and secure seas for trade, regional development, and the protection of critical infrastructure from a range of maritime threats, including piracy, human trafficking, smuggling, illegal fishing, and other transnational maritime crimes.

##### **1. A Unified Approach for Collective Security**

The signatory states, from East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and western Indian Ocean, have come together with a singular purpose: to combat the threats that undermine both regional and global maritime security. The DCoC emphasizes a unified approach, fostering cooperation between countries with diverse interests and capacities. By committing to a shared framework, these states are sending a clear signal that maritime security is a collective responsibility, not one to be addressed in isolation.

Through the development of a regional maritime security strategy, national maritime security strategies, joint coordination mechanisms, information sharing, and operational collaboration, the signatory States are working to create a cohesive maritime security environment. This alignment is crucial because the challenges posed by piracy, terrorism, and other illegal activities know no borders. To address these threats effectively, regional cooperation must be robust, transparent, and sustained.

##### **2. Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Information Sharing**

One of the primary elements of the Djibouti Code of Conduct is the establishment of mechanisms for improved communication and information sharing among signatory states. Maritime security is a complex, dynamic issue that requires timely and accurate information flow to detect, respond to, and mitigate potential threats. The establishment of an effective information sharing network, including national focal points, information sharing centres, standard operating procedures, common lexicons and, has been a key step toward ensuring that all signatory states can share critical maritime data and best practices.

### **3. Capacity Building and Training Initiatives**

The DCoC recognizes the varied capabilities and resources of its signatory states. The DCoC Capacity Building Matrix provides a platform to assist capacity building through joint training exercises, workshops, and technical assistance by matching needs to available expertise. By building the capabilities of national maritime forces, coast guards, and law enforcement agencies, signatory States will better be able to respond to maritime security threats.

### **4. Joint Maritime Patrols and Operations**

Within the context of capacity building and training, DCoC signatory states have participated in joint maritime patrols and coordinated operational exercises. These activities, often carried out in partnership with multinational coalitions, demonstrate the value of regional and international cooperation. By operating in a synchronized manner, these joint efforts are “force multipliers”, both in countering illicit activity and providing useful training opportunities for under-resourced DCoC States.

The success of joint patrols and operations highlights the importance of close coordination between countries with sometimes divergent national interests. The result is a stronger, more cohesive maritime security presence that strengthens the overall regional security architecture. This collaborative model has proven effective in containing and is now being extended address other maritime concerns.

### **5. Aligning Maritime Security with Broader Development Goals**

The DCoC promotes security as a means to an end rather than an end in itself. The aim is to create the secure conditions that allow for maritime development, growing the blue economy and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. A stable and secure maritime environment is critical for fostering economic growth, enabling trade, and supporting sustainable development in the region. By ensuring the safety of vital maritime trade routes, improving the efficiency of the maritime sector, and protecting offshore resources including fish, the signatory states contribute to the overall development of the region’s Blue Economy, creating new opportunities for economic cooperation and environmental stewardship.



The creation of a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Somalia along with other significant efforts to improve maritime security enforcement in Somalia, supported by EUCAP Somalia, are major steps forward in Somalia's contribution to regional maritime security. These efforts highlight the importance of collaboration in tackling shared challenges.

**Conclusion: A Shared Vision for Maritime Security**

The Djibouti Code of Conduct serves as a testament to the power of regional collaboration in addressing global challenges. The signatory States, through their commitment to the framework, have shown how collective action and shared responsibility can yield positive results enhancing maritime security. By working together to improve cooperation, coordination and communication, we are strengthening regional cooperation, building capacity, and implementing effective security measures, to ensure a safe and prosperous future.

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