

COUNCIL
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Agenda item 12

C 114/12
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PROTECTION OF VITAL SHIPPING LANES

Piracy and armed robbery against ships

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on developments, since C 113, regarding the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea and in waters off the coast of Somalia
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	6.2, 6.3
<i>High-level action:</i>	6.2.3, 6.2.4
<i>Planned output:</i>	6.2.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 10
<i>Related document:</i>	C113/D, section 10

Reports of incidents

1 Reports of actual and attempted attacks by pirates and armed robbers are promulgated via IMO's Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) (<http://gisis.imo.org>), which is free for use by Member States and registered public users. Users can compile their own customized reports, and the Secretariat recently developed a guidance manual which will be made available on the piracy and armed robbery module in GISIS to assist users in that process. The manual outlines, inter alia, the search filters to be used to compile reports that distinguish between piracy and armed robbery, as well as between attempted and committed attacks.

2 The annual summary report for 2014 on acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships (MSC.4/Circ.219) is now available on IMODOCS.

3 In order to enhance the quality of the information provided by GISIS, Member States are urged to provide as much information as possible directly to the Secretariat at marsec@imo.org, using the IMO reporting format in MSC.1/Circ.1333, appendix 5, or in the Best Management Practices (MSC.1/Circ.1339).

The Gulf of Guinea

4 Information of relevance to the implementation of resolution A.1069(28) on *Prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea*, including updates on Secretariat activities and details of the current strategy for addressing piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea are promulgated on the IMO website and may be found at: <http://www.imo.org/OurWork/Security/WestAfrica/Pages/WestAfrica.aspx>.

5 The Secretary-General is pleased to acknowledge, with thanks, the generous contributions of Angola, China, Japan, Nigeria, Norway and the United Kingdom to the IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund.

Waters off the coast of Somalia

6 No successful attacks against ships in the waters off the coast of Somalia have been reported to the Organization since C 113.

7 With the closing of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) on 31 March of this year, responsibility for IMO's ongoing support to implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) now resides with the Subdivision for Maritime Security and Facilitation. The Secretary-General would like to acknowledge with thanks the past contributions of Denmark, France, Japan, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia to the DCoC Trust Fund and would welcome further donations to enable IMO to continue its capacity building in support of implementation of the DCoC.

8 With respect to Somalia, a number of other major programmes implemented by development partners have focused on improving the security situation ashore and other initiatives outside of IMO's competence. The Secretariat's main focus is to complement these important initiatives by helping to develop the maritime sector, through mainstream capacity building under the auspices of the Technical Cooperation Division, with a view to creating sustainable employment opportunities as an alternative to piracy.

9 A verbal briefing on the latest situation and progress made in the Gulf of Guinea and in waters off the coast of Somalia will be given to the Council during its consideration of this agenda item.

Action requested of the Council

10 The Council is invited to take note of the information contained in this document and comment as appropriate.