



## **IORIS LAUNCH: SEYCHELLES 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **PRESENTATION BY KENYA PRINCIPAL SECRETARY SHIPPING AND MARITIME AFFAIRS: NANCY KARIGITHU**

**Representatives CRIMARIO Project Co-ordinator led by Admiral Francois-Regis Cloup-Mandavialle**

**Representatives Expertise France – Jerome Heitz**

**Representatives DEVCO, Calos Bandin - Bujan**

**Distinguished Country Representatives**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

We are indeed honored to participate in this validation meeting for the IORIS Platform. Kenya has maintained ethos of partnership with various States and Non-State actors involved in Maritime safety and security and continuously contributes to regional mechanisms with an alignment of her focus with that of the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy. I thank the Government and People of the Seychelles for the warm hospitality as well as thank Crimario & EU for excellent facilitation and for staying the course with us this far. I wish to reiterate that Kenya attaches immense importance to maritime safety and security and commits to remain at the forefront in forging regional and global partnerships to ensure maritime security and also facilitate sustainable exploitation of ocean resources.

Kenya welcomes capacity building initiatives that enhance maritime domain awareness and maritime safety and security even as the one we are involved in today. At this juncture, I will highlight Kenya's relationship with the EU through over a series of projects that have really helped us to build the Country's capacity in matters of maritime safety and security.

Kenya first interacted with the EU MARSIC Project on Maritime Domain Awareness from as early as 2012. The Office for the Project officers now occupied by the EU CRIMARIO team is located at our Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre located in Mombasa. Both with a focus on the Critical Maritime Routes Programme (CMR) have seen enhance of capacity for maritime domain awareness not only for Kenya but for the Region at large through diverse trainings forums and support in enhancing communication tools that have enhanced awareness on the need to work together timely information sharing. At this juncture, I wish to further appreciate the role of Expertise France and DEVCO who have continued to provide funding for the projects and wide array of regional training workshops noting in their capacity as the implementing Authority for both MARSIC and now CRIMARIO. Hosting the projects regional offices in Mombasa has continued to grant us access to the Projects Representatives who are easily available and has eased the technical assessment of the capacity building needs for the Information Sharing Centre attached at the Mombasa Regional MRCC. Allow me to express my gratitude to the team led by Mr. Dave Natrass for the hard work they have put in the entire process.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

As highlighted, Maritime Situational Awareness would not be possible without timely information sharing. It is our expectation that following the official launch of the IORIS, we shall see an improvement in real time exchange of information between information sharing centres in the Region that will in turn boost Regional Collaboration.

We take cognizance of the diverse options on the IORIS platform that allow for communication at national level and regional level. Kenya in line with international obligations to embrace a whole of Government approach in information sharing has set up a Joint Operations Centre (JOC) which will also act as our National Maritime Information Sharing Centre. We look forward to the installation of the system at the JOC and the RMRCC. The Kenya Navy has also expressed interest in the system and have participated in various consultative and sensitization meetings. Kenya is now in the process of establishing a Coastguard which again has embraced a whole rendering their skills and expertise to government

approach with all the agencies that have a role in maritime security playing a role. We anticipate that the Kenyan Coastguard will eventually be the lead agency in maritime law enforcement in the Country and we will look forward to the Agency benefitting from the platform too. The operationalization of Coast Guard Agency is set to be enhanced. Another on-going project that is worth mentioning is the establishment of the national AIS Network through the CRIMARIO project that will be accessible to all agencies within Kenya that need to monitor maritime traffic.

The challenges confronting us at both multi-faceted and cross border and only regional cooperation and coordination will get us where we need to be.

A regional AIS Server represents an opportunity for regional states to forge common linkages in the spirit of cooperation so as to further improve safety of navigation, maritime security as well as prevention and combat of oil spill, marine pollution incidents, search and rescue as well as any other similar incidents. The sea is vast and interconnected with no boundaries and thus cooperation in this manner becomes even more imperative and necessary. AIS data from national AIS networks can be exchanged, integrated and fused to provide a common operational picture, which is only accessible to partners if a dedicated sharing agreement.

Kenya therefore plans to invite regional partners to participate in a meeting that aims to lay a Regional AIS Sharing Agreement as an essential pre-requisite to facilitate future implementation of a regional AIS network. In this regard, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to the EU Crimario Project for having kindly agreed to render support to this process and provide assistance for a meeting in this regard and technical support for drafting of such sharing agreement. We shall be presenting this proposal for approval.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you are aware, the global community has recognized the need to broaden focus not just on maritime piracy but other maritime crimes. In efficient monitoring of maritime traffic, we expect that IORIS as a

communications tool will complement existing platforms such as Sea Vision. We further hope that the IORIS platform will not only boost information sharing but will also be used for training and exercises nationally and regionally.

As I close my remarks, allow me to avail myself this opportunity to announce to you all that the Republic of Kenya will host the Global Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 in Nairobi whose goal is to have action-oriented discussions pertaining to a blue economy strategy that is people-centric with ocean-centric investments. The Conference will be preparatory to the 2020 Oceans Conference that Kenya will be Co-Hosting with Portugal and will include all UN Member states; United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies; Ministers of Oceans, Seas and Environment, Ministers of Economy; Ministers of Tourism' Regional Economic and Financial Institutions; Private Sector; Shipping Industries and Associations; as well as Mayors and Governors of Ocean/Lake facing Cities. You are all welcome to participate in this important Conference as we prepare for Portugal.

We reiterate our commitment as a Government in collaborating with Regional Countries and Agencies in developing mechanisms that will complement Regional initiatives in ensuring the required protection for vital shipping lanes.

**Thank you for your attention.**

