

**Speech of**  
**His Highness Prince Torky Bin Muhammad Bin Saud Al-Kabir Ph.D.**  
**Undersecretary for Multilateral Relations**

**At**  
**The Third Marine Counter Piracy Conference**  
**“Countering Maritime Piracy: Continued Efforts for Regional Capacity -**  
**Building”**

**5 – 6 Dhual-Qa’dah 1434 H.**  
**11-12 September 2013**

**Dubai**

**The United Arab Emirates**

**His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates**

**Highnesses and Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Distinguished Audience**

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Allow me at the outset to convey to you the regards of His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with his sincere wishes for your success, as he looks forward for your discussions to arrive at recommendations that serve the interests of regional security and particularly the issue of counter piracy because of its impact on the security and stability of the region.

I am pleased as well to be with you in this Third Marine Counter Piracy Conference in its third session convening under the heading “ Countering Maritime Piracy: Continued Efforts for Regional Capacity-Building.” The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took part in the first two conferences that were held in April 2011 and in June 2012 in Dubai – The United Arab Emirates.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Marine piracy constitutes today a serious international problem that threatens maritime security and the interests of the international community. Pirate activities also threaten the lives of sailors, seamen and innocent marine passengers, impact commercial vessels, complicate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and cause huge financial losses for the international community. The international community adopted during the past few years numerous measures including the use of force in order to combat such criminal activities which led to a decline in pirate operations off the Somali coasts, the Gulf of Eden and the Indian Ocean and to a reduction in the number of hijacked ships and crews by

Somali pirates. In spite of that, marine piracy is an unresolved issue and still constitutes a serious threat to international maritime navigation in other places.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exerts huge and effective efforts in combating such a phenomenon through its membership in the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Somali Coast as well as in the working teams emanating from the Group. The Kingdom also monitor pirate activities and their impact on international navigation and commerce and hosted regional meetings of states bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Eden for the purpose of setting up a unified strategy aimed at addressing this phenomenon that primarily influences security in the region.

The Kingdom also signed the Djibouti Code of Conduct that undertakes to set up at the regional level legal frameworks that confront such a phenomenon. The Kingdom provided a sum of 100,000 Dollars in support of the trust fund for the Djibouti Code of Conduct and participated in establishing the Djibouti and Sanaa Centers for the exchange of data pertaining to piracy and movement of pirates. It is also my pleasure to announce at this international forum that my government is presenting the sum of [300,000] three hundred thousand American dollars to sustain the special fund in support of state initiatives aiming at countering piracy off the Somali coast and to strengthen in particular the legal process pertaining to the prosecution and punishment of pirates.

The Kingdom also contributed primarily and still does to efforts targeting this serious phenomenon through participation of the Royal Saudi Naval forces with a total of 9 ships [five frigates, two supply ships, and two missile ships]. The ships conduct permanent patrols within the framework of the international naval force {150}, and coordinate its efforts with the multinational naval forces in the region in order to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea and to safeguard the freedom and safety of maritime navigation off the Somali coast and the Gulf of Eden. Through such naval patrols, helicopters are used, and the total number of hours for ship navigation has reached 8640 hours during the period covering 16 October 2012 to 21 August 2013. The patrols succeeded in protecting maritime navigation lanes from pirate activities in the western part of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Eden. The Royal Saudi Naval Forces also conducted numerous missions

to protect commercial vessels that requested assistance and escort while passing through areas known for their increased pirate activities west of the Indian Ocean and the gulf of Eden until they reached safe waters.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

My country considers resolutions of the United Nation Security Council addressing this phenomenon as the international frame of reference to counter such a phenomenon. The Kingdom fully adheres to the implementation of such resolutions and the competent Saudi authorities drew the attention of banks to the risks of dealing with countries and areas with weak procedures pertaining to money laundering and financing of terrorism, and that they have to immediately cease any transactions with entities, individuals and financial institutions in countries where the UN Security Council prohibits any financial dealings therewith. The cessation includes all bank transactions and the competent authorities obligated banks to conduct a comprehensive review of all commercial ties undertaken by clients of the financial institutions in order to confine to bounds, assure their purposes, and identify the beneficiaries. The authorities also directed banks to regularly take into consideration the contents of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and all the warnings issued by different regional and international organizations as well as the web sites of such organizations and other reliable sources of information, and to undertake the appropriate measures aiming at stopping the financial flows and sources of funds to pirates.

The Kingdom participates with the international community through “The International Contact Group on Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea off the Coast of Somalia” in finding the ways and means to eliminate and counter such phenomenon. The Kingdom also seeks to have the international community to adopt its view of supporting the political process in Somalia in order to realize security and stability as the ideal approaches to combat such and other phenomena in that country. Combining international efforts to counter such a phenomenon is what led to the reduction of pirate operations and the moving of the phenomenon to the Gulf of Ghana, a matter that requires the international community to double its efforts to combat the phenomenon everywhere.

The Kingdom also participates in the legal Committee and the Marine Safety Commission of the International Maritime Organization [IMO]. The Kingdom also implements the recommendations and instructions of the IMO that

aim at prohibiting pirate activities and armed robbery at sea west of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Eden and make sure that the concerned authorities implement them including the maritime transportation sector and the shipping industry.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its kind efforts in convening this conference. We hope that this constructive endeavor will restore security and stability in Somalia which truly needs them, also wish that these efforts will lead to the uniting of Somalis in rebuilding their country and bring about its prosperity. My government will continue its assistance and support of Somalia until the realization of peace and stability therein. We wish the Provisional Somali Government success in achieving the goals that it seek particularly in the realms of security, stability, the safety and unity of the Somali lands.

I would also like to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to the brotherly state of the United Arab Emirates represented by His Highness the Foreign Minister for its kind hosting of this important conference, as I also present my regards to Dubai Global Ports and wish the workings of this conference the utmost success.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته