



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY: SHARED CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

INFORMATION NOTE

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) will convene a four-day seminar to discuss the maritime security challenges affecting the Indian Ocean region, as well as security initiatives undertaken by coastal states to address these challenges. The Africa Center will partner with AFRICOM's naval component NAVAF, the Near East South Asia (NESAs) Center, and the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) to address maritime security challenges relevant to the broader Indian Ocean. The seminar will also provide a platform to discuss the maritime security architecture in the region and avenues for coordination among Indian Ocean states to enhance security and prosperity within this shared ocean.

WHERE: Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

WHEN: 22-25 January 2024

WHO: This program will convene approximately 45 participants from 15 Indian Ocean Countries, as well as International and regional organizations and Africa Center partner institutions. Nominees should include Navy Chiefs and heads of civilian maritime authorities with maritime security responsibilities in the realm of piracy; armed robbery at sea; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; climate risk mitigation; maritime justice; maritime strategy or international maritime cooperation. All participants must be able to read and engage in detailed, sector-specific discussions in English or French.

WHY: The Indian Ocean is faced with a long history of security challenges including: piracy; armed robbery at sea; transnational organized crime in the form of trafficking of drugs, weapons, and humans; environmental dumping and pollution; over exploitation of fisheries; and IUU fishing. In recent years the threat of climate change and violent extremism have also grown. Efforts to address maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean region include initiatives like the Djibouti Code of Conduct and regional centers. However, implementation remains challenging. There is a pressing need for improved coordination and dialogue among coastal states to effectively tackle the region's maritime threats and promote security and prosperity.

HOW: The program will be in-person for four days and include plenary sessions with moderated question-and-answer periods, discussion groups, and threat mapping exercises. Discussion group conversations will generate lessons learned,

commonalities and differences, and potential next steps as well as a survey identifying priority threats and responses in each session. We'll gather and discuss the survey responses in two sessions on the last day. This will give us a sense of the overall sentiment and be part of the final report. The program will be held in English and French, under a strict policy of non-attribution.