



## UNODC Contribution to the Secretary General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

*(pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/124 of 11 December 2018 entitled  
"Oceans and the law of the sea")*

### *UNODC Contribution to the Implementation of A/RES/73/124*

#### **II Capacity-building**

Through its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), UNODC has expanded its thematic and geographic coverage to the Atlantic Ocean, the Horn of Africa, Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, as reflected below.

In its assistance to the **Atlantic Ocean** member states, UNODC helped authorities to use the latest maritime domain awareness technology to detect and detain vessels moving drugs by sea or plundering the precious natural resources of coastal states. Additionally, the Office focused on the capacity building of prosecutors, judges and law enforcement officers to effectively try cases of maritime crime, including piracy, armed robbery, drugs and weapon trafficking, smuggling of migrants and human trafficking by sea.

Attention was given to maritime zones and exercise of jurisdiction both at law enforcement and courts' level. The strengthening of the continuum sea to land relation was a focus for specific capacity building activities, including the maritime exercise Obangame Express, organised by the United States, where most of the Navies and Coast Guards in the Gulf of Guinea practiced law enforcement techniques at sea. UNODC partnered with INTERPOL in providing a boarding team of experts for evidence collection, then using the evidence collected at sea in a simulated criminal proceeding on land. Nigerian Federal Court rooms has been made available by the Nigerian authorities for federal prosecutors and judges to handle the simulated court proceeding. This resulted in increased capacities in tackling piracy and other maritime crimes through a training mechanism that covers the entire criminal justice chain to ensure a legal finishing to maritime crimes.

Embedded UNODC mentors have supported maritime law enforcement agencies in their work on a daily basis in Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sla4(ga)4(hl, )20(Sn ę )188



In the **Horn of Africa**, with a permanent presence in the three largest Somali ports and an active programme of support to Yemen, UNODC is working to build up the capacity of Somali and Yemeni maritime law enforcement officers to police these strategic and dangerous waters.  
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procedures, embarkation and disembarkation, sweep and search, hidden compartments, space accountability, proliferation awareness and interdiction of proliferation-related items.

In the **Indian Ocean**, UNODC is using vessels confiscated from drugs traffickers, pirates and illegal fishermen to train the maritime law enforcement officers of more than a dozen states to board and search the vessels that criminals use, especially through UNODC's maritime training



Under the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) (<http://sherloc.unodc.org>), UNODC collects legal resources on the domestic application of the law of the sea in six different databases. Currently, users can access over 80 legal provisions and over 60 court cases on piracy and maritime crimes as well as 247 legal provisions related to jurisdiction.

## **VIII Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation**

UNODC is the key United Nations entity with the mandate to provide counter-terrorism legal technical assistance to Member States for the ratification, legislative incorporation and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism, including those focused on maritime navigation and continental platforms. An effective legal framework and adequate criminal justice response measures are essential to prevent and counter terrorist attacks and serious criminal offences against maritime navigation. Responding to these needs, UNODC implemented in 2018 a project on ‘Strengthening national capacity to implement maritime-related counter-terrorism international legal instruments in selected South and South East Asian countries.’ The project aimed at enhancing the knowledge and capacity to effectively implement the relevant international provisions, standards and good practices related to unlawful acts against maritime navigation, port facilities and off-shore platforms as well as the security requirements for the shipping, port facilities and off-shore platforms, according to international rules. The project capacity building activities were implemented in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization.

At the more strategic and policy level, there is a need to adopt an integrated approach when addressing maritime security issues, to include the terrorism threat. Also, it is important to emphasize the need to promote inter-agency coordination and effective international cooperation mechanisms to ensure maritime safety and security.

Further, UNODC has developed Member States’ capacities to Maritime Domain Awareness through use of satellite images provided by the European Union Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the EU Copernicus Programme in the context of maritime operations conducted by the Member States with the technical support of UNODC. This has strengthened the capacity of Member States to patrol areas far from the coast line and hence provide a better understanding of planning, maintenance, operational needs.

## **IX Marine environment and marine resources**

Satellite images provided by the European Union Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the EU Copernicus Programme have also allowed detection of intentional oil spills in the Gulf of Guinea, increasing awareness of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region on the pervasive existence of the oil pollution problem in the maritime areas and their opportunity to patrol and intervene.

