

CONTACT GROUP

ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was created on January 14, 2009 pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1851. This voluntary ad hoc international forum brings together those stakeholders affected by Somali piracy: countries from the region, Western Europe, Middle East and Asia, industry, seafarer's organisations and NGOs. The Contact Group coordinates political, military, and non-governmental efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia, ensure that pirates are brought to justice, and support regional states to develop sustainable maritime security capabilities.

Message From The Chairman

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the CGPCS,

I hope you have – as I did – returned home from Dubai with a sense of accomplishment. Looking back at the 2014 UAE Counter-piracy Week, the picture that emerges is positive. We organized it around two high level, complementary events: our 17th Plenary Session and the fourth UAE Counter-piracy Conference. Whereas the CGPCS focussed on international coordination and capacity building, the UAE Conference focussed on state recovery and institution building through public-private partnerships. I think this formula worked very well and I have expressed my gratitude to the UAE government for their support.

During the UAE Counter-piracy Week, we received the happy news of the release of seven (Indian) seafarers belonging to the crew of MV Asphalt Venture. As Chair of the CGPCS I am very pleased with their release and salute their resilience, steadfastness and moral strength. To date 30 seafarers are still being held captive in Somalia, many have been held hostage for more than four years. We have called for their immediate release. Moreover, we established a 'Piracy Survivor Family Fund' to provide social and medical care for the released but often traumatized seafarers and their families (of which more elsewhere in this Newsletter).

So far we have made very good progress on the three priorities we have set: (1) zero ships and zero seafarers in the hands of Somali pirates; (2) the reform of the structures of the CGPCS; (3) documenting the lessons learned of the CGPCS. But we are not there yet. We need to continue our commitment to make sure that the region is strong enough to prevent any relapse of piracy.

With best personal regards



Maciej Popowski

Impressions 2014 UAE Counter-piracy Week

The 2014 UAE Counter-piracy week was organised as a joint endeavour between the European Union as Chair of the CGPCS and the Government of the UAE. It brought together two high level and complementary events: the 17th Plenary Session of the CGPCS and the 4th UAE Counter-piracy Conference. This formula proved to be very effective as it allowed the Contact Group stakeholders and Conference participants to strategize and discuss concrete and specific action to support Somalia and the region to fight piracy, addressing its root causes on land and galvanizing international support. The UAE Counter-piracy Week attracted 67 delegations and over 600 participants from states of the Arabian Peninsula, Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas, international organizations, the private sector, academia and NGO's.

The Counter-piracy Week presented a dense program, with meetings and activities. The first meeting to kick-off the program was the special, ad hoc, meeting on the scope of the High Risk Area. The purpose of this meeting was to allow all stakeholders to explain their position and put forward ideas on the scope of the HRA. Stakeholders expressed the wish to identify a shared, common, way forward. And it was important to note that all stakeholders agreed to adopt a high degree of responsibility in approaching this subject. As we concluded in the Communiqué: "While it is evident that the decision to change

or revoke the HRA procedurally rests with industry, it is acknowledged that interested, non-industry stakeholders should be consulted when reviewing the scope of the HRA. The meeting agreed that a future meeting on the same subject should be convened by the Chair of the CGPCS by end of

PIRACY STATISTICS		CURRENT NUMBER
	HOSTAGES HELD BY PIRATES	30
	VESSELS HELD BY PIRATES	It is believed that all vessels held by pirates have become defunct, have run aground and do not possess any oceangoing capacity

Source: International Maritime Bureau

March 2015 to facilitate a recommendation on the review of the scope of the HRA.”

The CGPCS Working Groups and the Legal Forum met in the in new format. The WG ‘Capacity Building’, co-chaired by UK and the Indian Ocean Commission, agreed to a paper on priorities for counter piracy capacity building to end of 2016. The WG ‘Counter maritime piracy and mitigation operations’, co-chaired by the UAE, Japan and Seychelles, had its constituent meeting back and agreed that Maritime Situational Awareness should be included in its work plan. The WG ‘Countering Pirate networks Ashore’, chaired by Italy, observed that pirate leaders and financiers are enjoying de facto impunity in Somalia. The Legal Forum of the CGPCS, chaired by Portugal and Mauritius, discussed and adopted the Strategic Plan of this legal network, thus framing the mission of the Legal Forum as a platform for the study, analysis and discussion of legal matters related to piracy issues. A new dedicated website (www.piracylegalforum.org) was launched for that purpose.

The CGPCS Lessons Learned Consortium completed the first stage of analysis of the CGPCS. The EUISS has published a special report on the genesis and development of the CGPCS and its Working Groups. The Lessons learned Consortium, led by Cardiff University has prepared an online repository of lessons learned, which is available at www.lessonsfrompiracy.net. It includes stakeholder contributions and reports from a group of international analysts on different features, including the legitimacy of the

CGPCS launches Piracy Survivor Family Fund

Nearly 4,000 seafarers have been held hostage by Somali pirates, while 30 seafarers still remain in captivity, some for more than four years; as many as 80,000 others have been subjected to an attack.

Many of these seafarers have been traumatised to some degree by this experience and would benefit from either medical or social support or both. During the 2014 UAE Counter-piracy Week the CGPCS has therefore established a Piracy Survivor Family Fund to facilitate such support to piracy survivors and their families on their return home,



Chirag Bahri, MPHRP Regional Director for South Asia with 7 released seafarers from MV Asphalt Venture who were released during UAE Counter-Piracy Week- Photo: MPHRP

CGPCS or capacity building coordination. Initial analyses show how the CGPCS has achieved an international position as an effective multilateral mechanism, and that its experimental governance and multi-layered approach has the potential to be replicated elsewhere.

The CGPCS Presidency was supported for the entire week by the Flagship of Operation Atalanta, Italian destroyer ITS ANDREA DORIA, on port call in Dubai. Warm thanks have been extended to the Atalanta colleagues and the Italian Government for their excellent support.



EU Force Commander, Rear Admiral Guido Rando with Alessandro Mariani from European External Action Service and the Commanding Officer of ITS Andrea Doria, Captain Angelo Viridis onboard the EU Flagship during UAE Counter-Piracy Week in Port Rashid, Dubai - Photo: EU Naval Force

while many of these seafarers have been well cared for, many have not. An estimated 1000 or more face continued indebtedness as a consequence of lost wages during their detention, and often acute medical and other health problems, as well as family tensions and problems associated with returning to gainful employment as a result of the traumas they experienced. Some require other support such as psycho-social counselling, financial assistance for education of their children and in more extreme cases for rents and food.

Bereaved families have similar needs many of which are exacerbated by the permanent loss of the sole breadwinner for the extended family. The EU Chair of the CGPCS, Maciej Popowski said that “The Fund shows the maritime sector to be a people oriented employer and, while we keep pushing to bring pirate leaders to justice, it allows the international community to deal with the grim humanitarian legacy of Somali piracy by making a major contribution to the recovery and rehabilitation of the many thousands of seafarers and their relatives who have been the innocent victims.”

The Fund will be administered by the not-for-profit Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (www.mphrp.org), which will also manage the application process with the assistance of other advocacy groups

including the UNODC's Hostage Support Program. MPHRP is a CGPCS stakeholder and will charge no overhead.

The target capitalization of the Fund is USD 250,000 and several States and other stakeholders have already pledged considerable support. All CGPCS Stakeholders are kindly requested to consider contributing to the Fund.

For further information please contact: Peter Swift at MPHRP via response@mphrp.org



One of the released crew-members from the MV Asphalt Venture returns to his home town to a heroes welcome - Photo: MPHRP

CGPCS Lessons Learned Project delivers first results

The Lessons Learned Project has completed the first phase of its work.

A report has been published by the EU Institute for Security Studies which includes essays on the work and achievements of the CGPCS plenary and the working groups. The report documents how the CGPCS managed to play a vital coordinating role in military coordination, the harmonization of law, as well as in capacity building.

As the report lays out the CGPCS indeed promises to become a role model in other areas of concern of the international community, including maritime security more broadly. The Report is online available at: http://www.iss.europa.eu/uploads/media/Report_20_Piracy_off_the_coast_of_Somalia.pdf



Cardiff University has opened the lessons learned repository on a publically available website. The repository includes a broad range of contributions on lessons learned from the CGPCS community.

A set of interviews on the work of the CGPCS with core individuals have been published. Lessons learned essays from a group of international researchers, including from Kenya, China, Pakistan, France and Denmark, which analyse a specific dimension of the CGPCS in-depth are available.

The repository continues to grow and promises to become an invaluable source for understanding how the CGPCS works. Forcefully the Lessons Learned project shows how the

experimental and multi-layered approach of the CGPCS is novel in global governance. As a laboratory that delivers, the CGPCS performs a range of critical functions such as networking, trust and confidence building, awareness raising or mutual learning.

The Lessons Learned project continues to collect the experience of CGPCS participants and invites short comments and expressions of interest for an interview to be published in the "in conversation with..." series. The point of contact for this is Christian Bueger from Cardiff University who can be contacted via email at: BuegerCM@cardiff.ac.uk.

LESSONS FROM PIRACY

Capturing the Experience of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

CONTACT GROU ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMA

مجموعة الاتصال على الساحل الصومالي للبحر • Group de contact sur le littoral de la mer de Somalie • Grupo de Contacto sobre la Piratería frente a costas de Somalia • 日本海軍海上保安隊 索马里海盗问题研究小组 • 俄罗斯海军 索马里海盗问题研究小组

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"The Contact Group on piracy is unique. It is a laboratory for innovative multilateral governance to address complex international issues. The great thing is that it is delivering."

(2014 Chairman of the Contact Group, Maciej Popowski, EEAS)

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia is the core instrument by which the international community plans, coordinates and steers the fight against Somali piracy. It is the core nodal point of the large counter-piracy network and brings together and connects hundreds of actors, representing states, international organizations, industry associations, naval missions or counter-piracy projects.

The Lessons Learned Project

Recognizing how important the experience of the Contact Group is, the Lessons Learned Project follows up on a plenary decision and records the history of the group, captures its experience and extrapolates core lessons from its work.

This repository brings together the voices from the participants and stakeholders of the CGPCS. It also provides a range of analytic papers that demonstrate the importance of the CGPCS experience for scholarship and other fields of complex global governance. All stakeholders and participants are invited to contribute.

Screenshot from the Lessons From Piracy website developed by the CGPCS Lessons Learnt Consortium.

The website can be accessed at www.lessonsfrompiracy.net

“Sustained response to Somalia piracy requires effective State governance” - Mr Jeffrey Feltman, UN Political Chief

While noting the progress made to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia, the United Nations political chief today said that a sustained long-term solution must include the presence of effective Government and State institutions that provide basic services and alternative ways for people to make a living.

Briefing the Security Council on piracy off the coast of the east African nation on 22 October 2014, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr Jeffrey Feltman said that this multi-pronged approach may be “a daunting, but unavoidable task, for it will enable Somalia to effectively address, and ultimately defeat, piracy.” “State collapse in Somalia and other political challenges lie at the root of the problem,” Feltman said, adding that this was acknowledged in relevant Security Council resolutions, including the most recent resolution 2125 (2013).

Mr Feltman also introduced to the Council the Secretary-General’s report on piracy submitted pursuant to that resolution. Since the adoption of the first Security Council resolution on the matter in June 2008, some of the most urgent responses have revolved around the “twin axes of deterring pirate attacks and prosecuting and sanctioning of pirates,” he said. Coordinated efforts by Member States, organizations and the maritime industry have caused incidents of piracy reported off the coast of Somalia to drop to their lowest levels in recent years. Indeed, the last time a large commercial vessel was hijacked was more than two years ago.

However, Mr Feltman warns, that progress is in danger of reversing without continued deterrence from the international naval presence and the self-protection measures adopted by the shipping industry. “This progress is fragile and reversible. We still see pirates attempting to attack vessels and capture them for ransom,” Mr Feltman told the Council.



Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefs the Security Council at its meeting on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia. - Photo: UN

Counter-Piracy Trust Fund Board approves three projects worth \$900,000

The Board of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held its sixteenth meeting on 28 October 2014 in Dubai, as part of the 2014 UAE Counter-Piracy week.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sam Ibok, Director of Africa-1 Division in the Department of Political Affairs. Mr. Ibok noted that incidents of piracy off the coast of Somalia are at their lowest in seven years and he called for continued support of the international community to capitalise the Fund and bridge critical gaps in counter-piracy efforts.



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Board approved three projects worth \$900,000, which were submitted by FAO and UNODC. Two FAO projects seek to provide biometrics-based fishermen and vessels database system for the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Ports of Galmudug, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Jubbaland. A similar system will be provided to the “Somaliland” Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Development.

These systems will support monitoring control and surveillance of fisheries resources while at the same time providing important information for the counter piracy efforts.



The UNODC project will equip 80 at-risk youth in Bossaso with livelihood skills, deterring their involvement in piracy and violent activities and contributing to the economic development of their communities.

EUCAP Nestor Co-Hosts Maritime Crime Conference in Tanzania as well as hosting a visit of EU CIVCOM to its Djibouti HQ and its new offices in Mogadishu

The last few weeks have been very busy for EUCAP Nestor, the Maritime Security Capacity Building Mission of the European Union in the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean.

From 19 - 21 November, a Delegation of the EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management – CIVCOM – led by the Chair of CIVCOM Mika-Markus Leinonen, carried out a technical visit to EUCAP Nestor.



Delegates from EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) visit EUCAP Nestor Offices in Djibouti and Mogadishu as well as EU Naval Force Warship HNLMS Van Speijk- Photo: EUCAP Nestor

The aim of the visit was to provide the 16 Delegates from all over Europe with an overview of EUCAP Nestor's activities in the region.

EUCAP Nestor which has been active in the region since July 2012 and has its Headquarters in Djibouti, just recently expanded its activities into Somalia. Staff composed of legal, maritime and police experts, are now based permanently in Hargeisa and from next week in Mogadishu to carry out maritime security capacity building activities.

The Delegation first visited EUCAP Nestor HQ in Djibouti and met with representatives of the Partners of EUCAP Nestor in the Maritime sector as well as the Government. The Mission was welcomed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and had the opportunity for a technical discussion. They also visited EU Naval Force Warship HNLMS Van Speijk which was on a port visit to Djibouti.

The following day, they visited the new offices of the Mission in Hargeisa, Somaliland, and met with partners of the Mission from the Coast Guard, other relevant Ministries and high level Government Officials. From the 24 November, EUCAP Nestor maritime, legal and police experts are permanently deployed in Mogadishu. The Mission operational base is located in Mogadishu International Airport. This is the second mission field office now open in Somalia. Other EUCAP Nestor experts are already fully operational in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

In December, prosecutors from around the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean region gathered in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, for the Third Regional Conference of Prosecutors dealing with Piracy and other Maritime Crime. They were

joined by key international players working on capacity building. The event was co-hosted by the Tanzanian Director of Public Prosecution Office and EUCAP Nestor. The opening ceremony was attended by the Director of Public Prosecution (United Republic of Tanzania), Biswalo Eutropius Kachele Mganga, as well as the Head of the EU Delegation in Tanzania, Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi, and the Head of EUCAP Nestor, Etienne de Poncins.



Delegates from Third Regional Conference of Prosecutors dealing with Piracy and Maritime Crime held in Dar Es Salaam- Photo: EUCAP Nestor

EU Naval Force Operation Commander and IMO Secretary-General Warn No Room for Complacency Against Somali Piracy

The Operation Commander of the [EU Naval Force](#), Major General Martin Smith MBE, visited the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr Koji Sekimizu, at the IMO headquarters in London on Wednesday 26 November.

Meeting to discuss the current situation off the Horn of Africa, the two leaders agreed that Somali-based piracy remains a threat to international shipping, and agreed that there was no room for complacency where pirates are concerned. Naval forces are still very much required in the West Indian Ocean, and merchant ships should continue to apply IMO guidance and Best Management Practices with diligence.

To that end, Mr Sekimizu welcomed the extension of the EU's Operation Atalanta counter-piracy mandate to the end of 2016, which was announced in Brussels on 21 November.



EU Naval Force Operation Commander Major General Martin Smith (right) visited the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr Koji Sekimizu, to discuss the current situation off the Horn of Africa - Photo: EU Naval Force

NATO Continues Training of Somali Port Police

During November, Task Force 508 of NATO's counter-piracy [Operation OCEAN SHIELD](#) continued its effort to build regional capacity through two days of training Somali Boosaaso Port Police on board the flagship HDMS ESBERN SNARE.

This training built upon earlier efforts conducted since October, where Coast Guard personnel from the Galmudug Region on Somalia's east coast and other Boosaaso Port Police received similar training.

"With the first two groups, we were really breaking new ground, but now the feeling is more that of a continued effort," said the Commanding Officer of HDMS ESBERN SNARE, Commander s.g. Henrik Holck Rasmussen. "It points towards the long term goal of local Somali forces maintaining maritime security themselves."

The training programme was identical to the one completed by the first group of trainees from Boosaaso Port Police to ensure that the policemen have a homogeneous level of training. The programme included boarding operations, first aid, the legal basis for maritime law enforcement, and how to secure evidence for trials against maritime criminals.

This second group of trainees from the Boosaaso Port Police was distinct from the previous group by having a female participant. The NATO Gender Focal Point in Operation OCEAN SHIELD,

Commander Thorbjørn Hein, had a chance to talk with her. "She is in a leadership position on the force and is respected by her colleagues," said Commander Hein. "She is aware of her responsibility as a role model for other women in the region."

The graduation ceremony on board HDMS ESBERN SNARE was attended by the Puntland Minister of Marine Transport, Ports and Counter Piracy, Mr. Abdallah Jama Saleh, the Chief of the Boosaaso Port Police, Colonel Mohammad Ali Hashi, and Deputy Minister for Fishery and Marine Resource, Mr. Mohamud Mohamed Ali.

"What I have seen during these two days has impressed me," said Commander s.g. Rasmussen, as he handed out graduation certificates to the 17 trainees. "You are skilled, professional, and eager to learn. I wish you all the best and I hope that the next time we will not be training you, but we will conduct exercises together."



Members of Boosaaso Port Police conduct training with the crew of HDMS Esbern Snare the flagship of NATO CTF 508 Operation Ocean Shield - Photo: NATO

Thailand assumes command of CTF-151

Rear Admiral Pakorn Wanich of the Royal Thai Navy has assumed command of the [Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#) counter-piracy operations from Commodore Tony Millar, MNZM, Royal New Zealand Navy, at a ceremony in Bahrain on 25 November 2014. The ceremony marked Thailand's second command of Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151).

Commodore Millar, who has led CTF-151 since 28 August 2014, said:

"My team and I have mixed feelings at the end of our time in command of CTF-151. On one hand, we are very much looking forward to returning to home to our families and friends safe in the knowledge that we have made a positive difference in this important and dynamic region. However, we will be sad to leave the dedicated professionals at CMF who we have come to know as both colleagues and friends." Looking back on the achievements of the team, he added:

"I am delighted that this Kiwi command of CTF-151, supported by our Dutch, Japanese and Singaporean officers, has been a success. There have been no successful pirate attacks in the last four months thanks, in no small part, to the men and women involved in CTF-151's mission, from my headquarters team in Bahrain to the crews of the 12 ships and three Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft that we have worked with over the last four months. I also want to pay tribute to our colleagues

in NATO, the European Union Naval Force and the other independent deployers, with whom we are glad to share our success.

In closing he said that the threat had not gone away:

"There have been dozens of reports of suspicious behaviour which could easily have become pirate attacks, but our ships and aircraft were 'on the beat' to deter and defeat aggressors. We must not take our eye off the ball and allow these criminals to reassert themselves. Piracy remains a human tragedy. We would be failing the thirty hostages who are still illegally imprisoned following acts of piracy if we forgot that."



Commodore Tony Millar from the Royal New Zealand Navy hands over command of CTF-151 to Rear Admiral Pakorn Wanich from the Royal Thai Navy as Vice Admiral John W Miller, the US Navy's Fifth Fleet Commander and Commander of the Combined Maritime Forces, looks on - Photo: CMF