Conference on Capacity-building to Counter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

Colonel S R Roberts
Acting Head of Counter-Piracy Unit
United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

15 May 2012
Introduction

- While piracy manifests itself at sea, the roots of the problem are to be found ashore.
- It is a criminal offence, driven by economic hardship, that flourishes in the absence of effective law enforcement.
- Requires a long term strategy that focuses on deterrence, security, the rule of law, and development.
Key Tasks Under Security Council Resolution 1976

- Assist the TFG and regional authorities to establish a system of governance, rule of law, and police control where land-based activity related to piracy is taking place;

- Support the creation of national fisheries and port activities, including the earliest possible delineation of Somalia’s maritime spaces in line with the Convention;

- Assist with the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, the Regional Plan of Action, and the CGPCS regional needs assessment;

- Report on Protection of Somali Natural Resources and Waters (London Convention);

- More effective coordination of anti piracy efforts;

- Assist with the creation of specialized Somali Courts.
The UNPOS Role

- UNPOS does not have a Counter-Piracy Programme. Its role is to:
  - Coordinate the work of the UN agencies and regional programmes;
  - Ensure developmental programmes have Counter-Piracy objectives.

- In effect, overseeing, assisting, advising, coordinating capacity building to counter piracy in Somalia or Counter-Piracy support programmes;

UNPOS is a political office: responsible for ensuring security & justice, humanitarian, and capacity building for Counter-Piracy fit within the overall construct of the political solution for Somalia.
Components of UN Activity

- Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCGS)
- Kampala Process/Mechanism
- Integrated Task Force Nairobi Cluster (UN agencies) – Cohesion Paper 7
- Piracy Technical Working Group
- International Trust Fund
- HQ International Task Force (ITF)
Contact Group for Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia

- **Working Group 1** – Regional Capacity Building
- **Working Group 2** - Legal Structures for the prosecution of Pirates.
- **Working Group 3** – International procedures and self awareness procedures for the maritime industry.
- **Working Group 4** – Diplomatic and public information programmes.
- **Working Group 5** – Tracking proceeds of piracy and disrupt the business model.
Under the Djibouti Accord/WG1 UNPOS is tasked with assisting the Somali administrations with setting up Counter Piracy Offices.

Insufficient funds pledged to support 4 offices envisaged.

UK has provided funds sufficient for a single ‘pilot’ office to be established (location tbc).

Final proposal/plan to be developed.
Under the Road Map to end Transition and National Security & Stabilisation Plan, a Somali Coastguard/Maritime Police is to be established.

UNPOS oversees this through the JSC and MTWG.

Collapse of HFI contract raises a question mark.

Capabilities exist or are being developed in Puntland and Somaliland.
UNPOS WG 4 Activity

- **Project 1: ‘Utilizing Media to Combat Piracy’**
  - Focused on South Central and Puntland
  - Various medium used: radio (VOA/BBC), meetings, posters etc.
  - Completed April 12.

- **Project 2: ‘Campaigning against Piracy in Somalia’**
  - Lead Consultant identified
  - Company to deliver the project to be contracted
  - UNPOS PIO working with procurement to expedite the process
The Kampala Process

- Kampala Process is the main coordinating mechanism between the Somali administrations and as a focus for engagement with the international community.

- A key issue is to progress Somalia’s claim to its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):
  
  - Legitimizes a number of activities to protect Somalia’s waters and natural resources.
  - Legitimizes the policing of Somali’s waters out to 200nm either by the IC or by a future Somali maritime police or Coast Guard.
Co-ordinating the UN Family
(The Nairobi Cluster)

- Through the Nairobi Cluster, the Counter Piracy Technical Working Group, and routine engagement, UNPOS has sought to:

  - Coordinate and share information with partners and donors on Counter Piracy Programmes and other activity.
  - Ensure regional actors’ (AU, EU, IGAD and IOC) Counter Piracy Programmes are coordinated with those of the UN.
UNPOS has produced and agreed the UN’s Cohesion Paper on Counter Piracy.

This policy paper attempts to draw together a comprehensive approach to all aspects of counter piracy work for the UN agencies, based on the following principles:

- Deterrence
- Counter Terrorism and Sanctions Breaking
- Legal Aspects
- Security Sector Reform
- Humanitarian Aid and Recovery
- Human Rights and Gender Issues
Establishing a Piracy Unit

- The SC requested the UN SG to reinforce UNPOS as the UN focal point for counter piracy.

- UNPOS recommended a small Unit of 4 posts for resourcing for 2012.

- Aspiration for full integration into a Joint Piracy Unit with UNPOS, UNODC, UNDP and others... (including IMO).
Establishing a Piracy Unit (Status)

- Acting Head of Counter-Piracy Unit only:
  - No Nairobi Cluster.
  - No move forward on wider integration.

- Offer has been made to the preferred candidate who should be ‘in place’ in the next 6-8 weeks.

- Strategic Review of UNPOS may present an opportunity.
Other Activity

- Security Sector/Maritime Policing Assessment for Somaliland has been/is being conducted. Further assessments are required in Puntland and Galmadug when the security situation allows. (UNDP, UNODC, IMO, UNPOS)

- Accredited training programmes for 200 police officers from Puntland and Somaliland’s Criminal Investigation Departments funded by the Counter-piracy trust fund. (UNDP)

- Support to regional states in developing their laws and legislation and to build court and prison capacity. (UNODC, UNDP)

- ID Cards for fishermen. (FAO)
Assessment/Issues

- Concerns remain about the overall lack of maritime security off the coast of Somalia.
- Reported link between illegal activity (piracy, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, people smuggling, illegal imports/exports) and AS.
- Failure of the TFG to declare its EEZ is not a ‘showstopper’ but needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency post-August 2012.
- TFG must also pass the Maritime Legislation as a matter of urgency.
Way Ahead

More needs to be done:

• Ensure deterrence efforts are carried out in concert with the other elements of the strategy on land.

• Support to alternative livelihoods and the rehabilitation of coastal fisheries.

• Develop Somali capacity to deal with piracy-related activities on land and in its territorial waters. This must be linked to broader efforts to develop Somalia's police and coast guard, as well as its justice sector, to ensure that persons suspected of acts of piracy are prosecuted.

Bottom Line:

"A concerted international effort to bolster organic development and growth in Somalia may become a more and more attractive option for governments looking to tackle the issue of piracy"
QUESTIONS?