

**HIGH-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
JEDDAH AMENDMENT TO THE DJIBOUTI CODE OF CONDUCT 2017**

**JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA
23 to 25 APRIL 2019**

WORKSHOP COMMUNIQUE

The International Maritime Organization pursuant to the request of Signatory States to the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, 2017 (the Jeddah Amendment), and States eligible to sign these instruments, in conjunction with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, convened a High-level Workshop under the theme of *Addressing Maritime Security Challenges Through Regional Cooperation* within the context of the Jeddah Amendment.

Representatives of signatory States (Participants) and attendees from partner organizations, thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), for organizing and hosting the Workshop at the Mohammed bin Naif Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies in Jeddah; acknowledged the generous in kind support and hospitality extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Workshop, as well as other amenities provided; and expressed its sincere gratitude to HRH Prince AbdulAziz bin Saud bin Naif bin AbdulAziz, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Vice Admiral Awwad Eid Al-Balawi, the Director General of the Border Guard, and his staff, for their continued commitment to enhancing maritime security throughout the region.

The Participants appreciated the achievements of the region since the signing of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment in 2009 and 2017, respectively.

The Participants reaffirmed the commitments made under the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment with respect to the repression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and other illicit maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden Area.

The Participants recognized that regional success relies on the establishment of trust-based relationships between signatory States. National initiatives, including the establishment of multi-agency centres, are the foundation upon which regional maritime security should be built. Important factors to consider are the designation of a lead agency for maritime domain awareness within a national maritime security and facilitation committee; and ensuring that national legislation underpins national maritime and maritime security strategies.

The Participants agreed that there was an inherent need to enhance the existing regional information sharing network to meet the increased requirements of the Jeddah Amendment; as well as operational information, such an enhanced network would facilitate sharing of experience, national legislation, best and promising practices and national maritime and national maritime security strategies. The aim of the enhanced information sharing network is to facilitate improved regional maritime security, law enforcement and governance capabilities in order to support maritime sector development and a sustainable blue economy, within the context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Participants agreed that it was important to establish national information sharing centres in order to coordinate the activities of national agencies engaged in maritime security and maritime law enforcement, and to facilitate the activities of the national maritime security and facilitation committees envisaged in Article 3 of the Jeddah Amendment.

Participants noted that while the regional information sharing centres detailed in Article 11 of the Jeddah Amendment had originally been intended to provide effective communications related to piracy and armed robbery against ships, some may be challenged to carry out this mission across the wider set of maritime crimes addressed under the Jeddah Amendment.

The Participants agreed that in order to improve the situation, a neutral assessment of the functions and capacity requirements of the three Djibouti Code of Conduct information sharing centres should be conducted, with a view to identifying any areas in need of capacity building assistance. In this regard, it was agreed that clarity was needed on what information needed to be shared, and how such information should be shared. In developing the terms of reference for the assessments, the views and operational requirements of signatory States should be taken into account. The report of the assessment should be shared with signatory States for discussion at a subsequent meeting in order to agree the way forward.

The Participants note the report of Yemen that the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Sana'a was no longer operational and that it was the intention of the Government of Yemen to reestablish the ReMISC in Aden. In this regard the Participants requested assistance for Yemen to reestablish the ReMISC in Aden.

Notwithstanding Article 11 of the Jeddah Amendment, the Participants reaffirmed that signatory States were sovereign and were free to host, establish or make use of information sharing centres other than those established pursuant to the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

The Participants noted that some signatory States had requested to use the Jeddah Maritime Information Sharing Centre. Similarly, signatory States acknowledged the contribution of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and the Regional Coordination and Operations Centre (RCOC) in the Seychelles.

The Participants noted that IMO will consult with national focal points with respect to future meetings.

The Participants welcomed the capacity building work of international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL; the European Union; supporting Governments including the support of United States Africa Command (US AFRICOM), and non-governmental organizations, including the One Earth Future Foundation's Stable Seas project, the Institute for Security Studies, the SafeSeas network and the International Committee of the Red Cross' initiatives in the region, and invited other organizations to offer their assistance.

The Participants recognized the work of IMO in:

- .1 supporting implementation of the special measures to enhance maritime security as detailed in SOLAS Convention chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code;
- .2 supporting signatory States' maritime development and development of the sustainable blue economy;

and requested the Secretary-General of IMO to continue to support maritime capacity building in the region.

The Participants recognized the work of UNODC Maritime Crime Programme in supporting development of national law enforcement capability, including legislation, judicial training and operational training to counter transnational organized crime, piracy, armed robbery against ships and other illicit maritime activity, and requested UNODC to continue to engage actively with signatory States under the auspices of the Jeddah Amendment.

The Participants considered a proposal to establish a "Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct" mechanism to assist with capacity and capability building and avoid duplication of efforts. The Participants concluded that such a mechanism should comprise a list of subject matter experts and assistance providers on whom signatory States' national focal points can call for support in a wide range of areas. This mechanism may need to be regularly updated but will provide a regular first point of contact on technical issues. The "Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct" should convene as far as practical within the sidelines of DCoC meetings. The DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct will be shared with National Focal Points for comments and subsequent approval.

The Participants agree to request IMO to seek donor support for the implementation of the Jeddah Amendment.