

# Ministerial Conference on Maritime Safety and Security in the Western Indian Ocean

*Balaclava, Republic of Mauritius – 16 November 2023*

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## ***Western Indian Ocean Maritime Safety and Security Road Map based on the agreed framework of priorities and recommendations of the April 2018 and June 2019 Ministerial Conferences***

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## 1. Building a Regional Maritime Safety and Security Architecture

Action Area	Actions following April 2018 Ministerial recommendations	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
1.1. Regional mechanism 2018	1. Establish a Western Indian Ocean (WIO) regional framework for maritime safety & security through ratification of the regional agreements on sharing of information and coordination of action at sea and the operationalization of the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) and Regional Coordination of Operations Centre (RCOC)	IOC	2 Agreements signed by Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles 2 Regional Centres (RMIFC & RCOC) established and operational	Apr/Nov 2018
	2. Attract neighbouring and partner countries and Institutions to the 2018 Regional Agreements	IOC and the signatory States	France and Kenya signed. Others are invited to join	Nov.2018-
	3. Establish a national level coordinating mechanism for maritime safety and security 4. Strengthening national coordination – setting up, where necessary, of inter-ministerial / inter-sectoral /coordinating committees in WIO MSs 5. Improve national maritime governance and national information system.	Signatory states	1. Transposition of the Agreements into National institutions and structures (Kenya and France done). 2. National MS Strategies formulated in 2018 by IOC. Implementation and regular update required. 3. National MSS Committee & MAI still in progress 4. National Information Sharing Centre	On-going Most States established NISC but CMSS Committee
2019	6. Identify a regional organisation to enhance and ensure coordination of MS initiatives in WIO	IOC, DCoC, CGIMA	IOC, DCoC partnership in progress. CGIMA?	2023

	7. Coordinating Agency to report the relevant multilateral bodies (UN, AU...) on progress / actions for MS in WIO	IOC, DCoC, CGIMA	Joint action of IOC-DCoC-CGIMA?	
	8. Deepen political dialogue with international organisations & development partners to support the strengthening of regional mechanisms	Mauritius Ministerial Conference	Follow-up of Conference by Mauritius and Kenya?	
	9. Mobilise appropriate and adequate resources to the benefit of regional Centres	IOC	Dialogue with partners such as EU, US, Japan, India	On-going
	10. Engage Regional States in UNODC's initiatives: (i) trilateral strategy to combat organized criminal networks and (ii) MS strategy for IO Region	UNODC		
	11. Initiate cooperation between States and UNODC to develop submarine cables resilience plans	IOC	Regional Strategy for IOC region already adopted by IOC Council. Implementation phase to start	Nov 2021

## 2. Counterterrorism

Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
Counter-Terrorism	1. Establish a regional mechanism for consultation and exchange of information.	To be identified		-
	2. Formulate a holistic port and airport security programme.	IOC/UNODC /IMO/INTERPOL	Regional Ports Security & Safety of Navigation Policy	2020-2024
	3. Assess and strengthen controls of financial and commercial flows.	States FIU/FSC		
	4. Implement systems to fight against terrorist propaganda and violent extremism on the Internet.	States	Need to identify regional leadership	
	5. Study assessing level of terrorist risk in the region & degree of State preparedness & facilitate a concerted regional response and report to the next high-level meeting on MS.	IOC?	Resources?	
	6. Enhance capacity building of Member States in their oversight of security threats including sharing of expertise and best practices.	States	Need to identify regional leadership	
	7. Encourage standard legal framework that will lead to successful management of terrorism risks.	States	Need to identify regional leadership	
	8. Develop and harmonise a regional maritime security strategy in line with those of UN, AU, EAC, IGAD and SADC		Need to identify regional leadership	
	9. Increase national level awareness & opportunities for dialogue	States	Need to identify regional coordination	
	10. Facilitate and enhance cooperation and information exchange on terrorism risk among law enforcement and intelligence agencies and criminal justice authorities	States	Need to identify regional leadership & coordination	
	11. Include collaboration in surveillance of commercial and passenger traffic (ports/airports) in national plan against terrorism	IOC	In progress with wider focus	

### 3. Transnational Crimes

Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
3.1. Human Trafficking	1. Assess human trafficking as a critical threat to the region	IOC/IOM	RMIFC report & monitoring	2022
	2. Improve national infrastructure dealing with victims of trafficking, train law enforcement agencies and reinforce national capacities on border control at sea and on land.	IOC/IOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Simulation exercise</li> <li>• GMDSS to RCOG</li> </ul>	2022-3
	3. Promote a human rights-based approach to tackle at both national and regional levels in line with applicable international Conventions.	IOC/IOM		
	4. Promote national and regional levels collaboration and partnership to address effectively the multifaceted issue of human trafficking.	IOC/IOM	Regional Forum & Stocktaking	Action Plan is progress
2019	5. Facilitate cooperation & information exchange among Centres	IOC/IOM		
	6. Domestic at national level relevant international frameworks to effectively intervene and arrest traffickers on the high seas	IOM		
	7. Support States in analyzing & improving national migration frameworks & border management systems to effectively	IOM		
	8. Include the link between MS and human trafficking in EU-funded "Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Migration Management in the Southern Africa Region" programme	IOC/IOM/ILO/UNODC/UNHCR	In progress under the SAMM Programme	
Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
3.2. Combatting IUU fishing	1. Sustain the Regional Fisheries sustainability Monitoring Plan.	RFSP/IOC/SADC	SADC initiative	2022
	2. Plan for national & regional support for the implementation of IOTC initiated actions, including e-psm (electronic port state measures).	IOC/IOTC	In progress	
2019	3. Integrate regional fisheries MCS into the MASE architecture	IOC		2019
	4. Reactivate the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan	IOC	On-going	
	5. Implement relevant international instruments to combat IUU Fishing such as 2009 FAO Ports State Measures	IOC	On-going	

	6. Mobilise appropriate resources and means for the training of national personnel of new technologies and to set-up appropriate protocols with relevant specialized agencies	IOC	On-going	
Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
3.3. Drug Trafficking	1. Improve coordination, information-sharing and exchange of best practices in the context of activities conducted by the UNODC, including the Southern Route Partnership.	UNODC		
	2. Intensify exchange of information in real time between national agencies based on trust & understanding between those agencies and the regional maritime Centres, namely RMIFC, RCOC and other IFC such as in Kenya, Tanzania and Yemen.	IOC/DCoC/ RMIFC/RCOC	In progress	
	3. Identify “maritime zones of interest” with support of participating States, including affected participating States, & request the RMIFC to conduct targeted MDA surveillance & share such information with relevant States.	NISC/NMSSC and RMIFC	In progress	
	4. Encourage standard legal framework that will lead to successful conviction of drug traffickers at the high sea.	UNODC	In progress	
	5. Enhance capacity building measures particularly with regard to training of personnel & acquisition of drug related equipment & IT tools.	UNODC		
2019	6. Engage regional States and interested stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the IOFMC work plan of the UNODC	UNODC		
	7. UNODC to use its capacity to enhance coordination and exchange of information / best practices among interested States in the framework of the Southern Route Partnership	UNODC		
	8. Increase participation of regional stakeholders in ONUDC’s training programme at REFLECS3 Centre and Prosecutors Network Forum	UNODC		
	9. Mobilise appropriate resources & means to sustain Regional Centres	UNODC/IOC		
	10. Enhance ports security & navigation safety at national & regional levels	IOC/UNODC/ IMO/INTERPOL	In progress	

Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
3.4. Money Laundering	1. Invest in regular research as well as capacity needs assessments in order to channel resources to support areas with the highest potential for strengthening anti-money laundering efforts.	COMESA/ Interpol		
	2. Encourage and support financial intelligence unit in the region to join the Egmont Group of FIUs and countries to join FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) in order to comply to international standards.	COMESA/ Interpol		
	3. Strengthen the entire processes involved in anti-money laundering particularly through collaboration, cooperation and targeted capacity building programmes including collaboration in asset recovery.	COMESA/ Interpol		
	4. Encourage States and regulatory bodies to enact laws and other measures so that banks, financial institutions and Designated non-financial businesses and professions comply with international recommendations set by FATF (GAFI).	COMESA/ Interpol		
	5. Encourage collaboration of RMIFC with other IFCs.	IOC	In progress	
2019	6. International Partners to renew support to relevant national and regional institutions in order to reach a minimum level of capabilities in the fight against money laundering and other financial crimes related to illicit maritime activities			
	7. Strengthen the exchange of financial information			
	8. Conduct a study on illicit proceeds from MS-related offences are used			
	9. Facilitate concerted actions among investigators and prosecutors to ensure that money laundering issues are considered as key in investigations and prosecutions			
	10. Promote participation of regional stakeholders in activities of FATF-styled Regional Bodies as well as adhesion of key stakeholders to relevant international networks			

#### 4. Risks of Disaster at Sea

Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
4.1. Regional capabilities and mechanisms	1. Facilitate the availability of satellite imagery, by State of the region, for the monitoring of the environment, particularly through partnership agreement between regional and international organisations /agencies and NGOs.	IOC and States	Funding?	
	2. Strengthen the capacities and means of the agencies at national and regional level to improve the emergency preparedness for the fight against marine pollution.	IOC/Nairobi Convention/ IMO/OPRC/ OSRL/ITOFPP/ SAMSAs/ WIO States	Action initiated	
	3. Strengthen the existing regional framework for regional cooperation and coordination to address environmental disasters in close collaboration with the national existing Centres in Kenya, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania.		Work in progress	
	4. Domesticating and implementing the provisions of applicable regional and international conventions into national laws. Regional organizations and development partners to usefully support States		Action to be explored under MASE	
	5. Strengthen the capacity of States to conduct surveillance on their maritime approaches and to fight against marine pollution.			
	6. Collaborate with African Development Bank for the establishment of a financial mechanism to address all kind of marine pollutions.			No response from ADB
Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
	1. Consider the elaboration and implementation of a regional initiative for collection of debris at sea.	IOC	Exploit project	
	2. Consider the setting up of a collection system at strategic locations at national level to collect plastic wastes and other forms of solid and liquid wastes with the contribution of NGOs and private sector.	IOC	Sept 2023 Ministerial Declaration	
	3. Adoption at national & regional levels the FAO international guidelines on the marking of fishing gears & promote environmental		Funding?	

4.2. Plastic Pollution and other forms of solid and liquid marine wastes	impact assessment providing palliative solutions to reduce impact of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear.			
	4. Encourage States to strengthen measures to prevent and fight against discharge into sea.	IOC/Nairobi Convention/ IMO/OPRC/ OSRL/ITOPF/ SAMSA/ WIO States	IOC/Nairobi Convention: Glofouling Project with UNDP-IMO focussed on ballast water & invasion of marine species.	
<b>Action Area</b>	<b>Description of Actions</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status/Way forward</b>	<b>Period</b>
4.3. Search and Rescue (SAR)	1. Support and promote the application of the International Convention on Maritime SAR at national level and encourage each State to develop a SAR plan of action and establish a national structure for SAR action and provide mechanism to plan collaboration between ESA-IO countries through a multilateral agreement.			
	2. Ensure effective cooperation to improve the conduct of search and rescue operations at sea and the development of an information exchange mechanism, in particular through the established Regional Information Sharing Centres.			
	3. Strengthen Search and Rescue capacity at national and regional levels including through modelling, simulation exercises, drills and acquisition of means to intervene for SAR missions.			
	4. Introduce incentives at national level to equip fishermen and pleasure crafts operators with adequate life saving devices and communication systems. NGOs can be involved in the process of sensitizing fishermen and pleasure crafts operators on the necessity to equip their boats with basic communication equipment.			
	5. Establish funds for regional States to develop Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Coast Radio Station for SAR.			
2019	6. Ratify SAR convention	States		

	7. Introduce incentives to equip fishermen / small ships owners with appropriate communication equipment		Good example of Kenya's Community Watch Programme to be replicated	
	8. Make available adequate funds for sustainable SAR services			
Action Area	Description of Actions	Responsible	Status/Way forward	Period
4.4. Biodiversity and impact of climate change	1. Domesticate and implement by all regional States of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.	States	See Action 3.4.4	
	2. Build capacity at national level to improve monitoring, control and management of ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.	IOC	See Action 3.4.4	
	3. Carry out a study on the impact of invasive species and environmentally sustainable ways to reduce their presence.	To be identified	Funding?	
	4. Build capacity in mitigating climate change to deal with greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the shipping industry while promoting uptake of low carbon technologies.	To be identified	Funding?	
2019	5. Strengthen regional cooperation by capitalizing on existing regional frameworks addressing environmental disasters	IOC/Nairobi Convention/		
	6. Implement appropriate agreement between participating States and oil spill response companies	IMO/OPRC/OSRL/ITOPF/SAMSA/ WIO States		
	7. Collaborate with MTCC Africa to comply with international commitment on Climate Change			
	8. Engage partners in supporting national and regional projects on climate change adaptation	IOC		
	9. Develop and implement regional and national projects against marine plastic pollution	IOC	EXPLOIT & AIODIS Declaration, Sept 23	