

**MARITIME SECURITY COORDINATION
COMMITTEE
PROTOCOLS OF OPERATION**



Introduction

1. The Maritime Security Coordination Committee (MSCC) is the Somali instrument to facilitate cooperation and maritime security development between the FGS' National Maritime Coordination Committee (NMCC), the Somali Regions Maritime Coordination Committees (MCC) (including Puntland, Galmudug, Juba Interim Administration (JIA) and future regional administrations), and with Somaliland's Counter Piracy Programme. The forum is an important mechanism for information sharing and cooperation to optimize the implementation of counter piracy and maritime security capacity building programs. The Committee will endeavour to minimize duplication, identify gaps and improve efficiencies in the maritime sector.
2. The Somali people face huge challenges in fighting transnational maritime crime such as illegal fishing, drug trafficking, toxic waste dumping, human trafficking, the illicit flow of weapons, and wildlife crime including the export of charcoal which fuels the coffers of Al-Shabaab. The effective administration of Somali waters will require cooperation between all Somali administrations and an increase in maritime capacity, accompanied by mechanisms to determine the governance of activities and resources, as well as mutual responsibilities. This should apply to both the sea and adjacent coastal areas.
3. The need for Somali maritime governance was specifically identified during the 17th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) in October 2014. Current responsibility for maritime security is shared across a number of ministries both at federal level and regional level. Therefore a number of functional areas are competing for limited donor funding and maritime security assets. To bring dialogue and ensure that the correct priorities are established and monitored, we need to quickly convene the MSCC to provide leadership and bring all the necessary parties together to establish Somali maritime governance and prioritize the maritime security forces.
4. To meet these challenges and in accordance with the Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy (SMRSS), the MSCC will foster cooperation and coordination in defining policy objectives as well as establishing and implementing laws, regulations, plans and governmental infrastructure to achieve national maritime security objectives. The FGS and all the regional administrations as well as Somaliland agree to get mutual protection and development of our maritime domain by putting aside our political differences. The CGPCS and our international donors support our objective in getting a common coordination and cooperation platform. Effective Somali maritime governance would attract capital, encourage growth and help the country improve the livelihood and security of our people.
5. The desired outcome of the MSCC is to enable seamless implementation of the MRSS across the full Somali maritime spectrum and effective coordination of developmental funding, with a view to avoid duplication of effort and delays in matching ends to needs.



Membership

6. The MSCC will comprise the FGS, Somali Regions to include Puntland, Galmudug, Jubbaland and future regional administrations, and Somaliland. Specific members of the international community will include the UN, EU, IGAD, US and UK (Chair of Capacity Building Working Group under CGPCS) as well as a Secretariat to consist of EUCAP Nestor, UNODC/OBP and UNSOM. These agencies will engage with other international stakeholders such as Japan, Qatar, Turkey, UAE and member states of the European Union to facilitate bilateral and donor assistance for specific projects.
7. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) will be headed and represented by NSA. The different Ministries taking part in the NMCC are consisting of:
 - (1) NMCC and its Chair NSA
 - (2) DG, Ministry of National Security
 - (3) DG, Ministry of Defence
 - (4) DG, Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport
 - (5) DG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
 - (6) DG, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
 - (7) DG, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
8. Somali regional administrations will be represented by the Counter Piracy Focal Points representing their Counter Piracy Committees.
9. Somaliland will be represented by the Somaliland Counter Piracy Programme (CPC Office) representing their Counter Piracy Committees.

Responsibilities

10. In general, the MSCC shall be Somali instrument for steering implementation of the MRSS and maritime policy development. It will monitor development and progress under each aspect envisaged in the MRSS. It shall also coordinate donor effort and ensure effective channelization of funds to developmental needs. Prioritization of the funding effort will also form part of its overall charter. The MSCC shall specifically be responsible for:
 - a. Monitoring security of Somali maritime resources and examine ways and means to ensure continuing security of the same, including development of structures, forces and facilities, therein.
 - b. Facilitate and monitor assessment of renewable and non-renewable natural resource availability and aid development of capacity to access and utilize these resources, towards generating national revenue.



- c. Progress reforms in maritime security, law enforcement agencies, safety at sea, response and recovery aspects, search and rescue (SAR), including training, recruiting, outfitting, etc.
- d. Establish and monitor progress of maritime governance structures.
- e. Development of essential maritime infrastructure, to include ports, customs, immigration, licensing, fishing, etc.

11. In particular, the MSCC will:

- a. Assist with the designing, planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of renewable and non-renewable maritime resources in accordance with the short, medium and long-term visions of the MRSS.
- b. Facilitate the mobilization and coordination of resources to develop, equip, train and sustain the Somali maritime security forces;
- c. Provide or request expertise to assist with certain specialist areas of maritime development. The MSCC may convene sub working groups based on the MRSS annexes to progress specialised areas.

Reporting

12. The MSCC will report six-monthly to the CGPCS WG on Capacity Building and provide a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the MSCC.

Decision Making

13. Decisions will be unanimously taken among participants and agreement achieved by consensus. The meetings will be facilitated by the Secretariat.

Frequency of Meetings

14. The MSCC will meet quarterly or more frequently if unanimously deemed appropriate by the members. The meetings can take place anywhere within the region at the convenience of the members.

Review of Terms of Reference

15. The Protocol of Cooperation "Terms of Reference" will be reviewed at least twice per year.

