



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC input on activities, including adoption of measures and development of programmes undertaken in the implementation of specific provisions of General Assembly Resolution 69/245 entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea"

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) continues its support to member states in tackling crime at sea. While piracy prosecutions have taken place across the Indian Ocean, the programme for the **Horn of Africa** has been driven by the ambitious aim to strengthen maritime law enforcement capacity within the Somali regions, with the long-term goal that national maritime law enforcement authorities can effectively police their own waters and combat maritime criminal activity before it reaches the high seas. The support includes placement of mentors within the relevant maritime entities, providing daily support. Further, GMCP's efforts to reform Mogadishu Central Prison have started with substantial infrastructure support and technical assistance, together with training and mentoring to improve custodial practices. In Mogadishu, GMCP has started the work on a prison and court complex which includes delivery of secure courtrooms, accommodation for judges and prosecutors during trial, pre and post charge detention facilities and training facilities for judicial staff.

A highlight of the **Indian Ocean** Programme's capacity building activities has been the delivery of a major maritime crime training programme, comprised of tailor-made courses targeting law enforcement officers, corrections staff and judicial and legal officers with responsibilities in the maritime field. The delivery of this training initiative in 2014 has been a major accomplishment in maritime capacity building.

GMCP has also initiated the establishment of the **Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime** (IOFMC), bringing together the countries of the Indian Ocean to fight transnational maritime crime and to share information, create prosecution networks and cooperate together against a range of crimes now using the ocean as a means of trafficking and transportation. So far the IOFMC is addressing heroin trafficking, trafficking in people, wildlife crime, illegal fishing and Somalia sanctions breaking (particularly the charcoal trade). But it is hoped the IOFMC will turn its attention to other maritime crimes for example piracy and armed robbery at sea in SE Asia, weapons smuggling, illegal dumping and white collar maritime crime.

In the **Gulf of Guinea**, GMCP started implementation of a legal reform programme including conducting legal assessments on piracy and armed robbery and assisting states with their improving their legal framework. In addition, awareness raising workshops for prosecutors and judges, as well as coordination meetings amongst the countries involved are being conducted. The Programming is currently being developed on maritime law enforcement components.

The Hostage Support Programme (HSP) team has continued to work tirelessly to support piracy hostages still held in captivity and advocate for their safe release. In May 2014, months of preparation paid off when the HSP facilitated the safe release and repatriation of 11 hostages from the hijacked vessel MV Albedo, together with another three hostages held in Somalia.

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

[Para. 130]

Between 1 August 2014 and 9 June 2015, seven Member States became parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; three Member States became parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and four Member States became parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the latter enjoying currently almost universal adherence (185 States parties).

[Paras. 100, 101 and 108]

UNODC has been collecting legislation and case law on piracy on its SHERLOC (Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime) knowledge management portal since 2013. Currently, the databases contain piracy-related legislation of 23 countries and 9 national piracy prosecutions.

At its twenty-fourth session in May 2014, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice approved the Doha Declaration on “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”, for further endorsement by the General Assembly. The Doha Declaration, which was adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha in April 2015, embodied, among others, a call for Member States to continue the analysis and exchange of information and practices relating to evolving forms of transnational organized crime with varying impacts at the regional and global levels, including, as appropriate, piracy and transnational organized crime committed at sea (as defined by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 22/6), with a view to more effectively preventing and countering crime and strengthening the rule of law (para. 9(g) of the Declaration).

"Recent developments in oceans and the law of the sea" on capacity building

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held the first Regional Training Workshop to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants (SOM) by sea for the Mexico, Central American and the Caribbean region, from 24 to 26 March, 2015 in Panama City.

The Regional Training Workshop aimed at identifying challenges in the response to smuggling of migrants by sea, sharing good practices, enhancing regional cooperation as well as discussing the way forward to enhance the response of authorities to the increasing involvement of organized crime in migrant smuggling and to improve the protection of smuggled migrants at sea. It raised awareness on the international requirements at sea that are of concern in migrant smuggling ventures as well as trained participants on investigating smuggling of migrants while upholding the rights of the migrants.

This pilot workshop was meant to be the first of a series of regional workshops on smuggling of migrants by sea. Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean was the first region to benefit from it. The feedback received from participants, observers and trainers, together with the workshop's outcomes will inform the upcoming regional workshops on migrant smuggling by sea in other regions, as well as the final meeting and tool to be developed in conclusion of the series of workshops around the world.

With the financial support of the Department of State of the United States of America, this Regional Training Workshop was jointly organized by UNODC's Global Programmes against the Smuggling of Migrants and on Maritime Crime, within the framework of the Regional Programme for Central America and the Caribbean and in collaboration with the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico.

The report on the workshop's outcomes and feedback from participants, is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

UNODC is supporting the development and mentoring of multi-agency Port Intelligence Units (PIUs) in Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand, aiming at the disruption of Smuggling of Migrants by sea within, through and from South -East Asia, through intelligence-led investigations.

The partner agencies are the Cambodian National Police, the Indonesian Immigration, the Royal Thai Police (including Thai Immigration Bureau). The project includes the provision of equipment, training and mentoring to enable PIUs to collect and analyse information and produce intelligence reports, as well as facilitating the sharing of information (including by the signing of MoUs). The current phase (phase 2) of the project is to be concluded in June 2015.

UNODC is currently exploring funding options for phase three of the project, as well as the possibility of extending the project to other countries of the region such as Malaysia and Myanmar.