



What is the IMO Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security?

It is an innovative cutting-edge programme of integrated workshops and tailored support to develop a National Maritime Security Committee, Risk Register and Security Strategy. A cross-government committee draws together all key stakeholders and the Risk Register provides a powerful tool to aid the committee to objectively identify security gaps and prioritize where to steer future policy development and capacity building effort. The National Maritime Security Strategy explains how the Member State will address the risks identified in the Risk Register, and its long term vision for the security of the maritime domain, with its development overseen by the Committee.

For more details, contact marsec@imo.org

Why is it so important and what are the advantages of this approach?

By targeting national maritime security decision making and governance, these are just some of the many benefits this approach offers:

 Establishes a cross-government structure of senior officials drawn from all Government Departments and Agencies to address the numerous maritime security risks faced by Member States in the modern maritime environment;

.....

 Delivers a comprehensive National Maritime Security Risk Register which list all maritime security risks based on threat, impact, mitigation and vulnerability criteria and which prioritizes the highest risks utilizing limited resources to maximum effect;

.....

 Recognizes that sustainable and long term improvements to maritime security are only possible once an effective national maritime security decision making and governance process has been established.



Provides a structure which fully utilizes the enhanced maritime domain awareness capability provided by a National Maritime Information Sharing Center (NMISC), including the use of this information in risk assessment and committee decision making, and ensuring the effective oversight of the NMISC by a specialist sub-committee to maximize its effectiveness;

 Enables Member States to clearly identify their capability gaps based on a risk based approach to maritime security, and to clearly articulate their capacity development needs to international partners and potential donors and to maximize the benefits of this assistance;

.....

 Fully involves industry in national maritime security decision making through the development of a specialist sub-committee on ship and port security, providing the benefit of industry expertise to government and ensuring a balanced approach between the security and facilitation of maritime transport;

.....

 Sets out a clear national vision with strategic objectives and lines of effort which explain how the Member State will deliver the security of its maritime domain for the long term growth of its blue economy and for the benefit of all maritime users.

The Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security template

Towards a “Whole of Government” Approach to Maritime Security – The Three Phases

Phase 1

Establishment of the National Maritime Security Committee Structure (Including Sub-Committees)

Phase 2

Development of the National Maritime Security Risk Register

Phase 3

Production of the National Maritime Security Strategy

Practical Framework consisting of expert workshops and tailored consultancy support

Timeline 12 – 18 months (Shorter if existing Committee/Risk Register/Strategy exists)



Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

The programme has been carefully designed based on IMO's global maritime security experience as the specialized maritime agency of the UN, and provides a practical framework to deliver National Maritime Security Committee structures, Risk Registers and Strategies tailored to the specific needs of the respective Member State. Each element can be delivered either as a stand-alone deliverable or as an integrated programme of all three elements.

Depending upon the option chosen the timeline to deliver this national maritime security decision making and governance programme varies from three to eighteen months. Subject to available funding, as well as providing the framework and delivering the necessary workshops IMO can also provide dedicated Consultancy support.



For more details, contact marsec@imo.org