

United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

DISCUSSION PANEL: Maritime security and safety: Enhancing cooperation, coordination and integration, and increasing capacity-building

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Abstract

Our interconnected global economy depends on the ocean, and global commerce is inextricably linked to maritime security and safety. Consequently, our collective security and prosperity depends on a well-integrated program of maritime security and safety. The United States believes that the pursuit and achievement of maritime safety and maritime security requires a coordinated and cooperative international approach. Accordingly, the United States has undertaken or is participating in a series of initiatives intended to enhance cooperation, coordination, and integration among the many stakeholders in maritime security and safety. Many of these initiatives demonstrate how the international community has come to understand that new and evolving threats require an enhanced vision of collective security. Many of today's threats, like piracy, drug trafficking, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing threaten the stability and territorial integrity of States as only other States could in the past. These threats recognize no national boundaries, and their interconnected nature calls for a more integrated approach to addressing them at all levels, because our failure to address one threat may intensify the risk of another. Thus, it is vital that we collectively create and take every reasonable opportunity to enhance cooperation, coordination, and integration, and increase capacity-building across the oceans.