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Agenda item 13

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PROTECTION OF VITAL SHIPPING LANES

Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on developments, since C 109, regarding the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia and the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct

Strategic direction: 6.2/6.3

High-level action: 6.2.3/6.2.4

Planned output: 6.2.2.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 11

Related documents: C 109/10 and C 109/D, section 10

Main developments on piracy off the coast of Somalia

1 In the first five months of 2013, there were no successful attacks against ships in the waters off the coast of Somalia. As of 10 May 2013, 28 people and one commercial vessel were being held hostage.

2 The reduction in numbers of attacks can be attributed to efforts both ashore in Somalia and through disruption to the pirates' business model. The reduction in the proportion of attacks being successful was achieved through a combination of actions by naval forces to disrupt pirate operations, improved implementation of IMO guidance and industry-developed Best Management Practices, and action by the Federal Government of Somalia and regional authorities ashore.

Implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct

3 Since C 109, the Secretariat and, in particular, the Djibouti Code of Conduct Project Implementation Unit (established under MSD in April 2010 and reassigned to the Office of the Secretary-General in January 2013, and funded through the Djibouti Code Trust Fund) have



continued to deliver training on all aspects of the Code in the region, including information sharing, drafting national legislation, inter-agency cooperation, countering piracy and law enforcement operations at sea. Many of the training activities were delivered or coordinated through the Djibouti Regional Training Centre, and in cooperation with NATO for the delivery of operational boarding and evidence gathering training. A similar partnership with the Saudi Arabia Border Guards Academy will see the first training course under the Djibouti Code of Conduct taking place Saudi Arabia in June 2013.

4 The information-sharing centres (ISCs) in Sana'a, Mombasa and Dar es Salaam have continued to link all 20 Djibouti Code signatory States through the web-based information exchange network. Further work to improve maritime situational awareness for the region, including reporting on dhow movements, continues in partnership with the international navies. Increasingly, the information sharing network is becoming the backbone of information exchange for at-sea operational exercises to counter piracy.

5 A combined coastal radar and AIS system was delivered in partnership with the United States to the United Republic of Tanzania, providing an integrated coastal picture to both the ISC/MRCC (IMO) and the Tanzanian Naval Forces (United States). Similar programmes to assist States to both manage resources and enforce their national laws within their maritime zones are planned in other regional States.

6 Further capacity-building missions have been conducted in the Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania to meet individual needs to help suppress piracy and armed robbery against ships.

IMO support in developing a sustainable maritime sector for Somalia

7 The Secretariat has continued to collaborate with the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in order to support the sustainable development of the Somali maritime sector, the creation of alternative livelihoods to piracy, and the protection and management of Somalia's maritime resources.

8 The Secretariat has continued to assist, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, the Somali Federal Government and the regional authorities of Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug, through the "Kampala Process", to progress the development of the Somali National Maritime Resource Security Strategy. To this end, the Secretariat participated in workshops held in Seychelles in November 2012 and Addis Ababa in March 2013, and helped review and improve national legislation to enact the provisions of UNCLOS, work that, inter alia, now allows Somalia to move forward to declare its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This work is ongoing and further Kampala Process meetings are planned during 2013.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

9 Since C 109, the Organization has continued to contribute to the activities of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), established in January 2009 in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1851 (2008), and of its five working groups.

Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council

10 Since C 109, the United Nations Security Council has adopted (see United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>):

- .1 on 21 November 2012, resolution 2077 (2012), which, inter alia: urged Somalia, regional States and international organizations to maintain their efforts to reduce piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia;
- .2 on 6 March 2013 resolution 2093 (2013), which, inter alia: authorized the Member States of the African Union (AU) to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 28 February 2014; and
- .3 on 2 May 2013, resolution 2102 (2013), which, inter alia: established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) by 3 June 2013, under the leadership of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), for an initial period of twelve months with the intention to renew for further periods as appropriate.

Action requested of the Council

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