

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

**Inputs for the next Report of the Secretary-General
on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
June 2023 (September 2022-August 2023)**

OP36. Recognizes the considerable need to provide sustained capacity-building assistance, including on financial and technical aspects, by relevant international organizations and donors to developing States, with a view to further strengthening their capacity to take effective measures against the multiple facets of international criminal activities at sea, in line with the relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

OP149. Recognizes the primary responsibility of the Federal Government of Somalia in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the situation in Somalia, and emphasizes the need to address the underlying causes of piracy and to assist Somalia and States in the region, at their request, in strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy and tackle its underlying causes, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and to bring to justice those invol} naaoaso y

- ◁ The second bill authorizes Togo's accession to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. By joining this convention, Togo promotes the development of industrial tuna fishing, which serves as a significant source of revenue through foreign currency inflows. This accession contributes to the strengthening of international cooperation in marine fishing for sustainable resource management, and the fight against illegal fishing.

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OP138. Notes with concern that **piracy and armed robbery at sea** affect a wide range of vessels engaged in maritime activities, and expresses grave concern at the threats posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons;

OP 155. Expresses its deep concern at the continuing incidents **of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea**, in particular violence against innocent crew members of vessels, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 2018 (2011) of 31 October 2011, 2039 (2012) of 29 February 2012 and 2634 (2022) of 31 May 2022 and the statement by the President of the Council of 25 April 2016, 68 supports the recent efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, including the adoption of resolution MSC.489(103) on recommended action to address piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization at its 103rd session,⁶⁹ recalls the primary role of States in the region to counter the threat and address the underlying causes of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, welcomes the adoption in Yaoundé on 25 June 2013 of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, and calls upon States in the region to implement the Code of Conduct as soon as possible and consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

- ◁ With three piracy incidents reported during the period under review, instances of piracy in the maritime domain of the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) have remained relatively low. Nonetheless, ships were advised to continue adopting enhanced safety measures when operating or transiting in the Gulf of Guinea. Of note, armed robbery at sea continues to threaten the security of ships in the anchorage areas and

- ◁ [There are multiple causes to maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea, including grievances stemming from poverty, underemployment and lack of access to public services, among others, creating an environment conducive for piracy and armed robbery at sea. Environmental degradation and the impact of climate change must also be taken into consideration. A climate security project run by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) has revealed that Central African' coastline, with both densely populated cities (Douala, Luanda, etc.) and numerous fishing communities, is set to suffer from the wide-reaching impacts of rapid sea-level rise, significant coastal erosion, caused and exacerbated by climate change. Moreover, warmer temperatures in the sea – again due to climate change – has changed the fish migration patterns and has led to a significant decline of annual landed value of fish in coastal countries on the Gulf of Guinea. This again supports the notion that environmental shocks are among the causes of the rise in maritime piracy, since it leaves local communities without enough resources, pushing them into criminal alternatives. Community-based prevention efforts, therefore, must take this element into account.]

PP36. Noting with concern the continuing problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea, including **illicit traffic in narcotic drugs** and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, and threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

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OP163. Recognizes the importance of enhancing international cooperation at all levels to fight transnational organized criminal activities, including **illicit traffic in narcotic drugs** and psychotropic substances, within the scope of the United Nations instruments against illicit drug trafficking, as well as the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms and criminal activities at sea falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

- ◁ With regard to drug trafficking at sea, the Gulf of Guinea continues to be a major transit point between South America and Europe. From November 2022 to April 2023, 11.6 tons of cocaine were seized by national and international navies in the ECOWAS maritime domain.

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OP160. Emphasizes the progress in regional cooperation, including the efforts of littoral States, on the enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the effective functioning of the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Cooperative Mechanism) to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, shipping industries and other stakeholders in line with article 43 of the Convention, notes with appreciation the convening of the thirteenth Cooperation Forum in Malaysia and by videoconference on

States to give immediate attention to **adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;**

Western Africa

- ◁ On 26 October 2022, in Praia, the ECOWAS Commission and the Government of Cabo Verde signed the headquarters agreement on the establishment of the Maritime Multinational Coordination Centre (MMCC) Zone G, as part of the operationalization of the Yaoundé Maritime Safety and Security Architecture of the Gulf of Guinea. This agreement will facilitate the full operationalization of the MMCCs in the ECOWAS maritime space, which has a total of three MMCCs (Zone E in Cotonou, Zone F in Accra and Zone G in Praia). On 5 May 2023, Navy Captain Seydina Djibril Mbengue (Senegal) was appointed as Director of MMCC in Praia.
- ◁ On 25 April 2023, a ceremony took place to launch joint maritime patrols in Zone G, as part of the operationalization of the Yaoundé Maritime Safety and Security Architecture of the Gulf of Guinea. The objective of the joint maritime patrols is to pool the resources of member States and ensure interoperability of maritime assets. Additionally, it aims to establish and assess standard operational procedures and secure the maritime areas within the zone. Joint naval patrols allow for a wide range of naval tasks, including energy security, countering piracy and illicit trafficking, and combating IUU fishing.
- ◁ On 25 April 2023, in Accra, the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) held its 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to appoint new members to its Executive Secretariat. The leaders discussed ways to promote inter-regional maritime trade and strengthen its role in maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. Member States of the GGC were urged to remit their outstanding annual assessed contributions to the Secretariat as to enable the Commission to effectively address maritime challenges in the region.

XVI Coordination and cooperation

OP379. Encourages States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues

the Gulf of Guinea and other partners