

**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 2021**

General Assembly resolution [75/239](#)

VIII Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

OP119. Notes the themes for the 2019 and 2020 World Maritime Day, “Empowering women in the maritime community” and “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet”, respectively;

Coast of East Africa

The UN

According to the International Maritime Bureau, the Gulf of Guinea accounted for 95 percent of the 135 kidnappings of crew members in 2020 globally.

Between January and March 2021, the Inter-regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea based in Yaoundé recorded 20 security incidents in the Gulf of Guinea compared to 45 incidents in the previous quarter, indicating a sharp decrease of about 55 percent. However, a total of 40 crew members were kidnapped by pirates in three incidents during the period, an increase compared to the 31 seafarers abducted during the previous quarter.

Coast of East Africa

From 15 to 18 March, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held public hearings in the case concerning Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya). Kenya confirmed its decision not to participate in the oral proceedings and instead to submit written evidence. The Court's deliberation commenced after the conclusion of the hearing. The Somalia Maritime Administration (SMA) made significant progress in strengthening

DOALOS/OLA involving 20 participants from FGS and FMS maritime authorities and academia.

VIII Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

OP154. 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 twelfth Cooperation Forum, in Indonesia on 30 September and 1 October 2019, the twelfth Project Coordination Committee Meeting, in Indonesia on 4 October 2019, the forty-fourth Tripartite Technical Experts Group Meeting in Indonesia on 2 and 3 October 2019 and the twenty-second and twenty-third Aids to Navigation Fund Committee Meetings, in Malaysia on 25 and 26 April 2019 and on 26 and 27 September 2019, notes with appreciation the important role of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;

Coast of East Africa

On 24 September 2020, UNSOM supported a high-level one-day conference in observance of World Maritime Day 2020 organized by the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport (MPMT), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Species and Ministry of Health, under the theme ‘Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet’. Fifty participants from a range of maritime stakeholders, including civil society organizations, coastal community and academia, attended the event, which was also joined virtually by FMS officials and representatives of the international community. The event addressed women’s representation and role in the shipping industry, and highlighted the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the maritime sector, with participants collectively stressing the need for increased coordination and interagency approach to address challenges and climate related risks concerning maritime transport, navigational safety, protection of the marine environment, and maritime security and safety.

IX Marine environment and marine resources

OP200. Acknowledges the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 2/10 of 27 May 2016, to the United Nations Environment Programme to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling intersectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;¹

Coast of East Africa

During the reporting period, UNSOM supported the revitalization of the National Maritime Coordination Committee (NMCC), the highest inter-ministerial decision-making body for Somalia on maritime affairs, under the auspices of Special Envoy of the President of

¹ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25), annex.

On 18 March 2021, the Special Representatives of UNOWAS and UNOCA facilitated a virtual high-level meeting on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, attended by the Presidents of the ECCAS and ECOWAS Commissions and the Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission. The meeting was a timely opportunity to review key challenges facing regional coordination mechanisms on maritime security and paved the way for enhanced collaboration and cooperation.

During the virtual meeting, participants agreed collectively on the need to establish a plan to support the functioning and operationalization of regional coordination mechanisms on maritime security, to convene the Fourth Annual Meeting of Heads of Institutions of the Inter-regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea , to undertake joint high-level advocacy missions to Member States, and to intensify joint advocacy with international partners in order to address the challenges to peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea. In addition, the UN Peace Building Commission will convene a meeting on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea in June to further advocate for enhanced international commitment and support to national and regional efforts to strengthen maritime security in the region.