

APPENDIX 4 – COMMUNIQUE

REGIONAL MEETING ON CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATION FOR ENHANCED MARITIME SECURITY IN THE WEST INDIAN OCEAN AND GULF OF ADEN, AND DONOR FORUM MOMBASA, KENYA,

13 - 14 NOVEMBER 2019

COMMUNIQUE

Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment of 2017, hereafter "Participants" held a regional high-level meeting and donor forum in Mombasa, Kenya from 13 - 14 November 2019 at the request of signatory States. The meeting was opened by Ambassador Rachel Omamo, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Kenya, and chaired by Mrs. Nancy Karigithu, Principal Secretary, Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Kenya's Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Housing.

Participants received the current threat assessment briefing from EUNAVFOR (OP ATALANTA) on the status of piracy in the region as well as a briefing on wider maritime security threats from the Commander of Combined Task Force 150 of Combined Maritime Forces, highlighting the significant threat that piracy and other illicit activities continue to pose to the Signatory States, thus compromising the development of the maritime sector and a sustainable blue economy.

Participants expressed concern that poverty and lack of opportunities for some local populations was a key contributor to maritime insecurity in the maritime domain and called for concerted efforts to address the root causes alongside development of local capabilities for maritime law enforcement.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to establishing national maritime security and facilitation committees, as envisaged in Article 3 of the Jeddah Amendment, as well as to develop national maritime information-sharing centres and to promote a multi-agency, whole-of-government approach to addressing maritime security challenges. Participants strongly agreed that ultimately this will form the foundation for stronger regional cooperation.

Participants assessed progress made under the code and the benefits of a strong governance framework to spearhead the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment objectives over the coming years and agreed to form a **DCoC (JA) Steering Committee** constituted as below:

- **DCoC (JA) Steering Committee**
 - Chair – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Deputy Chair – Djibouti
 - Members – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of developing enhanced maritime domain awareness, building capacity both at national and regional levels and aligning regional and donor priorities and agreed to create two DCoC (JA) Working Groups reporting to the steering committee and membership. The structure of the two agreed Working Groups is as below:

- **Working Group on Information Sharing:**
 - Chair – Kenya
 - Deputy Chair - Madagascar
 - Members – open to all Participating States

- **Working Group on Coordination of Effort**
 - Chair – Ethiopia
 - Deputy Chair – Mozambique
 - Members – open to all Participating States

Participants agreed that both the Steering Committee and the respective Working Groups will draft their respective terms of reference, which will be circulated to Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (JA) for approval. Participants agreed to explore opportunities to ensure regular meetings of the Steering Committee and Working Groups and agreed that they could be conducted on the margins of IMO and other meetings, and to utilize technology and virtual forums to make the work of implementation of the Code more efficient and timely. Participants reiterated the need to have interpretation in English, Arabic and French during high-level meetings whenever possible.

Observers from partner organizations commended the Participants for these decisions in improving the implementation of the terms of the Jeddah Amendment (2017) and agreed to establish a **Group of Friends of DCOC (JA)** which will serve as an informal platform for Member States and Organizations to exchange information and initiatives to support and advocate for DCOC (JA) objectives. Arrangements for the Group of Friends of DCOC (JA) will be discussed and agreed by partners and circulated.

Participants discussed the practical aspects of enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness and agreed that their priority was to build national capacity to respond to threats, which in turn would enable building capacity for regional and then international capability. Signatory States of the code were encouraged by partners to share information nationally between States for their consumption and use, thereby creating a culture of information sharing by and between their National Sharing Centres. In this regard the EU CRIMARIO offered all DCOC (JA) Signatory States a licence to the IORIS sharing software.

Participants welcomed the offer made by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) through the MASE programme to improve coordination between the DCoC(JA) and IOC programmes related to maritime security, including facilitating cooperation between the two regional Centres – the Regional Maritime Information and Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and Regional Coordination of Operations Centre (RCOC) based in Madagascar and Seychelles respectively.

Participants and observers from partner organizations, thanked the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the United Kingdom and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), for organizing and hosting the high-level meeting.

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