



CONTACT GROUP
ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

مجموعة الاتصال الخاصة بالقوسنة قبالة السواحل الصومالية • Groupe de contact sur la piraterie au large de la Somalie
Grupo de Contacto sobre la Piratería frente a costas de Somalia • 打金索马里海域海盜聯絡組
Контактная группа по борьбе с пиратством у берегов Сомали



Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)

HANDING OVER CEREMONY

from Mauritius to Kenya

27 February 2020

PRESS INFORMATION



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



Contents

Context.....	3
Coastal countries of the ESA-IO faced undeniable facts.....	5
What is the meeting about?.....	8
Key Highlights of the Mauritian Chair?	9
The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.....	12
The meeting’s participants, who are they?.....	13
The organisers.....	14
The Republic of Mauritius.....	14
The Indian Ocean Commission.....	15



The support of the EU through MASE programme 15

The MASE programme 16

Contacts 18



Context

With 14 000 kilometers of coastline and exclusive economic zones of 10 million km², the States of the Eastern Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-OI) generates \$ 176 billion of income each year according to the Maritime Security Index, established by Stable Seas. This, a priori, substantial figure, is below the economic maritime potential of the region.

Until recently, Africa (from East to South) suffered from “sea blindness”. Coastal countries around the continent paid little attention to their maritime space and did almost nothing to pursue their maritime potential.

For instance, as far as ESA-IO region, with the spike in international concern about piracy off the coast of Somalia in 2009; a shockwave of activity spread across the eastern countries, giving rise to extensive maritime security and law enforcement activity.



Maritime Security is thus a crucial domain for ESA-IO countries since it is **directly linked to economic growth, jobs, social and political stability**. For international partners, Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean is also important: major maritime routes for hydrocarbons and trade cross this Ocean.



Coastal countries of the ESA-IO faced undeniable facts

- A State on its own cannot fight effectively maritime crimes and threats in its territorial waters and vast EEZ
- Western Indian Ocean's maritime domains possess economic value – conducive to income and employment at national and regional level

Maritime Piracy in the Western Indian Ocean is not the only threat affecting the region. With the presence of International navies (EU Naval Forces, Combined Maritime Forces and Independent Deployers), piracy is now contained but not eradicated.

However, this new situation has given rise to new forms of transnational organized maritime crime directly or indirectly related to piracy.

Thus other threats and maritime crimes remain a major issue for the regional States and other countries with shared interest in the area.

Piracy is contained but not eradicated



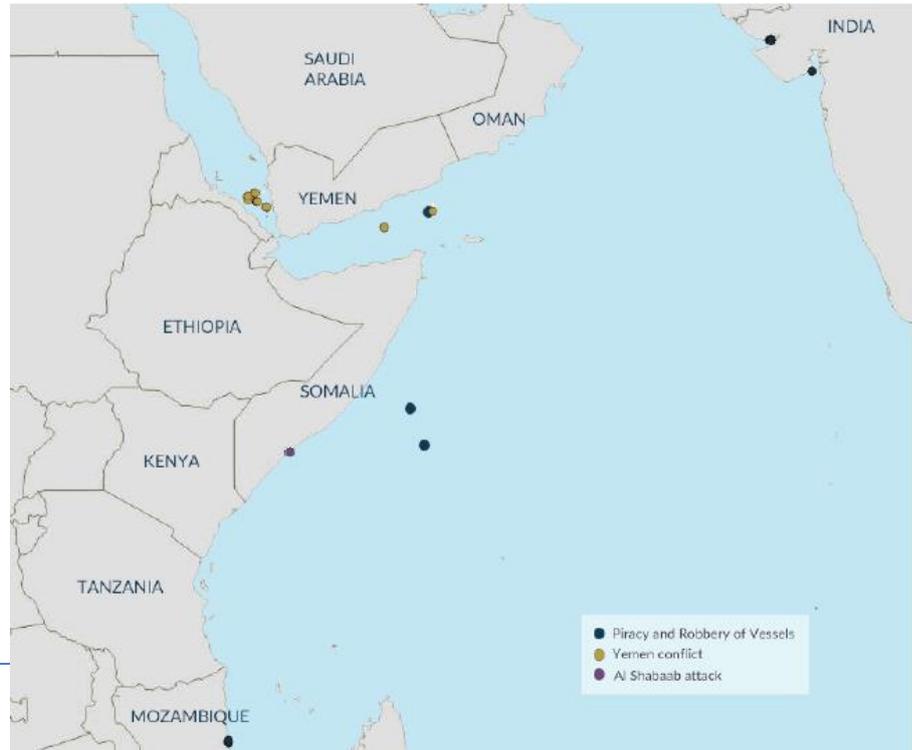
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MAPPING OF INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY OF VESSELS IN EAST AFRICA IN 2018

Source : The State of Maritime
Piracy 2018, One Earth Future,
Broomfield CO, USA 2018



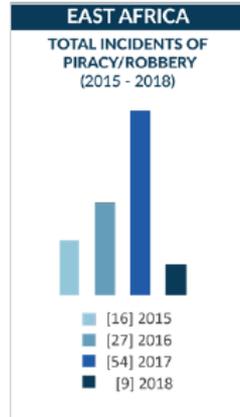


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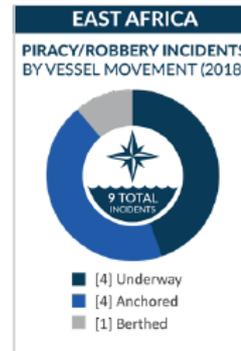
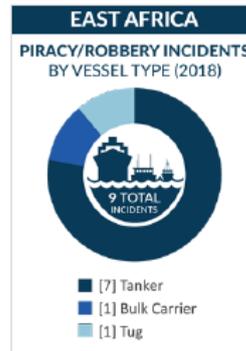
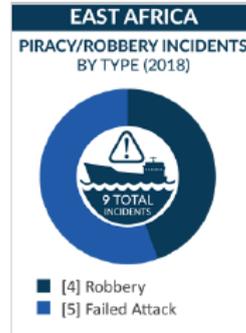
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OVERVIEW: EAST AFRICA INCIDENTS



The root causes for piracy off Somalia - coastal violence, weak economic conditions, and the prevalence of crime networks - are still present.



Source : The State of Maritime Piracy 2018, One Earth Future, Broomfield CO, USA 2018





What is the meeting about?

The handover Chairmanship of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia ceremony between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Kenya is a symbolic yet very important event in the calendar of this International platform created under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1851 (2008)

Mauritius, as the outgoing Chair, organised with the support of Indian Ocean Commission (CGPCS Secretariat), the Hand Over ceremony to ensure a smooth transition of all CGPCS dossiers to the new Chair. This include an update on all the projects but also the sharing of the work culture that has been initiated with previous Chairs.

The meeting is also an opportunity for the outgoing Chair to share the key activities of the two-year mandate as well as the achievements.

And for the new Chair to expose its strategic orientations for the next two years. Though piracy attack is contained since the past years, regional countries together with the International community agree that they need to remain vigilant and eventually expand the mechanisms to related crimes and threats.



Key Highlights of the Mauritian Chair?

1. Organisation of annual plenary session:

One of the main responsibilities of the Chair is to organise annually a plenary session with all CGPCS members to take stock of their main activities.

21st plenary of the CGPCS, Nairobi, Kenya, 12-13 July 2018: Mauritius as Chair of the CGPCS organised its first plenary session in July (12-13) 2018 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), Nairobi, Kenya. This event was co-organised by the CGPCS Secretariat, the IOC and UNODC4.

Objective: This plenary session reiterated the commitment of the region and that of the international community to continuously combat piracy and its root causes

22nd plenary session, Mauritius, 20 June 2019: The CGPCS 22nd Plenary session was held back to back with the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Maritime Security on 20 June 2019 in Mauritius. A series of activities including the Working Groups meetings were organised to mark this week dedicated to Maritime Security.

2. Participation in key conferences in the region

Sustainable Blue Economy conference in 2018 in Kenya



High Level symposium on Capacity building for maritime security in Nairobi, Kenya , 2018
Shared and De-confliction meeting organized by EU Naval Force and Combined Maritime Forces in 2019,
Bahrain

3. CGPCS Strategic review

A Friends of the Chair Strategic Meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 27-28 May 2019. A report entitled “*Towards a Maritime Security Architecture for the Western Indian Ocean; A Strategic Review for the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)*” was presented and discussed by the participants. The report highlighted the importance of having a continuation of the CGPCS since piracy in the Western Indian Ocean has been contained but not eradicated.

Several other maritime security challenges persist in the region and the CGPCS needs reorientation for optimal result. It was recommended that the CGPCS be maintained albeit with some changes in its structure as a mechanism to ensure better coordination and increased efficiency for the fight against piracy.



4. Chair intervention in cases of Premature release of pirates in Somali

Only three countries in the region have the capacity to take judiciary actions on piracy: Kenya, Mauritius and Seychelles. Since the past ten years, a mechanism facilitated by UNODC in collaboration with key stakeholders was implemented to provide a “legal finish” to counter piracy operations. Much effort has been put to ensure that acts of piracy are not left unpunished following the UN Resolution 1851 (in the context of lawlessness off the coast of Somalia).

In 2018 and 2019, the Chair has issues over 3 Communiqués to condemn premature releases of convicted pirates by Puntland and Somaliland authorities – which compromises the extensive collective efforts of the International Community and Regional States to combat and suppress piracy off the coast of Somalia. Mauritius through its representative at the UN in New York intervened in 2019 and raised the issue at the UN Security Council.



The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, commonly abbreviated as CGPCS, is an international governance mechanism established in New York on January 14, 2009 to facilitate the discussion and coordination of actions among states and organizations to suppress Somali piracy. The CGPCS was established in response to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1851 (2008), later recalled and replaced with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1918 (2010). To date, more than 60 countries and international organizations have become part of this forum, all of which are working towards the prevention of piracy off the Somali coast.

The CGPCS meets in two formats: an annual plenary session and working groups as well as several related groups meetings. Chairpersonship of the plenary and the working groups is rotating. Outcome of the Plenary are so-called communiqués.

Plenary session's discussions are fed by the work and exchanges arising from the Working Groups and related groups that play a key role in CGPCS's mechanisms. Indeed, focused on specific themes related to piracy and maritime security issues at large, the working/related groups fueled the CGPCS Secretariat with useful information on the piracy situation off the coast of Somalia. While CGPCS Plenary session is held once per year (unless there is an emergency); working groups and related groups organized several meetings per year.



The meeting's participants, who are they?

- IOC States members: Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
- The European Union, core partner in the maritime security
- States bordering Eastern and Southern Africa (Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa ...)
- Other States bordering the Indian Ocean (India, Australia ...)
- States with interests in the region and partners (India, China, United Kingdom, United States ...)
- Regional organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA, SADC, IGAD, EAC) and the African Union.
- International Organizations (International Maritime Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Department of Political Affairs, INTERPOL, International Organization for Migration, FAO ...)
- European and international missions deployed in the Western Indian Ocean (EUNAVFOR Atalanta, CMF...)
- Stakeholders of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia currently chaired by KENYA



The organisers

The Republic of Mauritius

An island State of Africa, the Republic of Mauritius, has made Ocean Economy, one of the main focuses in its national strategy to boost economic and social growth. Promoting the concept of Ocean-State, with regards to the vast ocean areas controlled by developing islands, the Republic of Mauritius has the ambition to exploit fully and responsibly the potentials of its maritime areas in the field of fisheries, tourism, technological innovation, exploration and exploitation of seabed etc. With the aim of carrying out the country to sustainable development, the Government of Mauritius has made security issues one of its priority, especially when it comes to combating drug trafficking. Maritime Security is, of no doubt, a prerequisite for the Republic of Mauritius to reach a new level of development.

Website of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), of *Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius*



The Indian Ocean Commission

Created in 1982, IOC is an intergovernmental organization that brings together five-member States: The Union of Comores, France (Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The only regional organization composed entirely of islands, it defends the specificities of its member States on the continental and International arena. With the active support of a dozen international partners, the IOC gives substance to regional cohesion through diverse sectorial cooperation projects including Maritime Security. Firmly committed to sustainable development, the IOC leads for over thirty years, Indianoceania, an ambitious yet vulnerable common regional action.

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The support of the EU through MASE programme

First contributor to International development support, the European Union is actively involved in Maritime Security initiatives in the Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO). This political and operational commitment is depicted in the form of military and civilian missions (EUNAVFOR Atalanta, EUCAP Nestor – ended in 2015) and other cooperation programmes.



The MASE programme is fully in line with this partnership mobilization between the European Union and the ESA-IO countries for a more secured maritime and terrestrial area. Implemented by IGAD, EAC, COMESA and IOC, the MASE programme is funded by the European Union to the tune of €42 million. The EU support enable partners at national and regional level to counter regional maritime security issue namely piracy.

Website of the [EU delegation](#)– follow EU in Mauritius on Facebook [EUinMauritius](#) and Twitter [@EUAmbMauritius](#)

The MASE programme

Funded by the European Union to the tune of € 37.5 million and coordinated by IGAD, the MASE Programme comprises 5 results areas and is implemented by regional organizations of the ESA-IO namely:

- Result 1 by IGAD: Addressing livelihood concerns of coastal communities against piracy in Somalia;
- Result 2 by EAC: Enhancing legal, legislative and infrastructural capabilities to combat piracy and other maritime crimes;
- Result 3 by COMESA: Dismantling financial networks linked to maritime crimes and minimizing their economic impact;
- Result 4 by IOC: Building and improving capacities for surveillance and control at sea;



- Result 5 by IOC: Promoting and coordinating exchange of maritime information.

The Regional organizations work closely with diverse actors involved in the Development and Security domains, including European missions, UN agencies (UNODC, FAO), INTERPOL ...

For more information about MASE, Consult the [online brochures](#)

About European Union actions against piracy, [click here](#).



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