

# 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, Asia and the Americas, 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,

It was a pleasure to welcome you all in Seychelles last May on the occasion of the 19th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) under the theme "From the Region to the Region: Creating a Lasting Legacy".

I wish to thank you all for your input and valuable contribution in rendering the 19th session a successful one.

As you know, this Plenary Session afforded a regional state to host this important meeting. It was marked by intense and fruitful debates as shown in the final communiqué adopted on 3rd June 2016. This communiqué is a reflection of the outcome of the different recommendations tabled by each one of you through Working Groups as well as the overall decisions we took in regards to the future structure of our group.

A structure to which we agreed would operate with a gradual transition of the balance of effort in the fight against piracy to Somalia, the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden States and relevant Organizations.

In addition, we took note that piracy still exists and that it could re-emerge and so continued efforts need to be made in monitoring the threat whilst building regional capacity in close partnership with the International Community.

The region has already started to take its share of responsibility but we still need the International Community to maintain its effort until we attain a much higher level of maritime capability.

A consolidated report on the activities of the CGPCS as well as progress of this gradual transition strategy will be reviewed and discussed at the next plenary session to be held next year. The date and venue will be communicated to you in due course.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, for the confidence you have expressed for Seychelles in granting us a second mandate to serve as Chairman of the CGPCS for 2017.

Looking forward to see you all at our next gathering, I trust that I can continue counting on your support and ongoing involvement in the fight against piracy.

As this will be our last newsletter for this year I now take this opportunity to wish one and all my very best regards for the year remaining.

Yours sincerely

Joël Morgan  
CHAIRMAN



## 19TH CGPCS PLENARY SESSION

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) is here to stay, and Seychelles retains the chairmanship for 2017.

That was the outcome of the 19th plenary session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held at the International Conference Centre in Victoria, Republic of Seychelles, from 31st May to 3rd June 2016 under the Chairmanship of Seychelles. Several countries, notably Italy, Norway, India, China, UK, Australia, Germany and Kenya, made representations that Seychelles should remain as chair.

Noting the theme of the Chair, 'From the Region to the Region: Creating a Lasting Legacy', all members present commended the work of the Seychelles government to date and that of the Chair, Minister Joël Morgan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Transport, while as well encouraging more regional involvement and engagement.

Although pirate attacks in the region have subsided considerably, members of the group have agreed to preserve the work and the brand name. The Plenary took further note that there still were 42 persons being held hostage by pirate gangs, and that efforts to secure their earliest release possible should continue.

The head of CGPCS' Secretariat in Seychelles, Raymond St Ange, said a number of proposals were made on how to streamline the group, and these would be discussed at the next plenary session in 2017.

The Seychelles' archipelago (115 islands in the western Indian Ocean) has been on the forefront of the fight against piracy since 2005, when the scourge began expanding, adversely impacting the nation's tourism and fishing industries.

The Seychelles' Minister for Foreign Affairs and chair of the Contact Group, Joël Morgan, whilst noting the importance of the Blue Economy said at the closing ceremony that: "Stability and peace in the Indian Ocean are paramount, and while acts of piracy are indeed down, there is still much work to do."

Referring to the terrorist attack in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, end of May claiming 16 lives, Minister Morgan said Seychelles condemned the "callous attacks of terror" and such attacks strengthened CGPCS's resolve to end violence in the African country.

"Allow me to reiterate that as a group these attacks only serve to strengthen our resolve to end all forms of insecurity in Somalia," he said.

Minister Morgan added that "the plenary has highlighted the urgency for members of the international community to act together to not only support Somalia in this endeavour but to also ensure that security in all of its forms reigns supreme."

Somalia's Deputy Prime Minister, Mohamed Omar Arte, who participated in the Plenary, thanked Seychelles for its efforts and leadership in the fight against piracy.

"My government continues in its fight to end piracy, and that effort must not be spared to provide economic opportunities for the people of Somalia. Illegal fishing and combating those who exploited the natural resources within the EEZ of Somalia remain priorities for my government," said Mr. Arte, referring to the country's exclusive economic zone.

The statement continued in saying that some ships were not observing the best practices to ensure their safety, especially within areas of high risk and that: "Members agreed that the industry must continue to abide by best management practices within the high-risk area."

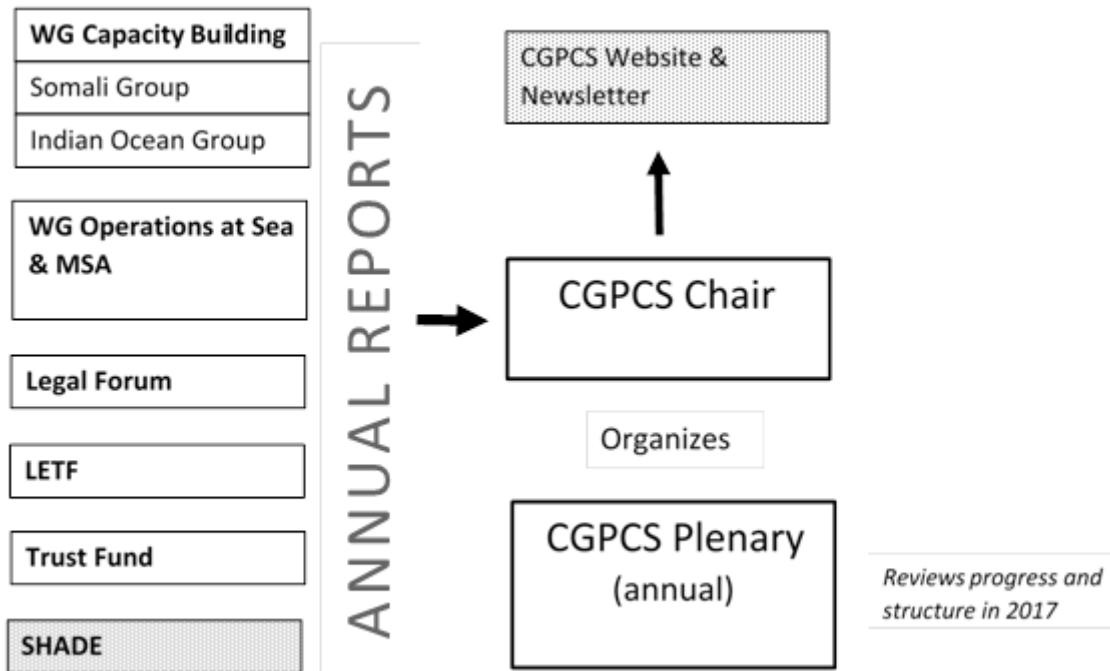
In attendance were the following countries, namely: Australia, China, Denmark, Djibouti, Germany, Greece, Egypt, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America. The Somali delegation included representatives from the Federal Government, Federal Member States and Somaliland.

In addition, other organizations, associations and industries were also present: African Union, BIMCO, Cardiff University, Combined Maritime Forces, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Danish Shipowners Association, East African Community (EAC), Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), European Union (EU) including EUCAP NESTOR and EU NAVFOR, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), INTERPOL, Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), International Maritime Organization (IMO), M & C Saatchi, NATO, Norwegian Shipowners Association, Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP), United Nations (UN), United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

All Seychellois former hostages, who at one time or another had been held captive by Somali pirates, were also invited by the chairman as special guests.



NEW CGPCS STRUCTURE



PIRACY

Japan extends Anti-Piracy Mission off Somalia for another year

Two Japanese destroyers and two maritime patrol aircraft will continue their anti-piracy mission into 2017. The announcement was made by the Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, that the Japanese government has extended Japan’s participation in a multinational counter-piracy mission in the Gulf of Yemen and off the coast of Somalia by another year.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) has participated in the so-called Combined Task Force 151 since its inception in 2009. Indeed, until recently, the multinational task force was led by JMSDF Rear Admiral Hiroshi Ito, who assumed command in June 2015.

It was the first time since the end of World War II that a Japanese naval officer commanded a multinational task force.

In order to facilitate Japan’s participation in the military mission, the Japanese government had to amend the country’s anti-piracy law. This so-called Anti-Piracy Measures Law also allows Japanese warships to escort foreign vessels.



### Last piracy case in Seychelles

The last group of suspected Somali pirates that remained on trial in Seychelles has been found guilty of piracy offences and sentenced to 12 years in prison by the Seychelles Supreme Court on 10th June 2016.

The five were convicted of two out of three counts of piracy brought against them by the prosecution - attacking a dhow and holding the Indian crew as hostages, as well as for using the dhow as a pirate ship to attack an oil tanker.

The offences were said to have been committed in the Gulf of Aden between January 1 and January 18, 2014.

The five suspected pirates were transferred to Seychelles on January 30, 2014 by French naval ship FS Siroco, which was part of the EU Naval Force, in collaboration with a Japanese air force plane.

Their transfer to the Indian Ocean island nation for prosecution was thanks to a pirate transfer agreement signed between EU and the Seychelles in December 2009.

The 12 year sentence imposed by the court which concludes the last piracy case was "a great victory for Seychelles and the international community."

No order for the five Somalis to be transferred to their homeland to serve their 12 year sentence was made at the end of the trial.

### Third Successful Conviction in 2016 of Armed Pirates who Terrorised Seafarers off the Coast of Somalia

The European Union's counter-piracy EU Naval Force has welcomed the conviction of twelve men in July 2016 after they were found guilty by the Mauritian Court of attempting to carry out an act of piracy against a merchant ship, MSC Jasmine, on 5 January 2013. They have all been sentenced to 5 years in prison.

This was the first piracy trial held by the Mauritian Court after a transfer agreement, that enables those suspected of committing an act of piracy off the coast of Somalia to be transferred to the island nation for prosecution, was signed between the European Union and the Mauritian Government in July 2011.

This follows another successful piracy conviction in April this year, when a French court sentenced six Somalis to between 6-5 years after they were found guilty of attacking the yacht, Tribal Kat, and the murder of its French skipper, in September 2011. After EU Naval Force warships, FGS Bayern and ESPS Galicia, intervened, the men were transferred to France for trial.

Speaking about the piracy convictions, including the one whereby the Seychellois Court in June 2016 found seven guilty of attacking the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, MV Nave Atropos, in the Gulf of Aden in January 2014, EU Naval Force's Operation Commander, Major General Rob Magowan CBE, said: "I very much welcome the ruling made by the Mauritian Court and the close cooperation with the EU Naval Force that helped to ensure a successful outcome.

These convictions send a clear message to pirates' intent on going out to sea to attack ships – EU Naval Force warships will not hesitate to find and apprehend them and transfer them for prosecution. The EU and counter-piracy partners remain committed to suppressing piracy to ensure seafarers and ships remain safe in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden."

The Mauritian Director of Public Prosecution, Mr Satyajit Boolell SC, commented: "We have played our part as a member of the regional and international communities' efforts in the fight against piracy. We have ensured that the pirates were given a fair trial, and they were represented by legal counsel throughout the trial. This has been a victory for the international community and the rule of law."

### Somalia: Piracy, Armed Robbery Off the Coast Falls Drastically

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) attributed the fall in piracy attacks to preventive measures deployed by the foreign warships to thwart such attacks.

"The combined efforts of the Navies in the region, along with the increased hardening of vessels and best management practices compliance, employment of privately contracted armed security personnel, and the stabilizing factor of the central government within Somalia have resulted in this positive sign," it said.

It however cautioned ship owners and Masters against complacency, warning that Somali pirates still have the capability and capacity to carry out attacks.

"The IMB believes that a single successful hijacking of a merchant vessel, will rekindle the Somali pirates' passion to resume its piracy efforts," says the IMB report which was compiled between January-June.

According to IMB, suspected Somali pirates continue to hold 29 crew members for ransom as of June 30.

## OCEANS BEYOND PIRACY (OBP)

The Oceans Beyond Piracy, Maritime Communications Initiative (MCI) has progressed with the next initial phases of expansion. The MCI is being built in support of the Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy (SMRSS) and is intended to expand maritime situational awareness in key areas on the Somali coast. The completion of the initial communication center in Berbera, was briefed at the Working Group One meeting in the Seychelles as an example of cooperation across implementing agencies including EUCAP Nestor and UNODC. The completion of the center was also aided by a generous donation from Taiwan. The next phase of the project will take place in Bosaaso, Somalia in the newly constructed Port Police and Ministry of Ports,

Marine Transport and Counter-Piracy building. A site survey was completed as

well as a series of discussions with stakeholders in Bosaaso, including the Port Police, the Ministry of Ports, Marine Transport and Counter Piracy and others.

The next phase of work is anticipated to begin in November, following the completion of the new Bosaaso Port Police and Ministry of Ports, Marine Transport and Counter-Piracy building being constructed by UNODC and UNOPS.



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

### [Update on the Law Enforcement Task Force \(LETF\)](#)

The Law Enforcement Task Force (LETF) is currently conducting an assessment on the status of investigations relating to the US Department of Justice list of 11 high value pirate leaders and financiers categorized into Tier 1 and Tier 2. The arrest of Mohamed Abdi Hassan (a.k.a. Afwayne) and Mohamed Aden (a.k.a. Tiiceey) by Belgium law enforcement authorities in October 2013 resulted in the prosecution of alleged pirate leaders. The indictments in the Seychelles Supreme Court for several pirate leaders including Abdukadir Mohamed (a.k.a. Afweyne's son) and Mohamed Garfanji provide the basis for Interpol notices that still remain valid. The Law Enforcement Task Force (LETF) plans to convene a

meeting of investigators to review the current status of investigations and revive interest to pursue indictments against the pirate leaders and financiers. The meeting will bring together investigators, experts both from UNODC and other agencies such as Interpol and US DOJ. The Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) of UNODC was designated by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) Plenary to be the Secretariat for the Law Enforcement Task Force (LETF).



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## INTERPOL

## Maritime Security Programmes

## East Africa – Gulf Of Aden

**Update of Critical Maritime Routes Law Enforcement Capacity Building in East Africa (CRIMLEA) activities:**

Delivery of two Maritime Investigation Kits to the Maritime Police Unit Mombasa

- On the 27th of June 2016 CRIMLEA project officer travelled on mission to Mombasa. The purpose of the mission was to deliver two Maritime Investigation Kits to the Maritime Police Unit Mombasa.
- The kits were well received by the head of Maritime Police Kenya at his office in the port of Mombasa. Discussions were also held on maritime crime priorities for Kenya. Kenyan counterparts highlighted the increase in drugs landing on the coast in the North of Kenya and the difficulty in Policing this area.
- The donated kits were subsequently demonstrated at training conducted by US NCIS on boat searching which took place from 4th to 7th of July 2016 in Mombasa.

Training of Somali Federal Police officers in Nairobi

- From 22nd to 26th August 2016, 17 Officers from the Somali Federal Police based at CID Mogadishu were trained in Investigative techniques in the INTERPOL Regional Bureau in Nairobi, Kenya. The five days training included theory and table top exercises.
- The training received very positive feedback and opened future avenues of cooperation. It is planned to train two more groups by March 2017.

Training on maritime crime scene investigation in Moroni, Comoros

- From the 22 to 26 of August, Project CRIMLEA trained 25 officers on maritime crime scene investigation in Moroni, Comoros. Officers came from different local units, namely Police, Coast Guards, Gendarmerie, Customs. . The five days training included theory and practical exercises. The practical exercises took place at the Port of Moroni.



As part of CRIMLEA phase I project launched in 2011 and funded by the European Union, eighteen Seychellois officers have learned new techniques in crime scene investigation and enhanced their knowledge of crime management on land and on vessels at sea during an eight day training workshop. Two batches of equipment were handed over to the Seychelles Police and the Seychelles Coast Guard during the presentation of certificates of completion to the eighteen officers.



Further training is expected to take place in Seychelles as CRIMLEA phase II comes into place.

## EVEXI

### Update of Evidence Exploitation Initiative (EVEXI) activities

- Case coordination meeting with Marine Police Unit in Dar Es Salaam in June, resulted in sharing of Modus Operandi in drugs concealment methods and vital information of current status and priorities for the Marine Police.
- Participation at the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) in August in Kigali, where Police Chiefs gave their support to the Project.



## MASE

### Update of Maritime Security (MASE) activities

In August 2016 the Project Manager of MASE/COMESA Project went on a fact-finding mission in both Mauritius and Seychelles where he met with representatives from all competent local authorities tackling with the money laundering and terrorism financing phenomenon. The counterparts were informed about the specifics of the whole MASE Program and the training and capacity building the competent authorities could receive within this framework, and benefit from. At the same time, he also met with the Police Commissioners, listened to their ideas and expectations and briefed them in detail about the activities to follow.

### Hostage debriefing initiative

Following the new and detailed information produced on all aspects of piracy off the coast of Somalia and the analytical packages on the Indian aspect of the debriefing, INTERPOL is now in the process of implementing phase 2, with the aim to interview seafarers from other South East Asian countries who were kidnapped and held hostage by Somali pirates.

### Route Programme on Cocaine and identifying transit corridor

The CGPCS Secretariat as well as the Administrative Director of the Anti-Piracy Unit met with Dr. Sasha Jespersen, Research Fellow, National Security and Resilience of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) and Ms Cathy Haenlein, Research Analyst, National Security and Resilience of RUSI on 12th September 2016. The RUSI representatives were in Seychelles on an EU Cocaine Route Programme and are undertaking a study on the different forms of organized crime, particularly criminal networks in order that EU can better improve/value their response. The discussion centred on how Seychelles is supporting efforts to combat illegal activity, i.e. drug smuggling, IUU fishing, smuggling, human trafficking etc.

## CRIMARIO

At the request of the Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration (SMSA) a five-member team conducted a two-day oil spill exercise in Seychelles in September. The exercise falls under the EU CRIMARIO project.



Mr. Oliver Bézier, who was among the team that conducted the exercise said that the Indian Ocean is one of the critical maritime routes for EU products. "This is where our oil and manufactured goods are transiting from west to east and east to west. That is why we pay particular attention to the region in terms of security and safety" he said.

Mr. Bézier further said that EU CRIMARIO project places a lot of emphasis on inter-agency collaboration and sharing of information.

**Working Group 1**

With the establishment of the Maritime Security Coordination Committee (MSCC), the last CG Plenary in Seychelles recommended that the Working Group 1 be reconfigured to deliver a streamlined and sustainable approach to capacity building, reflecting the desire for greater ownership from the Somalis, and reflecting the CGPCS strategic direction for enhanced Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden region leadership. Reconfiguration will entail supported transition of WG1 work to the two following bodies: the Somali focused Group and the Indian Ocean region focused Group. It was also agreed to review the Working Group on capacity building so that Somalia should provide a representative to provide linkage between the Regional Group and the Somali focussed capacity building discussions that will take place in the MSCC.

The current co-chairs (UK and IOC) are actively working with Kenya to formally handing over chairmanship to Kenya to replace UK. A meeting is thus planned to be held before the end of the year to discuss the specifics of membership of the Regional Group involving the Regional Countries such as Tanzania, Djibouti, Mauritius, Seychelles, Kenya and the International Community such as IMO, UNODC, EEAS, FAO, EU NAVFOR, IGAD, Turkey, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, UAE, Japan, USA, Italy, Denmark, France, China, India, Russia.

**IOC****New Secretary General at the head of the IOC - Results****4 and 5 shifts into higher gears**

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), one of the four implementing organizations of the Maritime Security Programme (MASE) funded by the European Union has a new Secretary-General (SG). Comorian national Madi Hamada, took office, on July 16th from his predecessor Jean Claude de l'Estrac.

Mr. Hamada, former Minister of Defence, takes over the helms of IOC at a cusp moment for Results 4 and 5 of MASE

programme, which the IOC has been mandated to implement. Practically all the ground works, namely legal documents such as the Agreements on Exchange of information and on operational coordination at sea and the host country agreement and training have been laid out for approval by the Island and Coastal States and the focus is now on operationalization of the two regional centres stemming from these two Results.

The Regional Maritime Centre for Fusion of Maritime Information (RMIFC) and the Regional Maritime Centre for Operational Coordination (RMCOC) are on the point of getting off the grounds. RMIFC which will be based in Antananarivo, the capital-city of Madagascar, has entered in a soft-opening phase as it is operating with a core staff who are



producing reports and trying out various tools of fusion of information. For its part, the RMCOC which will be based in Victoria, the capital-city of Seychelles, is also in pre-operational phase, the host country having already designated its director, identified the building that will house this facility and are finalizing its operational plans. Both centres represent a powerful tool for the region for the knowledge of the maritime situation and regional ownership mechanism of maritime security, the core of MASE activity.

The IOC is working with the nine coastal and island States of the Eastern and Southern African and the Indian Ocean Region to identify the International Liaison Officers (ILOs) who will represent their respective country in the two regional centres. The tripartite partnership between MASE, CRIMARIO and EUNAVFOR is proving to be instrumental in the take-off of the two centres with CRIMARIO providing training in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) for the ILOs who will be based in the RMIFC and EUNAVFOR assisting RMCOC.

**Adieu to Jacques Belle**

As this newsletter makes its rounds for October 2016, it is important to note that Mr. Jacques Belle, currently Deputy Head of the CGPCS Secretariat, will be leaving us on the 1st of December 2016. Jacques will be taking on a diplomatic posting at the Seychelles Embassy in the United Arab Emirates.

It has been a pleasure working with Jacques, setting up the secretariat after handover from the EU, this in September

2015 and working to support the work of the Contact Group since. Our first major task was coordinating the CGPCS Strategy Meeting held in Mumbai on 1st February 2016 and of course the 19th CGPCS Plenary which was successfully held in Victoria, Seychelles from the 31st of May – 3rd of June 2016. On behalf of Renette Nicette our administrator/coordinator and myself, I wish Jacques all the best in his new assignment.

Adieu Jacques - stay well. Certain you will keep the good work at the Seychelles Mission in the UAE!

Raymond St Ange  
Head CGPCS Secretariat