

CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

WORKING GROUP 1 – LONDON, 10 JULY 2009

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSIONS

The following are the Chairman's conclusions on his own responsibility reflecting the sense of discussion in Working Group 1 on 10 July, to serve as the basis for his oral report to the Contact Group in New York on 10 September.

Working Group 1 expressed its gratitude to the Secretary General of the IMO and his staff for their support in hosting this meeting at the Headquarters of the IMO.

Working Group 1 reaffirmed the importance of non-duplication of mechanisms and structures and the integrity of the military chain of command.

1. REGIONAL CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Working Group 1:

- reaffirmed the importance of co-ordination and avoidance of duplication in regional capability development;
- welcomed the comments and presentations from the TFG of Somalia, Puntland, Somaliland and regional countries outlining current activity, plans and proposals for capability development;
- welcomed the updates and information from international and regional organisations on current activity and plans, including on the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct which remained a key means for delivery of increased regional capability;
- agreed that it should continue work with Somali partners, other regional countries, international and regional organisations and other Contact Group partners, including through co-ordinated or preferably joint needs assessment mission(s) to assemble an overall package of needs, synchronised and prioritised where possible, for consideration and then delivery by Contact Group partners in the earliest possible timeframe. Contact Group countries would be kept updated by email on ongoing work in between Working Group 1 meetings.

2. OPERATIONAL CO-ORDINATION

Working Group 1:

- noted the non-paper from China on a proposed implementation plan on AOR escort co-operation in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia;
- recognised that the two concepts put forward by China and the Combined Maritime Forces/EUNAVFOR/NATO operations for co-operation on area protection of merchant shipping in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia contain many constructive ideas and a number of similarities;
- welcomed this work and asks that the relevant military staffs now work together to formulate and agree a single “best practice” framework for area protection to be endorsed at the earliest possible Working Group 1 meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Working Group 1:

- took note of the Riyadh Declaration of 29 June, and noted the importance of co-ordination between a new anti-piracy task force and existing military operations.
- took note of the report from Italy on the counter-piracy aspects of the declaration from the G8 Summit.