

Port Security and Safety for Navigation Project for Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean:

1st Technical Steering Committee Meeting

Ebene, Mauritius, 31st August 2020 – The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) organised the first Technical Steering Committee meeting of *the Port Security and Safety of Navigation Project for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO)* on Friday 28 August 2020 by video conference. The meeting, which brought together the funder, the European Union (EU) and the implementing partners, namely the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Criminal Police Force (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), marks the first formal meeting of the project partners since the signing of the funding agreement in 2019 by IOC and the EU in Mauritius.

The main objective of the meeting was to define the joint action plan for the preparatory phase of the regional project. This, in view of an official launch with all beneficiaries and other key actors in the field by early 2021. This phase will allow IOC (project coordinator), the partners and the EU to assess the needs on the ground and to define together operational modes to better coordinate implementation and communication actions.

The beneficiary countries of the programme are Angola, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Seychelles.

Although the start of this four-year project has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the representative of the EU Delegation in Mauritius, Massimiliano Messi, is of the opinion that "*the project's activities should further assist in enhancing the security of the ports of the beneficiary States and maritime security broadly by 2024*".

In addition, the Ports Security Project as well as part of the Programme for the promotion of Maritime Security (MASE) is coordinated by the IOC. Complementarity and the search for synergies with the various projects, institutions and organizations working in the field are essential to avoid duplication and improve coordination. According to the project coordinator, Raj Mohabeer from IOC: "*The MASE programme has taken the first steps in the exchange and sharing of maritime information and joint operations at sea through the regional centres (CRFIM and CRCO) in the region. We must therefore build on the achievements and further develop these strategic frameworks to improve regional maritime security capacity*".

Finally, the Technical Steering Committee also discussed the organization of the next Steering Committee meeting of the project which should take place by the end of November 2020.

About :

Port Security and Safety of Navigation Project for EA SA IO

Funded to the tune of €28 million by the European Union, the Port Security and Safety of Navigation project for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean is being implemented by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the International Criminal Police Force (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the coordination of the Indian Ocean Commission.

The project will work closely with regional (COMESA, EAC, SADC, APIOI, PMAESA), international (CGPCS, EUNAVFOR, WCO) and ongoing projects and programmes (MASE, CRIMSON, CRIMLEA), existing mechanisms (DCoC) and other key actors in the field.

The programme is divided into 3 result areas:

Result 1: Capacity building of the authorities in charge of the safety of navigation in the AfOA-IO Region

Outcome 2: Port security legislation and compliance framework developed

Outcome 3: Implementation of a regional information-sharing mechanism and a cargo and passenger data exchange system.

For more information about the project, please [click here](#)