

Steering Committee of the 2 Regional Agreements MASE



Statement by the signatory parties to the MASE Regional Agreements In the context of the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Maritime Security in Western Indian Ocean 19 June 2019

We, the representatives of the governments of the Union of Comoros, Republic of Djibouti, of the Republic of France, of the Republic of Kenya, of the Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles,

Signatories of the Regional Maritime Safety and Security Agreements, namely for the establishment of a regional mechanism for the exchange and sharing of maritime information, and a regional operational coordination mechanism for the Western Indian Ocean,

1. **Reiterate** our willingness to cooperate in the framework of the said Agreements for the exchange and sharing of maritime information and for the coordination of operations at sea corresponding to geographical coordinates 26° North and 37° South latitudes and 20° and 76, 5° East of longitudes;
2. **Confirm** our wish for the operationalization of these mechanisms, including the appointment of Liaison Officers posted in the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centres (RMIFC) in Madagascar and Operational Coordination (CRCO) in the Republic of Seychelles, as well as through extensive cooperation with the existing National and Regional Centres of the Participating States;
3. **Thank** the Republic of Madagascar and the Republic of Seychelles for hosting the Regional Centres, the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and the Centre for Regional Coordination of Operations (CRCO), respectively;
4. **Confirm** our intention to maintain Liaison Officers at the aforementioned Regional Centres in order to register our joint approach to long-term maritime security cooperation;
5. **Welcome** the progressive deployment of equipment to the Regional and National Centres and equitable access by all signatory States to the information;
6. **Recall** the need to reinforce this regional initiative which is part of a global approach to implement a modern maritime security architecture based on the prevention and fight against maritime crime and on the building of capacity for maritime efficiency in the western Indian Ocean;
7. **Invite** States within the region, States having an interest for regional maritime security, regional and international community competent in the domain of regional maritime security and recognised financial and development partners to become Parties or partners to the above-mentioned Agreements;
8. **Encourage** the States within the region to implement their national strategy for maritime security and safety, and their action plan, to contribute to the strengthening of the regional maritime security architecture set up by the aforementioned Agreements;
9. **Encourage** the communication among all the national centres for information sharing, the Regional Operational Centre for Surveillance and S&R, the Regional Centre for Coordination

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for S&R and fisheries monitoring centres with the Regional Centres to facilitate data exchange, analysis and image-making complete regional maritime situation;

10. **Recognise**, further, that the Regional Coordination Centre for S&R of Mombasa constitutes a complementary platform for the reinforcement of the planned regional cooperation and coordination
11. **Encourage** the States within the region to establish an appropriate and effective legal framework to deal with all the judicial aspects against all Transnational Organised Crimes(TOC) at sea and to provide appropriate/adequate judicial responses in the fight against all attempts to maritime safety and security, and if necessary through the domestication or implementation of applicable maritime Conventions into national legislation;
12. **Invite** Parties to the Agreements, partner organizations and entities with an interest in maritime safety in the Western Indian Ocean to promote and support these regional maritime information exchange and sharing mechanisms and operational coordination as a good practice of security cooperation at the regional and global level;
13. **Call upon** on the African Union and the African Development Bank and any other partner willing to support the Regional Mechanism deriving from the Regional Agreements, and more broadly to the continental objectives of security and development;
14. **Warmly** thank the European Union for its active support for the promotion of maritime safety in the region, particularly in the framework of the Regional Program for the Promotion of Maritime Safety (MASE) which it finances from the 10th and 11th European Development Fund;
15. **Congratulate** the Indian Ocean Commission for continuing the facilitation of regional cooperation and for its mobilising action which made it possible to concretely engage the regional community through the MASE program and for its commitment to continue its action and advocacy for maritime safety;
16. **Congratulate** and expresses appreciation to the Republic of Mauritius for its initiative in organizing the second Ministerial Conference on Maritime Safety and Security in the Western Indian Ocean of June 2019 with the contribution of the Indian Ocean Commission and the support of the European Union.

Done in Balaclava, Mauritius, 19 June 2019