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Maritime Security Project for the Gulf of Guinea

Dialogue Series

(3rd Rotating Technical Meeting)

23rd to 24th Sept. 2021

Lomé, Togo

Concept Note

Introduction

The Yaoundé Code of Conduct and its structures were created to promote coordination for maritime security and safety and to facilitate maritime domain awareness in the Gulf of Guinea. The adoption of the Code of Conduct in 2013 became necessary as a result of the growing concerns on piracy and armed robbery at sea which have devastating impacts on countries across the region. Eight years on, there obviously has been some progress made in the implementation of the YCC. Some relate to the enactment and strengthening of anti-piracy laws in some countries, the operationalization of the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres (MMCCs), increased training and improved maritime domain awareness among the various stakeholders. Yet still, the Yaoundé structures continue to face challenges at different levels some of which relates to information sharing, uniform reporting within and across the structures based on the architecture, the lack of cooperation between private/non-state actors and the regional structures among others.

It is against this background and also as part of on-going implementation of the Danish Maritime Security project on '*Enhancing regional research, capacity building and convening of stakeholders towards a safer maritime domain in the Gulf of Guinea*' that, the third (3rd) Rotating Technical meeting is being proposed to take place from 26th to 27th August 2021 in Lomé, Togo to create a platform for maritime stakeholders to dialogue and examine problems and obstacles to cooperation and collaboration at different levels and produce ideas and recommendations that may help to contribute to a safer and secure maritime domain in the Gulf of Guinea .

The above-mentioned project is being implemented by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centres (KAIPTC) for coastal countries in West and Central Africa. The technical meeting seeks to establish a platform for regular dialogue among international and regional actors on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea for three years. So far, four (4) of such meetings have been convened:



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1. First Technical Rotating Working Group Meeting in Pointe Noire, Congo Brazzaville from 5-8th November, 2019;
2. International Forum on the status of Implementation of the Yaoundé Protocol at the KAIPTC in Accra from December 3-5th December, 2019;
3. International Symposium (webinar) on Pandemics, Maritime Crimes and Response Mechanisms in August 2021; and
4. Second Rotating Meeting (webinar) in September, 2021

Objectives of the Dialogue Series

The objective of the dialogue series is to institutionalise a platform for regular and meaningful dialogue where collaborative and consensus based decisions shall inform national and regional maritime decision making. This technical meeting is the third (3rd) and final of the dialogue series under this project. It will be organised under the theme: ***‘Enhancing Cooperation and collaboration for improved safety and security in the maritime domain in the Gulf of Guinea’***. It will focus on assessing the status of some critical factors that are affecting the operationalisation of the YCC and coordination of structures under the Yaoundé processes and also examine leveraging the role of private/non-state actors. The meeting will also brief stakeholders on activities conducted under the project so far and seek guidance on future collaborations.

Target Group

The technical meeting will bring together international and regional maritime actors such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), the Inter-regional Coordinating Centre (ICC), CRESMAC, CRESMAO, UNDOC, and the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres (MMCCs) and national actors. Overall a total of about 20 participants are expected to form the resource base of the proposed technical meeting.

Outcome of Technical Meeting

The meeting will produce a brief report that will be published on the project website and also disseminated to wider stakeholders. Further the technical meeting will contribute to enhanced joined-up responses to maritime security in GoG as it will contribute to enhancing the quality of maritime practitioner networks in the Gulf of Guinea.

All cost relating to the conference will be covered by the KAIPTC.



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