

## FINAL STATEMENT

### - SECOND HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC-PRIVATE COUNTER-PIRACY CONFERENCE-

#### 'A REGIONAL RESPONSE TO MARITIME PIRACY: ENHANCING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AND STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT'

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

28 JUNE 2012

The participants present at the United Arab Emirates second high-level, public private counter-piracy conference, 'A Regional Response to Maritime Piracy: Enhancing Public Private Partnership and Strengthening Global Engagement', consisting of states, international organizations, and representatives of the global maritime industry, agreed to the following points:

#### **Ongoing Threat**

Participants expressed their ongoing concern at the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia, which is a crime subject to universal jurisdiction. In particular, Conference participants recognized:

- a. Maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea continues to pose a grave threat to the peace, security, and prosperity of Somalia, the region, and the world.
- b. Piracy continues to pose a serious threat to the freedom of navigation, and undermines the economic livelihood of the maritime region.
- c. Participants noted that in the first six months of 2012 a total of 67 attacks had been made against vessels off the Coast of Somalia, including 13 successful hijackings.
- d. Participants also expressed their profound concern at the humanitarian impact of maritime piracy on captured seafarers and their families. In this respect, participants recognized that 185 seafarers remain in captivity, and 13 vessels still held, by Somali pirates.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Vision for Somalia**

Participants recognized the vision for post-transition Somalia acknowledged by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and by the Somali local authorities of Galmudug, Puntland, and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, and Somalia civil society and other stakeholders.

This vision is of a Somalia that is able to ensure peace, security and prosperity for all its citizens; that is able to ensure the rule of law on land and at sea, through the effective governance of territorial waters and maintenance of maritime safety and security, and the eradication of illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping in Somali waters; and a country fully reconnected to the region's maritime trade.

Participants recognized that there can be no long-term solution to piracy off the coast of Somalia without a long-term regional and global solution able to address the root causes of piracy in Somalia, which would successfully stabilize Somalia, promote good governance and the rule of law, and foster socio-economic development into a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach.

#### **Somalia Progress**

In this respect, participants:

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<sup>1</sup> Figures for paragraphs c) and d) valid until 25 June 2012, as drawn from the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

- a. Commended the historic advances towards delivering a new political dispensation, in particular the progress made by Somali parties on the Roadmap, with a new Parliament and Government by 20 August 2012, and emphasized the importance of those institutions coming to fruition through a more representative, transparent and legitimate process. Participants further underlined their support for the 'Kampala Process', which supports effective dialogue and coordination between Somali authorities, recognized the achievements of the subsequent meetings and commended the Somali signatories' commitment to ending the transition in August.
- b. Welcomed the presentation of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, to the UAE Counter-Piracy Conference, reflecting the commitment by Somalia at the highest level to countering piracy off its coasts.
- c. Recognized the work of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in continuing to support the political process in Somalia, and the work of the International Contact Group on Somalia and welcomed its upcoming meeting in Rome, 2-3 July 2012.
- d. Commended increasing leadership asserted by states within the region directly affected by piracy, in the recognition that only regionally-led and owned solutions can be sustainable in the long-term. In this regard, participants commended the government of the United Arab Emirates in convening the second, high-level, public-private counter-piracy conference, in Dubai in June 2012.

#### **Progress on Land and at Sea**

Participants also recognized the significant progress made in countering piracy on land and at sea since the first UAE high-level public-private counter-piracy conference, held in Dubai, in April 2011.

- a. Participants commended the significant gains made by the Somali and AMISOM forces in restoring peace and security on the ground in Somalia. Their role in combating *Al Shabaab* forces and underpinning a constantly improving security situation in the country, especially in Mogadishu, has provided Somalia and its international partners with a historic opportunity for a long-term move toward stability, effective governance, and economic development in the country.
- b. Participants acknowledged the efforts of the Somalia regional and local authorities – including Galmudug, Puntland, and Somaliland – to disrupt piracy activities, in cooperation with international naval forces, and encouraged international partners to assist local counter-piracy initiatives and coastal economic development.
- c. Participants commended the efforts made by Combined Maritime Force, EUNAVFOR, NATO, and other international naval forces to counter piracy on and off the coast of Somalia. Participants also welcomed the extension of EUNAVFOR's mandate to the disruption of Pirate Logistic Dumps on the shoreline, and recognized the activities of the international naval forces contributing to a reduction in the number of pirate attacks and supporting the freedom of navigation in the maritime domain.

#### **Realization of a Comprehensive Approach**

Participants recognized the increasing realization of a comprehensive approach to countering piracy off the coast of Somalia by the international community, including specific inputs by states, international organizations, and the global maritime industry. In this respect, participants:

- a. Recognized the continued development of the legal and judicial responses to piracy at sea, and noted the prosecution of more than 1100 pirates in 21 countries but also the need for further progress, including in regard to the development of prosecution and incarceration in Somalia. Participants in particular recognized the leadership of the Seychelles and Kenya and the upcoming efforts of Mauritius and Tanzania in ensuring that apprehended pirates face trial. Participants

called on all states, especially flag states, to consider the prosecution of apprehended piracy suspects.

In this regard, participants further encouraged the important activity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in supporting the prosecution and detention of suspected pirates, and strengthening the Somalia security and judicial system as a whole.

- b. Encouraged increasing progress in public-private cooperation in countering piracy, including in regard to increased financial contributions by the global maritime industry toward counter-piracy initiatives, including onshore in Somalia. Participants welcomed the planned initiatives of DP World and other sections of the regional maritime industry to foster economic development in Somalia's coastal communities.
- c. Commended the global maritime industry for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) to counter-piracy, which were recognized as one of the central reasons for the falling success rate of pirate attacks. Participants called for the continued implementation of the BMP, including of the reporting provisions. They also noted the need to look at ways that Best Management Practices can be developed for smaller vessels, including fishing dhows that are central to local and regional commerce and trade; they also noted the role of privately contracted armed security personnel and military vessel protection detachments in protecting vessels from piracy.
- d. Welcomed increasing support given to develop Somalia's capacity to lead a viable national counter-piracy response in accordance with the national security and stabilization plan. In particular, participants noted the efforts of the European Union to launch its Regional Capacity Building Programme in Somalia. Participants further recognized the Djibouti Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships as a key basis for regional maritime capacity building, and commended the initiative taken by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to strengthen the mechanism of implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct based on the strategic partnership arranged recently established between IMO and UN Agencies and the European Union.

### **International Efforts**

Participants commended the range of international mechanisms and initiatives that support the global response to maritime piracy. In particular, participants recognized:

- a. The efforts undertaken by regional organizations in countering piracy and in support of Somalia, including the Intergovernmental Authority for Development, the African Union, the Arab League, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- b. The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), and its five Working Groups, as the leading international body through which a comprehensive solution to maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia can be delivered.
- c. The Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States to Counter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, affiliated with the CGPCS, which has received a total of US\$14 million since its inception in January 2010, of which US\$10.3 has been dispersed. Participants commended both states and industry for their financial support to the Trust Fund.

In this respect, participants also noted the United Arab Emirates proposal to make the Trust Fund a focal point for new funds to be donated toward the development of Somalia's maritime security capacity, so that Somalia's authorities can increasingly ensure maritime safety and security in their

territorial waters. Participants welcomed the UAE's intent to commit an additional amount of US\$1million for this purpose.

- d. A series of high-level international summits on stability in Somalia, including: the London Conference on Somalia; the Istanbul II Conference on Somalia; and the UAE's Second Counter-Piracy Conference. These summits have clearly demonstrated to the Somali people and to the world that the era of international disengagement on Somalia is over. The international community has made it clear that it will stand ready to provide effective, sensitive and reliable support to Somalia, as required. We welcome the forthcoming Perth Counter-Piracy Conference in Australia in July.
- e. Participants encouraged all countries and stakeholders to continue and develop information sharing through INTERPOL's Global Maritime Piracy Database, in order to facilitate piracy investigations and prosecutions.
- f. Participants were also called upon to respect relevant international law related to fighting piracy in international waters.

#### **New Priority Areas to Address Ongoing Threat from Piracy**

Participants enumerated the following priority areas in which efforts should be enhanced in order to end the threat from piracy off the coast of Somalia. These priority areas were agreed as following:

- a. Humanitarian: Participants welcomed new initiatives to alleviate the suffering of captive seafarers and their families. In particular, the initiative of the Republic of Korea to develop new ways of support, in the context of Working Group 3 of the CGPCS.
- b. Regional maritime capacity development: Participants noted the need for more attention to be given to supporting the development of Somali capacity to counter-piracy, while maintaining the current capacity building efforts for the signatory countries of the Djibouti Code of Conduct aiming at effective implementation of the Code in this region.
- c. Continued Political Progress in Somalia: Participants called for continued progress in Somalia. In particular, the Conference reiterated the need to end the transition on 20 August 2012.
- d. New Financial Commitments and Investments in Somalia and Regional States: Participants called for further financial commitments to counter-piracy from states and global maritime industry. Participants further encouraged new investment in Somalia to ensure that economic and prosperity dividends of newly restored peace in Mogadishu are realized.

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