



**AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES**

**YAOUNDÉ CODE OF CONDUCT
MARITIME ZONES A & D
WORKSHOP**

READ AHEAD

December 10-13, 2024

ABOUT THE AFRICA CENTER

Since its inception in 1999, the Africa Center has served as a forum for research, academic programs, and the exchange of ideas with the aim of enhancing citizen security by strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of African institutions, in support of U.S.-Africa policy.

VISION

Security for all Africans championed by effective institutions accountable to their citizens.

Realizing the vision of an Africa free from organized armed violence guaranteed by African institutions that are committed to protecting African citizens is the driving motivation of the Africa Center. This aim underscores the Center's commitment to contributing to tangible impacts by working with our African partners – military and civilian, governmental and civil society, as well as national and regional. All have valuable roles to play in mitigating the complex drivers of conflict on the continent today. Accountability to citizens is an important element of our vision as it reinforces the point that in order to be effective, security institutions must not just be “strong,” but also be responsive to and protective of the rights of citizens.

MISSION

To advance African security by expanding understanding, providing a trusted platform for dialogue, building enduring partnerships, and catalyzing strategic solutions.

The Africa Center's mission revolves around the generation and dissemination of knowledge through our research, academic programs, strategic communications, and community chapters. Drawing on the practical experiences and lessons learned from security efforts on the continent, we aim to generate relevant insight and analysis that can inform practitioners and policymakers on the pressing security challenges that they face. Recognizing that addressing serious challenges can only come about through candid and thoughtful exchanges, the Center provides face-to-face and virtual platforms where partners can exchange views on priorities and sound practices. These exchanges foster relationships that, in turn, are maintained over time through the Center's community chapters, communities of interest, follow-on programs, and ongoing dialogue between participants and staff. This dialogue – infused with real world experiences and fresh analysis – provides an opportunity for continued learning and catalyzes concrete actions.

MANDATE

The Africa Center is a U.S. Department of Defense institution established and funded by Congress for the study of security issues relating to Africa and serving as a forum for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, exchange of ideas, and training involving military and civilian participants. (10 U.S.C 342)

OVERVIEW

The Gulf of Guinea continues to face pressing challenges, including maritime domain awareness (MDA) issues; piracy; armed robbery at sea; kidnapping of seafarers; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and transnational organized crime – especially smuggling as well as drug and human trafficking – within a rapidly changing global environment increasingly defined by strategic competition. In recent years, West African countries have made significant progress in developing collaborative frameworks like the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC). While the YCoC is not yet fully operational, its framework at the national, zonal, and regional levels represents significant progress in developing collaborative initiatives.

Maritime security is critical for the economic development of Gulf of Guinea states, as it ensures safe and secure maritime trade routes. An effective assessment of the current maritime security architecture helps ensure that it continues to improve as it achieves full operationalization. More broadly, regular assessment at the zonal level helps improve MDA by identifying gaps and strengths in surveillance, monitoring, and information sharing. This leads to better detection and response to maritime threats. Additionally, evaluating the security situation at a zonal level enables states to develop national maritime security strategies that address specific regional challenges.

Workshop Objectives

1. Assess and catalyze next steps towards full operationalization of maritime zones A and D.
2. Promote common understanding on ways to strengthen maritime coordination structures.
3. Reinforce the maritime security framework in the Gulf of Guinea and assess the state of the Yaoundé architecture.
4. Exchange best practices on national maritime strategy development and implementation.

Workshop Structure

This four-day workshop comprise both plenary sessions that draw on strategic, policy, academic, and operational expertise, and discussion sessions where participants are encouraged to delve into the topics in greater depth. The plenary session presentations will be followed by a moderated question-and-answer period where participants will be encouraged to share experiences, question assumptions, and think through creative approaches. The small group discussions will focus on problem solving. Participants will be encouraged to share perspectives and learn from each other. A team of experienced facilitators will work with participants to this end.

All Africa Center programs are conducted under a strict non-attribution policy. This allows participants to contribute and exchange views without reservation, thereby creating an effective and productive learning environment. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided to allow the seminar to be conducted in Portuguese, French and English. All seminar materials will be provided in these languages.

DAY 1

Tuesday 10 December 2024

Overview of YCoC Zone A & D Architecture and Results of Survey

Format: Plenary presentation and moderated question-and-answer period

Objectives:

- Assess progress made towards operationalizing the maritime Zones A and D.
- Provide an assessment of progress made towards developing national maritime security strategies across Zone A and D countries.
- Identify obstacles and opportunities to strengthen maritime coordination at the national, zonal/regional, and international level.
- Outline results of pre-workshop survey.

Background:

The Yaoundé Architecture¹ (YA) provides a comprehensive framework for coordinated actions at different levels in the maritime space in the Gulf of Guinea, a region plagued by piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and other forms of maritime crime. **These crimes not only** impact international shipping **but also pose a significant threat to** the economies of coastal states². The YA outlines five³ levels of coordination: the political level; strategic level; regional level; zonal level; and national level (see figure 1 below). By promoting collaboration across these levels, the YA aims to strengthen maritime security and foster sustainable development in this region.

The political level of the structure is occupied by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which comprise the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) and the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC)⁴, with its headquarters in Yaoundé, play a crucial role in representing the strategic level within the framework of the YA⁵.

¹ The YA was inspired by three instruments: (1) the Declaration of the Heads of States; (2) the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC); (3) the Memorandum of Understanding between ECOWAS, ECCAS and GGC (MoU).

² Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.

³ The political, strategic, regional, zonal, and national levels. The political and strategic levels have different competencies in the YA framework.

⁴ Interregional Coordination Centre. (2022). Yaoundé architecture.

⁵ Sartre, P. (2014). Responding to Insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. *International Peace Institute*.

Meanwhile, the regional level includes the two Regional Maritime Centers in the Gulf of Guinea: the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), based in Pointe-Noire (Republic of Congo); and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security of West Africa (CRESMAO), based in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). The two RECs (ECCAS and ECOWAS) are mandated to provide political oversight to CRESMAC and CRESMAO. Meanwhile, the ICC, as a monitoring and information-sharing center, ensures seamless coordination and communication, connecting the activities of CRESMAC and CRESMAO, thereby reassuring the region's security.⁶

Below the regional level, there are zonal level structures composed of Multinational Maritime Coordination Centers (MMCCs). The two Regional Maritime Security Coordination Centers (CRESMAC and CRESMAO) coordinate the MMCCs⁷. In the case of the CRESMAC, the maritime space is divided into two zones, Zone A and Zone D, each with their own MMCC.

At the lower level of the YA are the Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs), which are intended to operate at the national level, with each member country operating its own MOC. The role of the MOC is to mobilize national maritime stakeholders connected with the state to act at sea.⁸ These include the navy, law enforcement (coast guard, maritime authority, fisheries inspectors, police, anti-narcotics), immigration, customs, port authority, and private stakeholders (environmental organizations, fishery commissions, among others).

MOCs are a critical component of the YA, intended to serve as the operational backbone for monitoring and coordinating maritime security efforts.⁹ Their primary functions include enhancing maritime domain awareness (MDA), coordinating maritime security operations, information sharing, intelligence gathering, capacity building and training. To effectively carry out these functions, states need to develop and implement national maritime security strategies (NMSS) that align with these strategic objectives. The Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC) further emphasizes this strategic approach, stating that "Signatories intend to establish, as necessary, a national maritime security plan with related contingency plans (or other systems) ... for harmonizing and coordinating the implementation of security measures..."¹⁰ This underscores the strategic importance of the National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS) on the process.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Representing the zonal level of the YA.

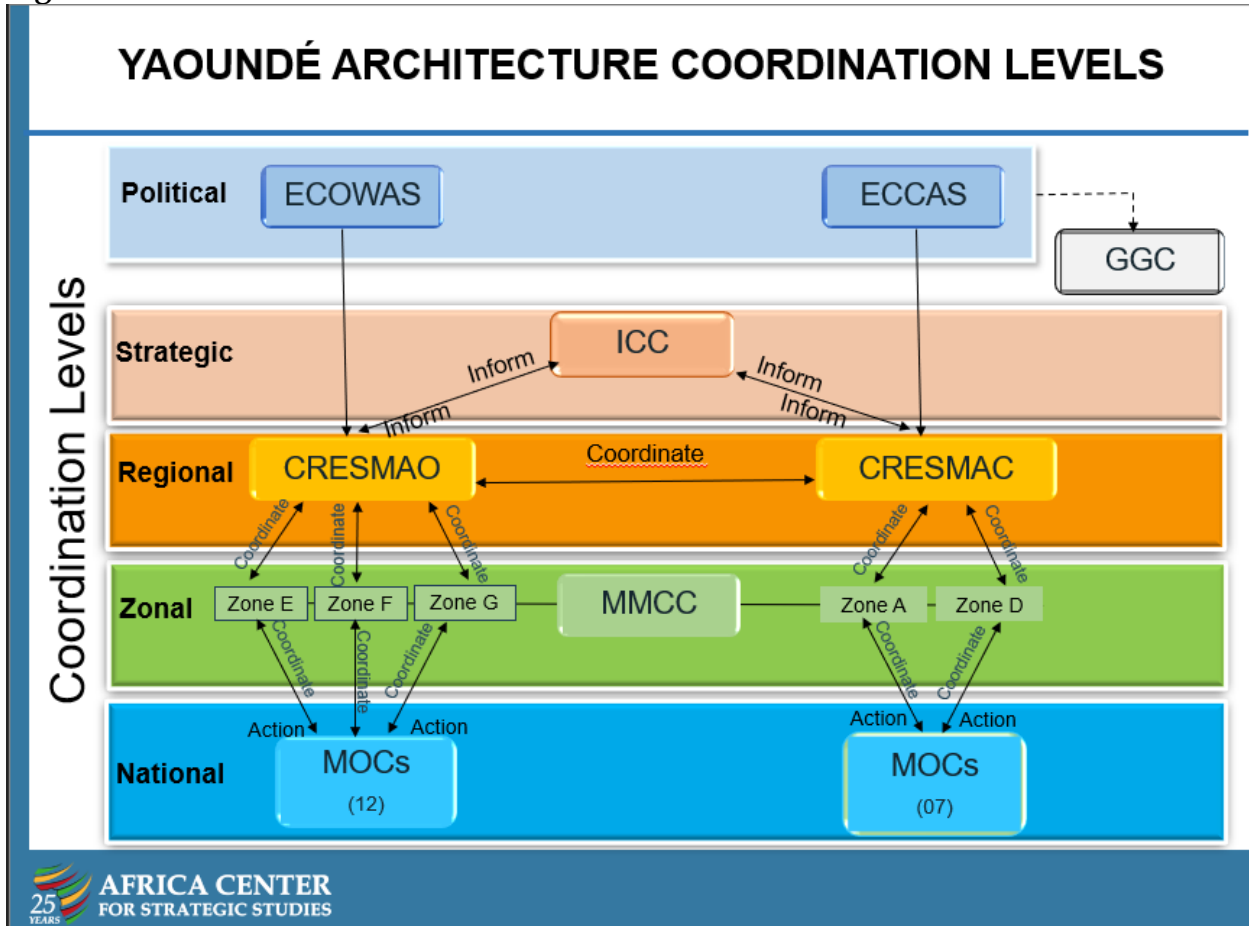
⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Yücel, H. (2021). Sovereignty and Transnational Cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea: How a Network Approach Can Strengthen the Yaoundé Architecture. *Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies*, 4(1), pp. 146-157.

¹⁰ N. 3 of Art.º 4. (YCoC).

As such, assessing the progress Zone A and Zone D countries have made to operationalize the YA across the five levels is essential to improving maritime domain awareness (MDA) by identifying gaps and strengths in surveillance, monitoring, and information sharing. This is particularly significant at the national level given the pivotal role that NMSS and MOCs play in capacity building, coordinating maritime security operations, intelligence gathering, and information sharing across not only the national level, but also at the zonal, regional and interregional levels.

Figure 1: Yaoundé Architecture Coordination Levels



Further Readings:

- African Union (AU). 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy). Addis Ababa: African Union, 2014.
- Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.

- Omeje, K., & Redeker Hepner, T. (2013). *Conflict and peacebuilding in the African Great Lakes Region*. Indiana University Press.
- Ukeje, C., & Fawole A. W. (2005). *The Crisis of the State and Regionalism in West Africa: Identity, Conflict and State Security*. Routledge, 2013.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). *Maritime Crime Programme Annual Report*. Vienna: UNODC, 2023.

DAY 2

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Strengthening National Structures: MOCs in Zones A & D States

Format: Plenary presentation
Discussion groups

Objectives:

- Assess progress towards developing and operationalizing national MOCs in Zones A & Zone D.
- Discuss challenges involved in developing and implementing national MOCs.
- Describe the procedures involved in coordinating surveillance, monitoring and information sharing across multisectoral actors at the national level.
- Describe and assess the efficacy of procedures for coordinating surveillance, monitoring and information sharing with the MMCC for Zone A, Zone D, and CRESMAC.

Background:

The drafters of Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC) recognized the importance of information sharing in real-time about imminent threats or incidents, and the need to promptly disseminate alerts with all relevant information to other stakeholders across the national, zonal and regional levels. For this reason, the document emphasizes the importance of designating "...a national focal point to facilitate coordinated, effective, and timely information flow among the Signatories."¹¹ These focal points serve to link the national level to the rest of the Yaoundé Architecture (YA) and are meant to exist within maritime operations centers (MOCs), ensuring the effectiveness of the system and instilling confidence in the stakeholders.¹²

Under the Yaoundé Architecture, each coastal state is responsible for monitoring and securing its maritime domain through a MOC. This collaborative effort serves as the first line of defense, providing localized responses. National MOCs further enhance this collaboration by contributing to the broader regional framework. They do so by coordinating intelligence gathering, information sharing, and maritime security operations with neighboring states. This inclusive approach ensures the overall security of the Gulf of Guinea.¹³ Importantly, each MOC is expected to designate a focal point to

¹¹ N. 1 of Art.º 11. (YCoC).

¹² Yücel, H. (2021). Sovereignty and Transnational Cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea: How a Network Approach Can Strengthen the Yaoundé Architecture. *Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies*, 4(1), pp. 146-157.

¹³ Ibid.

communicate and effectively respond to alerts from the zonal, regional and inter-regional coordination centers.¹⁴

MOCs play an indispensable role in enhancing maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. Equipped with technology, they track vessel movements, identify suspicious activities, and coordinate patrols. This real-time surveillance capability is crucial for timely responses to maritime threats, as delays can escalate criminal activities, such as piracy. Furthermore, the MOCs facilitate communication and coordination between national maritime agencies – such as navies, coast guards, and customs authorities – ensuring a unified response to security incidents. Equally important is the capacity-building aspect of MOCs. For many Gulf of Guinea states, developing effective maritime security capabilities is still a work in progress. MOCs, often bolstered by international partners, offer essential training, resources, and technical support. By enhancing the capabilities of national authorities, MOCs not only improve each country's ability to secure its waters but also fortify the region's collective security, making it safer for all.

However, not every signatory to the YCoC in Zones A and D has fully established an operational Maritime Operations Center (MOC). While these signatories have the maritime space and capacity to meet the objectives of the YA, their capabilities vary significantly. Some countries possess the necessary platforms, while others do not.¹⁵ Most YCoC signatories established their MOCs between 2015 and 2024, but the extent to which these centers are fully operational and interconnected differs. Countries with limited resources or complex political environments often encounter challenges in developing or maintaining their MOCs. Assessing how well countries in Zone A and D have developed and operationalized their MOCs is crucial for improving maritime domain awareness (MDA). This assessment will help identify gaps and strengths in surveillance, monitoring, and information sharing.

Discussion Questions:

- What are the main challenges affecting national maritime operations coordination within your country?
- What are some of the challenges your country is experiencing in developing and implementing a national maritime operation center?
- Within your country, what procedures exist for coordinating surveillance, monitoring and information sharing with the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre for Zone A and D, CRESMAC, and ICC?

¹⁴ Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

- How can regional frameworks, such as the Yaoundé Architecture, enhance national maritime coordination in these countries?
- What policy decisions could strengthen national maritime coordination structures in your country?

Further Readings:

- Yücel, H. (2021). Sovereignty and Transnational Cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea: How a Network Approach Can Strengthen the Yaoundé Architecture. *Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies*, 4(1), pp. 146-157.
- Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.

DAY 2

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Strengthening Zonal and Regional Structures: Zone A & D MMCCs & CRESMAC

Format: Plenary presentation
Discussion groups

Objectives:

- Identify strengths and gaps in the capacity and procedures within MMCCs and CRESMAC.
- Describe and assess the efficacy of procedures at the MMCCs for coordinating surveillance, monitoring and information sharing with national authorities of the states that make up Zones A and D.
- Describe and assess the efficacy of procedures at the MMCCs for coordinating surveillance, monitoring and information sharing with CRESMAC.

Background:

Operating above the national level of the Yaoundé Architecture (YA) are the zonal and regional levels. At the zonal level, Multinational Maritime Coordination Centers (MMCCs) serve as vital coordination hubs across all five zones.¹⁶ At the regional level, two key institutions are established to further bolster maritime security: the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), located in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo, and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security of West Africa (CRESMAO), situated in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are tasked with providing the necessary political oversight to these centers (CRESMAC and CRESMAO). Their collaborative efforts are crucial in reinforcing the political will necessary to tackle maritime security issues, including piracy, illegal fishing, and human trafficking. Meanwhile the two regional centers coordinate the MMCCs across the different zones.

For the purposes of this roundtable, we will be focusing on CRESMAC whose maritime space is divided into two zones, Zone A and Zone D, each with their own MMCCs.

¹⁶ The five coordination centers across the different zones include: MMCC Zone A, headquartered in Angola (covering Angola, Congo and DRC); MMCC Zone D, headquartered in Cameroon (covering Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe); MMCC Zone E, headquartered in Benin (covering Benin, Niger, Nigeria and Togo); MMCC Zone F headquartered in Ghana (covering Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone); and MMCC Zone G, headquartered in Cabo Verde (covering Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal).

CRESMAC and the two MMCCs play crucial roles in ensuring the efficient coordination of maritime security operations across national boundaries. CRESMAC is the regional body responsible for maritime security in Central Africa. Its mandate includes coordinating the MMCCs in Zone A and Zone D; and inter-regional cooperation with the other Regional Security Coordination Center, CRESMAO.

The MMCCs operate at the zonal and multinational levels to coordinate information sharing and joint activities – including, but not limited to, training, drills, and patrols – among the countries within the zones. While these zonal and regional coordination structures are vital for achieving effective regional maritime domain awareness, their success largely depends on how well they communicate, coordinate, and share information with national-level maritime operational centers (MOCs). These national MOCs serve as the backbone of the entire YA. Tensions exist between the need to share information and the need to protect or conceal sensitive content, creating a dilemma for stakeholders at both national and regional levels. Additional challenges hindering the effectiveness of the MMCCs and CRESMAC include capacity and logistical challenges, the absence of national focal points with capacity to coordinate and communicate with zonal and regional actors, divergent legal doctrines and cultures, and the prioritization of bilateral collaborations which can undermine inter-regional coordination efforts.¹⁷

Session 4 Discussion Questions:

- Through what procedures do the MMCCs in Zones A and D coordinate with national stakeholders to monitor and secure its maritime domain?
- How can MMCCs enhance coordination of surveillance, monitoring and information sharing with CRESMAC?
- How do the MMCCs in Zones A and D contribute to regional maritime security efforts, and what challenges do they face in coordinating operations?
- How does CRESMAC coordinate with other Regional Security Coordination Centers, like CRESMAO? What procedures are involved?
- What are the main challenges faced by CRESMAC in coordinating regional maritime security efforts?
- What policy recommendations can strengthen the effectiveness of the MMCCs and CRESMAC in addressing transnational maritime threats such as piracy, illegal fishing, and smuggling?

¹⁷ Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.

Further Readings:

- Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.
- Ralby, Ian M. (2016). Maritime Security Cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea: Prospects and Challenges, by Kamal-Deen Ali. *Naval War College Review* 69(3). <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol69/iss3/9>
- Mohammed, A. (2023). Maritime Security Governance in the Gulf of Guinea: Opportunities and Challenges of States' Responses. *The Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies*, 10(2), 60-77. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48750352>

DAY 3

Thursday 12 December 2024

National Maritime Security Strategy Processes

Format: Plenary presentation
Discussion groups

Objectives:

- Assess the progress individual Zone A and D states have made towards developing national maritime security strategies.
- Discuss lessons learned regarding national maritime security strategy development.

Background:

Signatories to the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC) recognized the need for states to develop National Maritime Security Strategies (NMSS) as the cornerstones for harmonizing and coordinating the implementation of maritime security measures. An NMSS outlines a state's specific threats, challenges, priorities, and capacities concerning its maritime domain, providing a tailored approach to addressing maritime security.¹⁸

These strategies are crucial as they provide a clear understanding of how national resources can be effectively utilized to combat shared threats in a coordinated manner while still addressing unique national security concerns. Additionally, these strategies often highlight gaps in capability, which can inform capacity-building efforts, including training, resource allocation, and international assistance.

Moreover, national strategies reinforce trust and collaboration, vital in a region where national boundaries and jurisdictions can complicate joint operations. The Gulf of Guinea spans several maritime zones, and national sovereignty remains a sensitive issue.¹⁹ An NMSS clarifies a state's capacity and willingness to engage in joint patrols, information sharing, and coordinated responses, ensuring respect for national sovereignty while fostering regional collaboration.²⁰ For the Yaoundé Architecture (YA) to function optimally, coordination at multiple levels—local, national, and regional—is essential. Without national strategies defining specific roles, responsibilities, and actions for

¹⁸ The AU's AIM Strategy. 2012. African Integrated Maritime Strategy. Accessed October 15, 2024.

¹⁹ Vreÿ, F. (2010). African Maritime Security: A Time for Good Order at Sea. *Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs*, 2(4), 121-132.

²⁰ Edmunds, T., & Bueger, C. (2017). Beyond Seablindness: A New Agenda for Maritime Security Studies. *International Affairs*, 93(6), 1293-1311.

maritime security, regional initiatives would lack the foundation for effective cooperation.

A 2022 research study underscores the urgent need to address the issues affecting Africa's maritime security. It reveals that limited Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), significant sea-blindness, loss and under-exploitation of maritime wealth, and lack of sea-power are indicators of faulty or absent maritime strategy. These issues contribute to Africa's bad order at sea, leading to high levels of IUU fishing, armed robbery at sea, piracy, smuggling, trafficking, maritime terrorism, and the persistent external domination of African waters. The study's findings serve as a call to action, emphasizing the importance of developing effective maritime strategies to combat these issues.

Eleven of the nineteen coastal states integrated within the YA have their National Maritime Security Strategy publicly available. The availability of these strategies enhances transparency, fosters regional cooperation, and allows for better alignment with the objectives of the Yaoundé Architecture. This openness also ensures that international partners and stakeholders can support these efforts with targeted capacity-building initiatives and resources. However, the fact that nearly half of the countries' strategies are not publicly available points to challenges in terms of capacity, national priorities, or sensitivities related to security.

Discussion Questions:

- Does your country have a national maritime security strategy?
 - If yes, what are some of the key lessons learned in the process of developing the strategy and which stakeholders were involved in the process? Were non-state actors, such as the private sector, also involved?
 - If not, how far along is your country in the process of building a strategy? What support is needed to develop a strategy?
- What obstacles, if any, did your country face in developing a national maritime security strategy?
- How can national maritime security strategies be targeted to improve operationalization of national maritime operations centers?

Further Readings:

- Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS). National Maritime Security Strategy Toolkit. (2016). *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*. <https://africacenter.org/toolkit/national-maritime-security-strategy-toolkit/>

- Lekunze, M. (2022). Maritime strategy in Africa: strategic flaws exposing Africa to vulnerabilities from food insecurity to external domination. *Third World Quarterly*, 43(12).
- Edmunds, T., & Bueger, C. (2017). Beyond Seablindness: A New Agenda for Maritime Security Studies. *International Affairs*, 93(6), 1293-1311.
- Vreÿ, F. (2010). African Maritime Security: A Time for Good Order at Sea. *Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs*, 2(4), 121-132.
- The AU's AIM Strategy. (2012). African Integrated Maritime Strategy. https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/33832-wd-african_union_3-1.pdf

DAY 4

Friday 13 December 2024

Interregional Maritime Coordination - The Role of the ICC

Format: Plenary presentation
Discussion groups

Objectives:

- Assess the main responsibilities and role of the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) in the Yaoundé Code of Conduct architecture.
- Evaluate how ICC has discharged its responsibilities
- Identify areas of improvement for ICC

Background:

Located at the strategic level of the Yaoundé Architecture (YA) framework, the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) serves as a monitoring and information-sharing center, connecting the activities of the two regional maritime centers in the Gulf of Guinea. These regional centers are the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), based in Pointe-Noire (Republic of Congo), and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security of West Africa (CRESMAO), based in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). The ICC not only coordinates and supports the work of these regional centers, but by extension also coordinates the activities of the five zones, including Zone A and Zone D which are the focus of this roundtable, as well as the member states.²¹ Additionally, the ICC engages with international partners and national governments to build and sustain the necessary political will to prioritize maritime domain awareness in the Gulf of Guinea.

The establishment of the ICC offered a significant step in enhancing maritime domain awareness across the region. However, the potential for improved inter-regional maritime security depends on the clear demarcation of responsibilities between the ICC, the two regional centers, and the zonal level Multinational Maritime Coordination Centers (MMCCs) as originally defined during the establishment of the YA. It is essential to understand how the ICC's functions can in practice complement, rather than compete or replicate, the mandates of the regional and zonal level structures. Additionally, the processes and procedures through which the ICC coordinates activities across the different regions must be clarified. As previously discussed, the effective operationalization of this inter-regional maritime security architecture is also dependent

²¹ Ralby, I., Soud, D., & Ralby, R. (2019). The Gulf of Guinea is Ready for Maritime Technology, *CIMSEC*. https://cimsec.org/author/cim_poster/page/208/

on the progress made towards the development of the individual maritime zones and the national-level operational centers.

Assessing the extent to which the ICC is effectively executing its main roles and responsibilities, as initially established within the YA, is critical to fully operationalizing inter-regional maritime security. There is a need to better understand the procedures through which the center coordinates with institutions at the regional and zonal levels. It is possible to identify areas for improvement through such an assessment.

Discussion Questions:

- What are the main responsibilities and roles of the ICC, and how are they distinct from those of regional centers like CRESMAC and its MMCCs in Zones A and D?
- Describe the procedures at the ICC for coordinating with CRESMAC?
- What policy recommendations can strengthen the effectiveness of the ICC and its capacity to coordinate with CRESMAC and the MMCC in Zones A and D?

Further Readings:

- Jacobsen, K., L. & Nordby J., R. (2015). *Maritime Security in The Gulf of Guinea*. Royal Danish Defence College.
- Danso, K. & Allotey-Pappoe, S. (2021). *Mapping Maritime Actors under the Yaoundé protocol: Establishing Mandates, Interrelationships, Caps and Prospects*. *Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center*.

DAY 4

Friday 13 December 2024

Key Takeaways & Next Steps

Format: Plenary presentation

Objectives:

- Identify key takeaways from the workshop.
- Discuss next steps towards fully operationalizing maritime Zones A and D.

Background:

In recent years, countries in the Gulf of Guinea have made significant progress in coordinating actions at different levels in the maritime domain to tackle a broad array of maritime threats. While collaborative frameworks like the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC) are not yet fully operational, the development of architecture at the national, zonal, regional, and inter-regional levels represents significant progress toward durable collaborative initiatives.

This workshop's assessment of the maritime security architecture is critical to ensure that the YCoC achieves full operationalization. This session of the workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the previous four days, identifying gaps and strengths in surveillance, monitoring, and information sharing. This session will also discuss the practical next steps that participants can take to improve greater coordination and collaboration across all levels of the Yaoundé architecture in response to recognized shared maritime security threats.