



**CONTACT GROUP**  
on **ILLICIT MARITIME ACTIVITIES**  
**CGIMA**



# **Contact Group of Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA)**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Consultative Meeting**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**  
23 October 2025, Bahrain

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The **Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA)** held its **1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Consultative Meeting** in hybrid format on **23 October 2025** at the **Gulf Convention Centre, Bahrain**, in the margins of the **53rd Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE)** annual meeting.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Gervais Moumou, from the Republic of Seychelles, who assumed the CGIMA Chairmanship in February 2025, succeeding the Republic of Kenya. This meeting marked the first under Seychelles' leadership, signalling a renewed momentum in strengthening regional maritime dialogue and cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

The meeting brought together over 50 members, representing member states, regional organisations, international partners, the private sector including shipping industry and universities

### **Highlights and Key Outcomes**

Participants welcomed the strategic roadmap presented by the Chair, which outlines CGIMA's vision and priorities for 2025–2026. The roadmap defines a pragmatic framework to enhance CGIMA's relevance, strengthen institutional linkages, and foster collective ownership among regional stakeholders and international partners.

The Chair's strategic vision was commended for its inclusive, pragmatic, and action-oriented approach and for its ambition to revive CGIMA as a central coordination as well as strategic and diplomatic dialogue platform addressing illicit maritime activities across the WIO.



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Members emphasised:

- The importance of **regional ownership and leadership**, ensuring that CGIMA reflects the priorities and aspirations of coastal and island states in the Western Indian Ocean
- The need to **strengthen coordination** and **avoid duplication** with existing regional and international mechanisms, notably the DCoC-JA, IOC, CMF, SHADE, and other complementary frameworks.
- The importance of building **on the lessons and achievements** of the former **Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)**, which established a solid foundation for regional and international maritime cooperation including the potential revival of successful initiatives such as the Law Enforcement Task Force (LETF)
- A clearer strategic direction is needed to enhance **coherence, public communication**, and **coordination with UN agencies and the Security Council**, ensuring closer alignment with UN processes and mechanisms.
- The value of maintaining **adaptive and forward-looking dialogue** to effectively address the evolving and interconnected maritime security threats in the WIO, including piracy resurgence, illicit trafficking, IUU fishing, and environmental degradation.

Members also called for the organisation of a CGIMA Plenary Meeting - to be held in person at the earliest opportunity - to adopt the Strategic Roadmap formally, incorporating members' comments and recommendations, and to initiate its implementation.

Members reaffirmed their commitment to support the Chair's efforts in implementing this strategic vision, ensuring that CGIMA continues to serve as an inclusive, transparent, and credible platform promoting security, safety, and sustainability across the Western Indian Ocean.

The Chair extended appreciation to all participants for their active engagement and to the Secretariat for facilitating the meeting's organisation.