

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY SEMINAR

BREAKOUT GROUP EXERCISES

Exercise Objectives

The objective of the breakout group exercise is to identify and propose practical recommendations on how to develop and operationalize a sub-regional maritime security architecture for Coastal and Island African states in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). Over seven discussion group sessions, participants will have the opportunity to discuss and examine how actions taken at the national, regional, and international levels can support the further development of a sub-regional architecture to address shared maritime security threats.

Participant Roles

Each participant will represent an official from their actual service or branch of government, allowing them to leverage their experience and expertise to consider holistically how to improve sub-regional coordination to address shared maritime security threats. However, participants should bear in mind that the goal of this exercise is to develop unified recommendations.

Participants should begin by electing a **chairperson** who will help manage time, as well as a **rapporteur** who will also present the group's plan during the brief back session.

Time Management

The chairpersons should plan to allow adequate time to complete the exercise within the seven allotted discussion groups and assist their group with identifying priorities to ensure that all important aspects of the problem are considered in the limited time allotted.

Required Deliverables

Each discussion group will prepare **15-minute** remarks that they will deliver during the "Brief Back Session" scheduled for **Friday 28th, between 1100-1230**. Each group's brief back should provide recommendations on the following pillars:

- **PILLAR I: National Strategies & Inter-Agency Coordination**
 - From the perspective of national actors, generate **two to three** recommendations on how national level actors can:
 - Develop and/or implement national maritime strategies.
 - Improve maritime domain awareness and enforcement capabilities.
 - Improve coordination among national maritime stakeholders (e.g., through the establishment and operationalization of national maritime information sharing centers)

- Improve existing procedures for coordinating with regional and international actors (e.g., designating focal points and assigning liaison officers to regional bodies like RMIFC and RCOG, establishing standard operating procedures for sharing information, etc.)
- **PILLAR II: Sub-Regional Strategy and Shared Regional Maritime Security Architecture**
 - From the perspective of both national and regional stakeholders, generate **two to three** recommendations on how sub-regional-level actors can:
 - Improve coordination with national level stakeholders.
 - Improve coordination with other sub-regional, regional, and international stakeholders.
 - In addition, participants should also be ready to discuss the:
 - Effectiveness and potential improvements of existing regional maritime security strategies and architectures, including those under the MASE Programme and the Djibouti Code of Conduct.
 - Feasibility of developing an overarching regional maritime security strategy to coordinate the various regional and international initiatives operating in the WIO under a shared regional maritime security architecture.
- **PILLAR III: International Role**
 - From the perspective of both national and sub-regional stakeholders, generate **two to three** recommendations on:
 - How can the international community continue to contribute to the development and operationalization of a shared maritime security architecture for Eastern and Southern African states in the region?
What do African states see as the areas of priority that international partners should support?

Use the discussion group questions outlined in the Read Ahead document to guide your discussions over the seven discussion groups. However, feel free to explore other questions beyond them as needed.