



Master Message Seychelles 2017 CGPCS Presidency

1. The Government of Seychelles has welcomed the support by the CGPCS Participants at the 19th Plenary to continue on as Chair for the group in 2017. To that end resolves itself to remain fully engaged throughout so that what has been achieved to date by the CGPCS leaves a lasting and positive legacy within the region.

2. The Seychelles Chair will be in conformity with the following main outcomes of the 19th Plenary session held in Seychelles 31st May to 3rd June 2016:
 - i. Piracy is not yet fully eradicated and could return and hence the need for CGPCS to continue its activities and remain engaged;
 - ii. Orientation of the Contact Group (CG) for a gradual transition of the balance of effort in the fight against piracy to Somalia and the Indian Ocean States and Organizations;
 - iii. Adoption and implementation of a new CGPCS Structure with reference to the various Working groups which would be streamlined, transferred to more active groups with the continuous support of existing regional programs such as MASE and UNODC related projects;
 - iv. Revision of the CGPCS Trust Fund Board Members for 2016-17 and activities taking into consideration the “Strategic Review of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States, Countering Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia; and

- v. A plenary meeting will be convened in 2017 to review the consolidated report and the progress of the transition strategy at a date and place recommended and agreed upon by members.
3. The Seychelles CGPCS Presidency Agenda will continue to give priority to the aspirations and needs of the region. Seychelles Chair will intensify consultations with its regional neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region, Eastern Africa, Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden, and with international partners, so to better address their opinions, views and expectations of the whole CGPCS community. Seychelles as chair will continue to support and motivate an approach that recognises regional concerns so that any forward agenda takes into consideration those same concerns.
4. The Seychelles as chair is supportive of an approach that sees that the brand and achievements of the CGPCS is not lost or compromised as continued progress is made against piracy in the Western Indian Ocean.
5. The Seychelles Chair aims - in line with the recently adopted African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development (also known as Lomé Charter) and in partnership with the private sector - **supports the further development of the Blue Economy** in order to provide jobs and economic opportunities for the Region as it recognises that jobs and economic opportunities are key to stability on land and on the seas.
6. To that end, Seychelles as chair for 2017 notes its chosen theme, **“Leaving a Lasting Legacy for the Region”** which further builds on regional support, participation, and close collaboration with stakeholders and international partners.