December 2020-March 2021

#MASE NEWS

Newsletter

Number 1





TABLETOP EXERCISE (TTX)

8-11 FEBRUARY 2021

A TTX exercise on **illegal fishing** was organised by the RCOC in collaboration with the RMIFC and national centres of the signatory States of the MASE Agreements. Objective: t**o improve the interoperability of the Regional Maritime Security Architecture**.
***More information* (FR only)**



CUTLASS EXPRESS EXERCISE CTE 21

8-11 FEBRUARY 2021

The RCOC, the RMIFC and the MASE Programme participated in the preparatory meeting for the upcoming CUTLASS EXPRESS exercise (CTE 21). Organised by AFRICOM, this meeting brought together more than 15 countries from the region and aims t**o improve regional cooperation in the field of Maritime Security.**



ONGOING TRAININGS

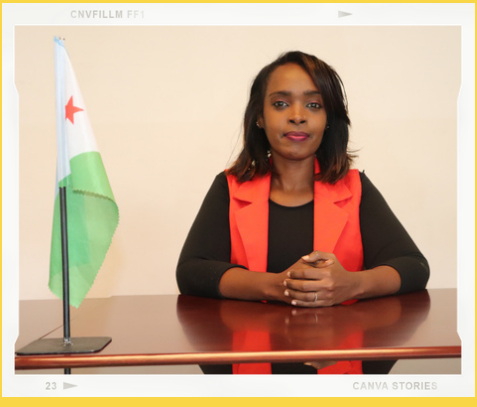
15 MARCH 2021

As part of the capacity building reinforcement process for officers involved in the Maritime Security Architecture, the RCOC organised a **training on the surveillance and communication tools.** The RCOC watchstanders were trained on the Maritime Awareness System (MAS) surveillance platform and the IORIS, a communication tool, both available at the regional centre.

CONVERSATION WITH...

MOHAMED ELMI HABON, DJIBOUTIAN ILO AT RMIFC

On the International Women's Day, we featured Mohamed Elmi Habon, the only Female Liaison Officer posted at the RMIFC.
Together with her colleagues, she is currently working towards the implementation of the Western Indian Ocean Maritime Security Architecture
***More info* (FR only)**



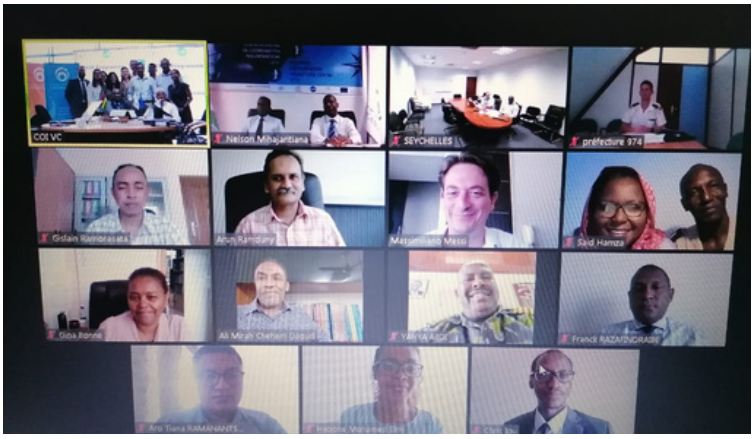
PROTECTION OF SUBMARINE CABLES

12-13 JANUARY 2021

UNODC in collaboration with the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) and the IOC organised a first regional consultation workshop. Under the aegis of the MASE programme, over more than 50 participants from 8 States in the region as well as private operators attended. This initiative will be followed by further consultations and work towards the eventual development of a regional Submarine Cable Resilience Plan.
Read more

5TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF THE 2 CENTRES

NOV-DEC 2020



The Indian Ocean Commission organised the 5th Steering Committee meeting for the governance of the 2 regional centres. The meeting was attended by the 7 signatory States of the MASE Agreements (Comoros, Djibouti, France/Reunion, Kenya, Mauritius and Seychelles), the representatives of the RMIFC and the RCOC as well as the European Union Delegation in Mauritius and in Brussels.

Due to sanitary restrictions, the meeting was held in 4 sessions via videoconference. The opening ceremony was attended by Ambassador Degert (EU), the IOC's Secretary General (Mr Marimoutou), the SC's Chairperson (Mr Dabidin from Mauritius).

The working sessions enabled the participants to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Maritime Security Architecture and to endorse the activity plan proposed by the two regional centres, among others.

IORA : TRAINING ON THE LAW OF THE SA

29 JANUARY 2021

The RMIFC, RCOC and MASE teams participated in the International Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) Training. Organised by the *Indian Council of World Affairs* (ICWA), a working group of the *Indian Ocean Rim Association*, the workshop was attended by over 50 participants from various countries and organisations.
It was an opportunity to f**oster knowledge sharing on regulatory and legal frameworks on the oceans and seas.**

23RD CGPCS PLENARY SESSION
ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING GROUP - SPSG "

17-18 DEC. 2020

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held its 23rd plenary session via video conference. Chaired by the Republic of Kenya and IOC as secretariat, the meeting was attended by over twenty organisations and countries including the shipping industry.

During this meeting, members adopted the Terms of Reference of a new working group that will focus on the new strategy of the international platform. Thus, the Strategic Planning Steering Group (SPSG) aims to bring together a number of volunteers who will not only evaluate the achievements of the group but also review its priorities to ensure it remains a flexible and relevant regional mechanism. The MASE programme through the IOC has been supporting CGPCS activities for the past 4 years.

TRAINING

LAW OF THE SEA IN COMOROS

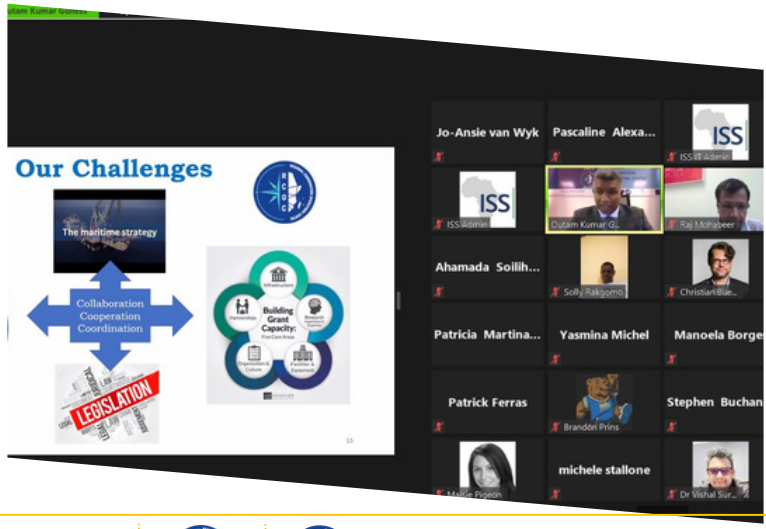


UNODC organised in Comoros a first training on the Law of the Sea in the context of the MASE programme. This training was attended by more than ten officers from the Comoros Ministry of Transport.
The UNODC will provide the same training in other States of the region in the near future, either face-to-face or by video conference, depending on the evolution of the sanitary situation.
This training aims to **strengthen the judicial capacities of the officers of the MASE signatory states.**

WEBINAR ISS AFRICA : MASE TEAM PRESENTS THE MARITIME SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Raj Mohabeer (IOC Officer in Charge and MASE Coordinator) and Outam Guness (Mauritian ILO at RCOC) presented the Maritime Security Architecture implemented by the Programme at a conference organised by the Africa Institute of Security Studies. This was an opportunity for more than a hundred participants to understand the objectives of the mechanism and also to obtain feedback on this new cooperation model in the field of Maritime Security.

More Info and watch the video: Click HERE



NEW PROJECT : PORT SECURITY AND SAFETY OF NAVIGATION



Coordinated by the IOC and funded by the EU, this regional programme also has technical support from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL.

The project will work closely with regional organisations (COMESA, EAC, SADC, APIOI, PMAESA), international organisations (CGPCS, EUNAVFOR, WCO), ongoing projects and programmes (MASE, CRIMSON, CRIMLEA), existing mechanisms (DCoC) and other key actors in the field.

***Read more** (FR only)*

TO GO FURTHER.

Africa can learn maritime lessons from its small island States.

Author : ISS Africa
Link : https://issafrica.org/iss-today/africa-can-learn-maritime-lessons-from-its-small-island-states

Report of the Secretary - General UNSC

Author : UNSC secretariat
Lien : https://bit.ly/2OTVdUv

OFFICIAL VISIT TO RCOC

18 MARCH 2021

The RCOC received a courtesy visit from the Indian delegation visiting the Seychelles. The delegation was led by Captain Aftab Ahmed Khan, Commander of vessel INS Shardul.
This visit was an opportunity to discuss on the Maritime Security Mechanism as well as enhancing cooperation and coordination at sea.



TRAININGS ORGANISED BY UNODC

FEBRUARY 2021

As part of the Port Security Programme, **UNODC** organised a series of training sessions in Mombasa, Kenya. More than 30 Officers from different Defence and Security Agencies working in the Port sector participated. The aim was not only to train the Officers but also to **create synergies and lay the foundations for closer cooperation in the future.**

Read more

FOCUS ON...

THE RMIFC WATCHFLOOR

The Western Indian Ocean Maritime Security Architecture, which focuses on the exchange of maritime information and the coordination of operations at sea, is based on the RMIFC and the RCOC. The whole mechanism is therefore dependent on the men and women of the 7 signatory countries of the MASE Agreements, especially the host countries (Seychelles and Madagascar), to make this regional cooperation a reality.

In the background of this whole architecture but essential for its operation, the Watchstanders assist the International Liaison Officers in their missions. On a daily basis, they collect, process and analyse maritime information to **detect potential Vessels of Interest (VOI), build the most detailed maritime picture and provide actionable information for RCOC**.

***Read more** (FR only)*



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