

Meeting Overview: The Extraordinary Meeting of DCoC NFPs to Discuss how to deal with increasing threats against International Shipping in the Red Sea Area

The virtual meeting held on Monday, 18 December 2023, was attended by representatives from Signatory States of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and its Jeddah Amendment, international and regional naval forces, regional centres, and maritime stakeholders.

The aim of the Meeting was to discuss and address the increasing threats to international shipping in the Red Sea area.

A threat briefing update from the Combined Maritime Forces and European Union Naval Force Operation ATALANTA, provided details on attacks in the Red Sea area, mentioning the use of drones, targeting via Automatic Identification System (AIS), and disruptions to international ships. Plans for expanded patrols were discussed.

Specific Jeddah Amendment Provisions such as Article 4 (Protection Measures for Ships) and Resolution 2 Clause 6 (on the grave threat that piracy, armed robbery against ships and other illicit maritime activity, including fisheries crime, pose to the safety of navigation, seafarers and to the marine environment, if not repressed promptly and effectively), were discussed by the Chair of the DCoC/JA Thematic Working Group on Port and Ship and Security and Protection of vital Coastal Installations. Coordination with international navies and measures for ship protection were emphasized.

Regional Perspectives on the disruption's impact on maritime traffic were presented by the Regional Centre for Operational Co-ordination (RCoC) and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC), with an emphasis made on collaboration to ease voyage rerouting and shipping costs.

During the open plenary, representatives from Djibouti, CMF, Yemen, INTERPORTPOLICE, the Institute for Security Studies - ISS, Somalia, India, the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), United States America (USA), European Union Capacity Building Mission - (EUCAP-Somalia), RMIFC and Tanzania, commended the initiative and stressed the need for information sharing between states and navies, coordination with international forces, and addressing safety concerns. Suggestions were made for UN Resolution support for regional efforts and implementation of UN Security Council 2216 to stop arms shipments to Iran-backed Houthis.

The meeting agreed on the need for the:

- Adoption of recommendations from the Chair's [Press Statement](#).
- Enhanced security measures, including coordination among Signatory States, navies, and the industry.
- Continuous meetings/reviews and submission of recommendations to IMO and UNSC.

It also proposed the following actionable steps:

- Sending an International Liaison Officer to CMF.
- Consideration of the New York Memorandum's Addendum on response actions in the maritime environment.

More on this can be found in the report linked [here](#)

