

RESOLUTION MSC.489(103) (adopted on 14 May 2021)
RECOMMENDED ACTION TO ADDRESS PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY
IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

ANNEX 9

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THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING the role of the International Maritime Organization (the Organization) in ensuring the safety and security of international shipping,

RECALLING ALSO Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING FURTHER Assembly resolution A.1069(28) on *Prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea* urging Governments to cooperate with and assist States in the Gulf of Guinea region to enhance their national and regional capabilities to improve maritime governance in waters under their jurisdiction, while reiterating full respect for the sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and territorial integrity of all States and the relevant provisions of international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),

RECOGNIZING the ongoing work of the United Nations and other relevant organizations and stakeholders in support of the countries of the region in their efforts to prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery against vessels,

BEING DEEPLY CONCERNED about the escalation in the number and severity of attacks in the Gulf of Guinea region which threaten the lives and well-being of seafarers and the safety of shipping in the region,

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the continuous efforts made by the region to curb piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Gulf of Guinea, including drafting anti-piracy laws, the Deep Blue Project, and the establishment of the GoG Maritime Collaboration Forum (GoG-MCF/SHADE GoG) working with law enforcement and the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC Yaoundé) and the ongoing establishment of the Yaoundé Architecture Regional Integration System (YARIS), and utilizing useful platforms working in the region, such as the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea (FOGG) in support of the framework,

NOTING ALSO that IMO and industry are taking actions to address threats posed by piracy and armed robbery attacks against vessels and the kidnapping of seafarers and/or passengers in the Gulf of Guinea, including providing technical assistance to Member States in the region regarding the implementation of maritime security measures, supporting regional initiatives such as the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) to assist with the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCC), and providing Best Management Practices (BMP) West Africa (WA) to assist companies and seafarers to assess the risks associated with voyages through the Gulf of Guinea and mitigate any potential threats to their safety and security,

BEARING IN MIND that greater collaboration with all critical stakeholders on activities is needed, due to a number of challenges encountered by regional countries, including information-sharing on maritime criminality and illegality, maritime domain awareness such as MDAT-GoG (Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade for the Gulf of Guinea) and surface and/or

air patrol capabilities, functional legal frameworks in line with international best practice, capacity-building such as skill development of maritime law enforcement agents, integration of national inter-agency efforts and youth empowerment programmes,

REITERATING the Organization's determination to continue to address piracy and armed robbery against vessels and to promote safe and secure navigation in the waters of the Gulf of Guinea,

1 CALLS ON Member States, national authorities, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to:

- .1 consider strengthening law enforcement, and harmonization of criminal penalties across coastal States to arrest and prosecute pirates in relevant jurisdictions in accordance with international law and national legal frameworks;
- .2 consider options and international best practices for improved governance of available protection solutions such as security escort vessels for assisting other vessels, in accordance with international law, and with due respect for the sovereignty, sovereign rights and territorial integrity of coastal States; and
- .3 support and encourage wider participation in the international framework GoG-MCF/SHADE GoG as well as other platforms, such as G7++FOGG, with a view to improving maritime security and safety in the region and facilitating the strengthening of cooperation mechanisms for regional maritime patrol and protection;

2 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to:

- .1 make full use of its funds to sustain technical cooperation on addressing piracy and armed robbery for the regional countries, such as providing training workshops/webinars and developing courses in relationship with existing initiatives and programmes;
- .2 encourage the creation, subject to available resources, of a common platform to better facilitate the timely and reliable communication of standardized information on piracy or armed robbery between existing mechanisms such as MDAT-GoG, the NIMASA C4i-Centre, Regional Reporting Centres, the ICC IMB Piracy Reporting Centre and relevant responding law enforcement, as well as the subsequent analysis of the reported information; and
- .3 sustain its efforts in addressing piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea in coordination with Member States, the United Nations and the industry.

3 CALLS UPON Member States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to consider making financial contributions to the IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund, which remains open to support the Organization's maritime security capacity-building programme to assist Gulf of Guinea coastal States as well as regional centres under the YCC architecture; and

4 INVITES the Secretary-General, Member States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to bring this resolution to the attention of all parties concerned.

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