

**Speech of Marjaana Sall,
Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to the
Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles**

IORIS launch by CRIMARIO in Seychelles

3 September 2018, Seychelles

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first apologise for not being able to be present among this esteemed audience for the launching of the IORIS maritime information sharing network given my scheduled professional commitments in Brussels this week.

We all know that the region is confronted with many challenges such as piracy as well as the trafficking of narcotics, people and illicit goods, arms proliferation, illegal fishing, environmental degradation and destruction.

We have to work towards better enforcement as well as confidence building and dialogue mechanisms.

Addressing Maritime Security in a more effective manner will require quite a drastic change in the way we operate.

Today, various authorities are responsible for the implementation of different tasks. They often work in an uncoordinated way. This undermines our preparedness and response to threats to maritime security.

Maritime security needs a multi-agency and multi-functional response.

European ministers on 26 June 2018 adopted a revised action plan on maritime security. The action plan promotes international cooperation, maritime multilateralism and the rule of law at sea.

Essential in this revised Action Plan are:

- First, an innovative & holistic perspective on maritime security, encompassing terrorism as well as cyber, hybrid, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats in the maritime domain ;
- Second, introducing a regional approach to a global challenge, allowing for tailor-made responses to security challenges in European sea basins and key hotspots such as the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa ;
- Third, protection of critical maritime infrastructure such as ports, ships and energy installations at sea ;
- And finally, stronger collaboration between civilian and military actors, between different agencies and across borders.

With the new plan, Europe strengthens its commitment to security at sea – both at home and around the world and the EU reaffirms its role as a global maritime security provider.

I am also pleased to inform you that the European Union Naval Force - Operation Atalanta which was launched on 8 December 2008 and which is conducted in accordance with United Nations Security Council's resolutions has been extended by the European Council until December 2020.

In order to respond effectively to the threats against maritime security, the European Union has spared no effort to support the region.

The EU maritime security programmes, MASE and CRIMARIO are strategic initiatives to promote maritime security and maritime governance in the Eastern, Southern African and Indian Ocean region.

We are working with our partners in the region to fight criminal networks that have taken over the economy of coastal areas. The criminal economy of trafficking, piracy and illicit trade destroys the legal economy of fishery and tourism.

In collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission, we are investing to create a network of countries for the entire region of Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean on improved maritime capability.

It is highly commendable to emphasize that countries of the region have themselves acknowledged the need to enhance information sharing and actions at sea under the MASE programme at regional level.

This has led to the formulation of two regional agreements namely a Regional Agreement for the Setting up of a Regional Maritime Information Exchange and Sharing Mechanism and secondly a Regional Agreement on the Coordination of Operations at Sea.

The CRIMARIO project is complementing the MASE programme in addressing a key challenge that is strengthening the sharing of information of maritime interest at the inter-administration and regional level, by providing the littoral States of the Indian Ocean who so desire with the means to improve maritime governance.

The IORIS web based platform for sharing non-classified maritime information will provide regional users with a secure means for exchanging information, working together and managing national or regional events at sea which threaten the environment or maritime safety and security.

A shared picture of the maritime domain is also a trigger for regional security cooperation. Shared interpretations of the situation and shared securitizations are known to facilitate maritime security.

With that said it is important for us here in the region to take ownership of and drive improvements that will enhance our maritime domain awareness, and to combat maritime and criminal threats.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the CRIMARIO project team as well as recipient institutions in the region for launching the IORIS information sharing platform.

I am looking forward to visiting the Centre and seeing how CRIMARIO works in practice and brings about concrete results to the region during my next visit to Seychelles.

I thank you for your attention.