The success of the Djibouti Code of Conduct in contributing to the reduction of piracy in the Western Indian Ocean is something of which we can all be proud. The current situation of piracy being successfully contained, with no successful hijack for three years, is dependent on merchant ships continuing to implement IMO guidance and best management practices; naval forces continuing to deter and disrupt pirate activities; and member States continuing to prosecute suspected pirates and increasing their maritime law enforcement capabilities.

The closure of the IMO Project Implementation Unit (PIU) on 31 March 2015 marked the successful conclusion of the initial phase of implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct. The PIU was established as a limited duration project in order to provide assistance to signatories to implement the Djibouti Code of Conduct. Its tasks have now been integrated into the work of the Maritime Safety Division (MSD) as an internal administrative adjustment within the IMO Secretariat.

There should be no doubt – IMO remains committed to supporting the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct. The decline of piracy in the region now presents a window of opportunity for IMO Member States in the region to implement capacity building programmes to prevent a resurgence of piracy and to address wider issues including other transnational organized crimes committed at sea, as a basis for the sustainable development of the maritime sector. To this end, wider maritime security projects are also being conducted by the Secretariat with funding from various maritime security funds.

Mr. Koji Sekimizu
Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization
IMO will continue to build on the success of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the achievements of the Project Implementation Unit. To date, more than 60 training courses have been delivered under the auspices of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre programme for the benefit of more than 1000 trainees, with more courses scheduled. The establishment of the information sharing network and the enhancement of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the region are also significant achievements. As well as maintaining this momentum to keep piracy contained, future focus areas will include further developing MDA in the region, completing the Djibouti Regional Training Centre building and supporting the development of whole of government approaches to maritime security and maritime law enforcement.

In this regard, IMO has been conducting a series of table top exercises aimed at encouraging the development of national maritime security policies, plans and procedures. These exercises are geared towards stimulating discussions at the national level and highlighting the need for cooperation amongst government departments and agencies and ultimately the development of national maritime security strategy and facilitation committees. It is the intention of IMO to roll out those exercises in the Gulf of Aden and Western Indian Ocean region later in 2015.

MSD and the other divisions of the IMO Secretariat continue to support the needs of our Member States, including assistance to Member State implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct through our Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). The Djibouti Code Trust Fund will continue to support projects for as long as States continue to contribute to it. In order to strengthen this support, IMO has maintained a Djibouti Code-focussed presence in the region, with two staff members based in Nairobi, Kenya whose role is primarily the delivery of training.

In addition to supporting implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, IMO’s global maritime security ITCP focuses on helping enhance member states’ implementation of broader maritime security measures.

DCoC countries interested in receiving maritime security capacity building are encouraged to submit a request to the Sub-Division for Maritime Security and Facilitation at the following email address: DCOC@imo.org.
The Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Djibouti Code of Conduct) provides a framework for capacity building in the Gulf of Aden and Western Indian Ocean to counter the threat of piracy. The Code was signed on 29 January 2009 by the representatives of: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates have since signed bringing the total to 20 countries from the 21 eligible to sign. Over the 5 years since it was signed, the Code has evolved to be the major focus for facilitating transnational communication, coordination and cooperation in its 4 thematic broad pillars: delivering national and regional training, enhancing national legislation, information sharing and building counter piracy capacity. It has also created a basis for technical cooperation between the DCoC States and IMO that is trusted, effective and popular.
Global Maritime Security Programme
Support to DCoC implementation

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) as a stand-alone unit, came to close on 31 March 2015, after five years of helping to deliver capacity in the region. The closure was an administrative adjustment within IMO, reverting the work of PIU into core activities of the Maritime Safety Division (MSD) and the Technical Cooperation Division (TCD).

Following the change, all capacity building for maritime security related to the DCoC and to individual member States is now implemented and reported under IMO’s Global Maritime Security Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).

The new support arrangement for the DCoC includes two dedicated staff members based in Nairobi, Kenya with direct support of staff of the MSD Subdivision for Maritime Security and Facilitation.

PIU laid a solid foundation for the facilitation and coordination of training activities as well as information sharing and professional support to the Djibouti Regional Training Centre (DRTC). It also helped establish strong partnerships with donors and implementing partners.

This ethos of partnership between IMO and the region will be maintained to build capacity to countering piracy and other transnational maritime crimes.
The Djibouti Code of Conduct Trust Fund is a multi-donor voluntary fund. Financial contributions may be made by Member States of the United Nations or the IMO, organizations, institutions or private individuals to support counter piracy capacity building. Member States, intergovernmental organizations with which the IMO has relations and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are also able to support the efforts of IMO by providing in-kind support.

The Fund remains open for donations to assist the IMO to counter piracy within the Djibouti Code of Conduct framework. To download the Djibouti Code of Conduct, or to find out how you can contribute to this important initiative please go to our website: www.imo.org

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Djibouti, HE Abdulkader Kamil Mohamed, reaffirmed Djibouti’s commitment to the rapid completion of the training centre. The centre, envisaged as a vital component in the provision of maritime security training in the Gulf of Aden and Western Indian Ocean region, is being built by the Government of Djibouti with funds provided by IMO. The Government of Japan is the primary donor. Denmark and the Republic of Korea have also provided equipment and support for the project.
Information Sharing

The DCoC Information Sharing Network (ISN) consists of the three Information Sharing Centres (ISCs) in Dar es Salaam, Mombasa and Sana’a, established in 2011. The network is used to exchange information on piracy incidents across the region and other relevant information to help shipping and signatory States to take action to mitigate piracy threats.

In order to promote interoperability between the network and local and international naval forces operating in the area, IMO has been working with other international partners to involve the centres in the planning and execution of naval operations and exercises such as Exercise CUTLASS EXPRESS, that is now a regular feature in their annual training programme. The European Union’s OPERATION ATALANTA has also worked closely with the ISCs to develop a regional dhow ‘pattern of life’ picture to assist international navies to identify those conducting lawful trade at sea.

The information sharing network has played a significant role in countering piracy. IMO will focus on continuing to build the capacity of the regional network to counter piracy and other illicit activities at sea.
National Legislation/Governance

The signatory States to the Code undertook to review their national legislation with a view to ensuring that there are laws in place to criminalize piracy and armed robbery against ships and to make adequate provision for the exercise of jurisdiction, conduct of investigations and prosecution of alleged offenders. IMO has worked closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), other international organizations and development partners to assess and assist with upgrading national legislation, focusing on empowering States’ law-enforcement forces to conduct arrests and criminal investigations under its piracy legislation and ensuring that piracy legislation is sufficient to meet the needs of its law-enforcement and justice agencies.

A number of workshops have been held to address the process of enforcing national piracy law at sea and what the justice process requires to achieve successful prosecutions. This has been supported further by rolling out training on the conduct of criminal investigations at sea, as part of the DCoC training programme.

Training

IMO has been supporting the Djibouti Code of Conduct training endeavours, conducted under the auspices of the DRTC since 2010. To date, the organization, in partnership with other international and regional organizations including NATO, East African Standby Force (EASF), Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed Bin Nayef Academy of Marine Science and Security Studies, EU MARSIC programme, US AFRICOM and Turkey’s Maritime Security Centre of Excellence has facilitated 60 training courses, benefiting more than 1000 trainees from the region.

IMO continues to boost the capacity of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre to deliver on its objectives while investing in capacity to implement more programmes in the region.

Going forward, there is need to prioritize the development and delivery of training packages for trainers and table top exercises for decision makers geared to encourage a whole of government approach, thus promoting better coordination at national and regional levels.

Maritime Domain Awareness

IMO is working to develop signatory States’ maritime domain awareness for improved maritime law enforcement. Projects to increase the effective use of terrestrial automatic identification systems (AIS), long-range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT), coastal radar and other sensors and systems have been undertaken and will continue. This is aimed at providing States with a ‘picture’ of maritime activity throughout the region, thus contributing to enhanced maritime safety and security.
Rebuilding Somalia’s Maritime Sector

The decline of piracy off the coast of Somalia presents a good opportunity to assist the Federal Government of Somalia and the regional authorities to reform and rebuild the Somali maritime sector, thus opening up the maritime economy in the country and contributing to the prevention of a resurgence of piracy.

Under the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, IMO is providing technical assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in establishing the much needed legal framework for the development of a sustainable maritime sector following decades of civil war. The programme, spearheaded by the Technical Cooperation Division, covers:

- Assisting the Federal Government of Somalia and regional authorities in developing a new Somali Maritime Code to reflect developments in international law and practice, and to better reflect Somalia’s commitments and obligations under international law and ensure that the country is in compliance with international law.

- Developing a framework for the establishment of a Maritime Administration that will take the lead in ensuring maritime safety and security and protection of the marine environment in accordance with national and international law.

- Training for selected officials – long and short term courses/workshops to enable officials to acquire comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities associated with the running of the Maritime Administration.

Participants during a three-day Stakeholders Workshop to review draft guidelines for the establishment of a Somalia Maritime legislation, held in Mombasa, Kenya from 27-29 April 2015.
IMO Featured Activities

Regional Workshop on Best Practices for Maritime Domain Awareness: Towards achieving the goals of the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy

Dar es Salaam 18-20 May 2015

A three-day high level regional workshop took place from 18-20 May 2015 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania to discuss mechanisms for promoting Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the West Indian Ocean. The workshop was jointly organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United States Naval Forces Africa (US NAVAF), East African Standby Force (EASF)/Nordic Advisory and Coordination Staff (NACS), and European Union Naval Forces Somalia (EUNAVFOR), under the auspices of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre (DRTC). 45 participants from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Somalia and Sudan as well as representatives from the mentioned facilitating organizations attended.

The workshop was aimed at identify existing MDA gaps and to come up with recommendations for addressing them. One of its key outcomes was the development and adoption of Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) Standards for the Djibouti Code of Conduct. The tool will be used to promote efficiency, interoperability, cooperation and best practices between the Information Sharing Networks, MOCs and operational maritime law enforcement forces.

The event was followed by a two-day MDA tools training on SeaVision and Mercury systems, for MOC and ISC operators from Djibouti, Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania, facilitated by NAVAF and EUNAVFOR.

Maritime officials from DCoC countries during a regional workshop held in Dar es Salaam on promotion of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the West Indian Ocean from 18-20 May 2015.
NATO and IMO partnership to build regional capacity to counter piracy grows from strength to strength

NMIOTC 29 June - 10 July 2015

The latest training course held at NATO’s Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC), from 29 June to 10 July 2015, brings the total number of IMO courses conducted at the institution to 17. The programme has so far benefited 302 students from 19 DCoC countries since the training collaboration was started in late 2012. The programme offers broad, holistic and comprehensive training packages to introduce trainees to all aspects of piracy/armed robbery against ships and other illicit maritime activities. Each of the courses lasts for two weeks with theory and practical training as follows:

- **Criminal Investigation at Sea Training** – Designed for law enforcement officials with a focus on criminal investigation on piracy and other criminal cases.

- **Maritime Operations Coordination Planning Training** – This course is designed for staff officers coordinating maritime operations against piracy and other cases involving maritime safety and security.

- **Vessel Protection Detachment training** – Designed for maritime interdiction operations forces involved in maritime security operations in countering piracy and other maritime crimes. It teaches skills to conduct vessel protection based on best practices (IMO guidance and BMP4) and recognized international standards.

- **Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) & Counter-Piracy Training** – Designed for boarding team members with a focus on MIO against piracy.

The course was designed for officers from training institutions of marine police/ coast guard/ naval forces and prosecution services, employed as trainers in Maritime law enforcement or those earmarked to become trainers. It was attended by 18 participants from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, United Republic of Tanzania and Somalia.
Saudi Arabia champions delivery of DCoC regional training

Saudi Arabia has demonstrated outstanding commitment in supporting the work of IMO and the Djibouti Code of Conduct to counter piracy and other illicit maritime crimes in the West Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. Through the personal commitment of the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the country has played an instrumental role in forging cooperation and providing a shining example in implementing the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

Since 2013, the country has sponsored and hosted four courses and one regional training conference for the common benefit of DCoC signatory states. The courses ranged from maritime interdiction operations, criminal investigations at sea and training of trainers of marine outboard engines technicians. In his closing remarks during the last course on Criminal Investigations at Sea, hosted by Mohammed Bin Nayef Academy of Marine Science and Security Studies in Jeddah from 15 March to 2 April 2015, the commander of the Saudi Arabia Border Guards, Admiral Awwad Al-Balawi stated that, “We believe it is paramount that the region builds its own capacity to secure its sea lanes of communication in the region to bring prosperity.”

IMO values this contribution and will continue to work with Saudi Arabia to promote regional capacity.

Turkey lends in support to the DCoC capacity building activities

The Republic of Turkey is working with DCoC to build regional maritime capacity through its Multinational Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE).

MARSEC COE conducted a pilot course on Vessel Protection Detachment (VPD) in Djibouti from 7-12 December 2014 under the auspices of the DRTC, providing high quality training to maritime team leaders and operations planners from DCoC signatory states. The outcome of the course was of high standards, measuring up to the training needs in the region.
This cooperation will help to enable operational teams from regional states to build relationships and improve collaboration and coordination through implementation of operational procedures based on internationally recognised best practices. DRTC is hoping to develop a stronger partnership with MARSEC COE for the benefit of the region.

NATO maritime commander visits IMO training in Greece

NMIOTC, 23 February - 6 March 2015

Vice Admiral Peter Hudson CBE Royal Navy, NATO Maritime Commander, visited the two week-long Advanced Maritime Law Enforcement/Training of Trainers course taking place at NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC), in Souda Bay, Crete, Greece (23 February to 6 March 2015). The course was conducted under the auspices of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Djibouti Regional Training Centre with the support and supervision of the IMO Secretariat’s Kiruja Micheni, and benefited from the high NATO standards embraced by NMIOTC.

In building on the success in combating piracy off the coast of Somalia through the combined efforts of international partners, IMO’s counter piracy programme is repositioning itself towards developing sustainable measures to prevent re-emergence of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the region. Towards this endeavour, 15 officers from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania received training to prepare them to deliver courses on maritime law enforcement in their own countries.

IMO’s Kiruja Micheni briefs Admiral Peter Hudson about DCoC training programme.
Maritime Operations Coordination and Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordination training

Khartoum, Sudan 1 - 12 June 2015

A two-week training course on Maritime Operations Coordination and Search and Rescue On-Scene Coordination was held in Khartoum, Sudan from 1-12 June 2015. The course was a joint initiative between the East African Standby Force (EASF), Nordic Advisory and Coordination Staff (NACS) and IMO, conducted under the auspices of the DCoC and held at the Sudan Peace Support Operations Training Centre. The sub-regional training programme featured modules on responding to maritime incidents involving piracy and armed robbery against ships, among others, and taught skills on Search and Rescue Coordination. 25 participants from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan took part in the training.

Nine subject matter experts from Denmark, Finland Norway, Sweden and IMO’s Kiruja Micheni, facilitated the training. Two graduates of previous courses from Kenya and Sudan also assisted the international facilitators in delivering the course, thereby enhancing their delivery skills and boosting regional skills transfer.

Djibouti Training Centre building work continues apace

Building work on the Djibouti Regional Training Centre (DRTC) in Doraleh, Djibouti is moving forward in earnest, with a view to completion before the end of October 2015 deadline.

IMO’s Chris Trelawny and Kiruja Micheni made a site visit on 7 July, 2015 accompanied by Mr Said Nouh Hassan, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Equipment and Transport, Djibouti. During the visit to Djibouti, the IMO team also met Mr Moussa Ahmed Hassan, Minister of Equipment and Transport and representatives of the construction company.

The centre, envisaged as a vital component in the provision of maritime training in the Gulf of Aden and West Indian Ocean region, is being built by the Government of Djibouti with funds provided by IMO. The Government of Japan is the primary donor.
**Meet the Team leading the support for the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date in 2015</th>
<th>Training Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 Jan – 04 Feb</td>
<td>CUTLASS EXPRESS Final Exercise</td>
<td>ISCs and various West Indian Ocean locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb – 06 Mar</td>
<td>Advanced Criminal Investigations at sea: Training of Trainers</td>
<td>NMIOTC, Crete, Greece</td>
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<td>15 Mar – 02 Apr</td>
<td>Maritime Law Enforcement</td>
<td>Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>17 – 21 March</td>
<td>FAO/DRTC Fishery Observers for Somalia</td>
<td>Djibouti, Djibouti</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 – 29 April</td>
<td>Somali Maritime Code: stakeholders workshop</td>
<td>Mombasa, Kenya</td>
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<td>11 – 22 May</td>
<td>Joint DCoC/EASF Maritime Interdiction Ops Training for Vessel Protection Detachment (VPD)</td>
<td>NMIOTC, Crete Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 – 21 May</td>
<td>Fishery inspectors for Somalia</td>
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<td>18 – 22 May</td>
<td>Best Practices for Maritime domain awareness: Lessons learned from CE15</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Aug – 04 Sept</td>
<td>Joint DCoC/WCA Criminal Investigations at sea: Train the trainers</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 – 09 October</td>
<td>Joint EASF/DCoC Maritime Task Force Commanders</td>
<td>Moroni, Comoros</td>
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<td>12 – 13 October</td>
<td>The DRTC Coordination Committee (DRCC) strategic meeting</td>
<td>Djibouti, Djibouti</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Oct – 6 Nov</td>
<td>Joint EASF/DCoC Maritime Ops Coordination and SAR On-scene Training</td>
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<td>16 – 27 November</td>
<td>Maritime Crimes Interdiction Operations Training</td>
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**IMO General mailbox for all DCoC-related correspondence**

Email: dcoc@imo.org
The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

Useful links:

African Union  
www.au.int/

Combined Maritime Force and Combined Task Force 151  
www.combinedmaritimeforces.com/

Djibouti Regional Maritime Training Center (DRTC)  

European Union Naval Force  
www.eunavfor.eu/

International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)  
www.interpol.int/

Mombasa Information Sharing Centre  

NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC)  
www.nmiotc.nato.int/#home_en.htm

NATO Shipping Centre  
www.shipping.nato.int/Pages/default.aspx

ReCAAP ISC  
www.recaap.org/

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia  
www.unsom.org/

UNODC Maritime Crime Programme  

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