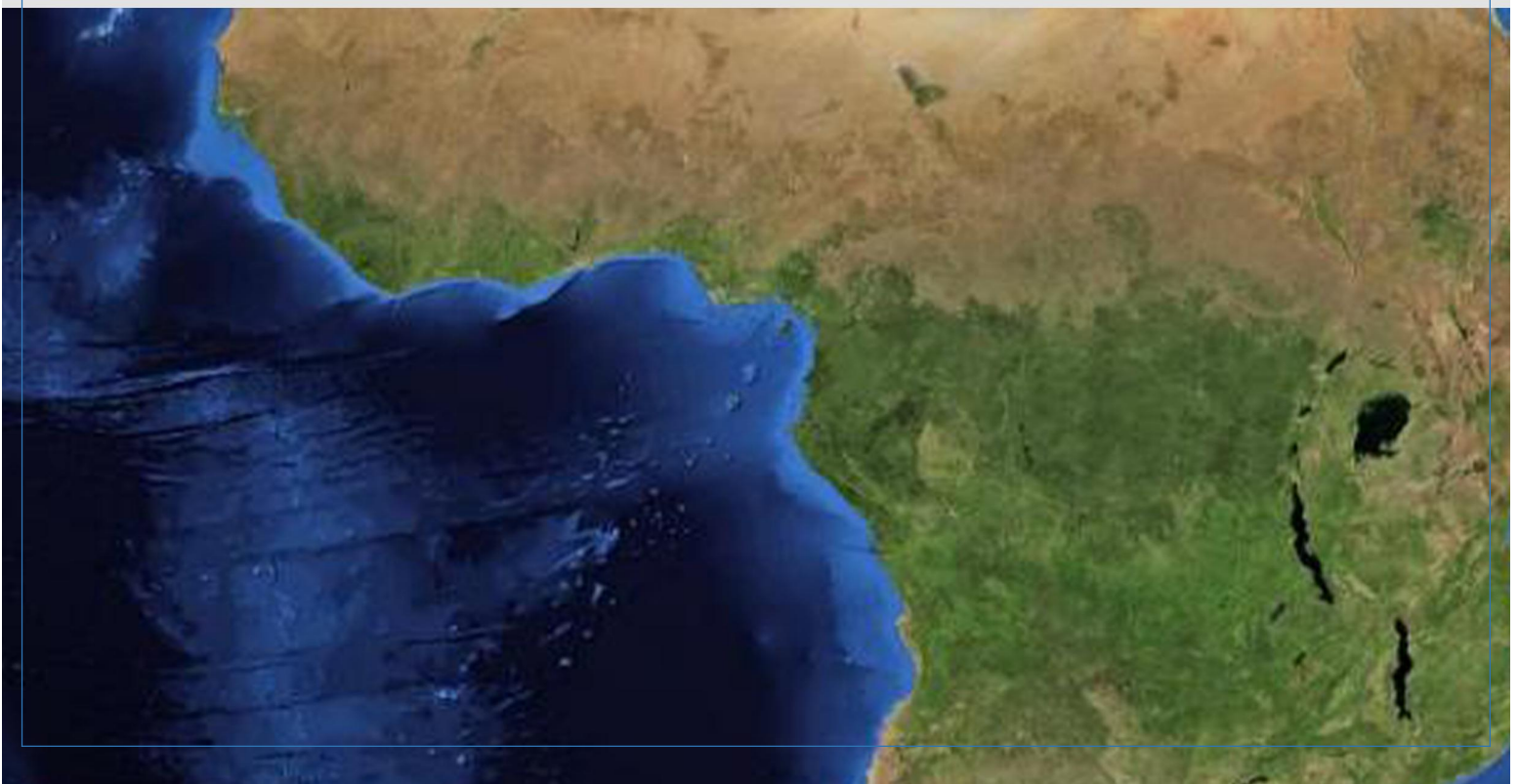




# **BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YAOUNDÉ CODE OF CONDUCT ARCHITECTURE**

**21 MARCH 2021**



## **1. Introduction**

For three consecutive months since January 2021, a series of expert-level Virtual Group Discussion (VDG) meetings have been held to discuss various topics on the status of implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCoC) in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) maritime domain. The three meetings, hosted by the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute (GoGMI) and supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), have convened relevant experts in the GoG with a stake in the YCoC Architecture to deliberate on the status of its implementation and make recommendations for consideration by Signatory Heads of States to curb the high prevalence of maritime crime in the GoG Region. Topics discussed so far by the experts are: Sustainability of the YCoC Architecture; Law enforcement and cooperation with international partners and effective participation with industry and; The role of strategic communications in support of the implementation of the YCoC Architecture.

The fourth meeting which was held on April 21, 2021, was organized to brief the wider stakeholder population who have not been part of the expert meetings, on the status of the discussions made by the experts so far, and also receive inputs from the meeting participants. The briefing meeting brought together 36 participants, including leaders and representatives from various national and regional institutions, international organizations and industry players with interests in the safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Region.

## **2. Background to the VDG meetings**

At the end of 2020, IMO visited the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) to discuss the current status of implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct Architecture. The visit provided IMO with key insights regarding the successes and implementation gaps of the YCoC Architecture. Subsequently, the IMO visited ECOWAS and ECCAS to deliberate on the best approaches to develop political will of the Heads of Member States for the implementation of the YCoC. The findings made from these visits birthed the process of bringing together experts from the Gulf of Guinea States to begin discussions on the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct Architecture. Due to travel restrictions instituted by various Governments to restrain the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic, a Virtual Discussion Group (VDG) approach was which was considered the most appropriate medium to engage the various Regional Experts in the discussions, was adopted. On January 26, 2021, GoGMI was engaged to host the maiden meeting and the subsequent ones which are held each month.

## **3. Meeting Highlights**

- Clearly define the term “Industry” and identify the category of organizations / institutions that belong to Industry. Any institution that renders any form of service, qualifies to be called an Industry.
- Carefully define the roles and support required of international partners in terms of assets provision and capacity building in the implementation of the YCoC.

- There is the need for both state and non-state actors to formalise cooperation in ensuring the sustainability of the YCoC.
- Include the Maritime Organisation for the West and Central Africa (MOWCA) in subsequent expert level discussions on the implementation of the YCoC.
- The role of Academic and Research institutions in the effective implementation and execution of the YCoC should be emphasized on and clearly stated in the YCoC. They should have a representation at the YCoC Secretariat.

### **List of Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Augustine J. Koroma	Central Intelligence and Security Unit
Melvin John	Government of Sierra Leone
COL. Abdourahmane Dieng	ECOWAS
AMB. Florentina Adenike Ukonga	Gulf of Guinea Commission
CDR. Yussif Benning	MMCC Zone F, Accra
Capt. Phillip Heyl	IMO
Dr. Angela Lamptey	University of Ghana, Fisheries Department
AMB. Eduardo Evaristo	Gulf of Guinea Commission
Capt. Emmanuel Bell Bell	ICC
Dr. Alberta Sagoe	GoGMI
Naa Ayeley Akwei aryee	Ghana Navy
Emenyonu Martin Uchenna	Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria
Artur Lucas da Silva	NSD-S hub
Graham Walker	Saab Group
Evan Curt	IRI / Marshall Islands Registry
Michael Arthur-Dadzie, Esq.	Fisheries Commission, Ghana
Molly Schaefer	US Embassy Accra
ROSE VERA NSIAH	Ghana Maritime Authority
Axel Klein	SWAIMS
Stephanie Larsen	CEMLAWS Africa

Richard Young	European External Action Service
Patricia Davies	FCDO DfT
Gisela Vieira	IMO
Russell Pegg	OCIMF
Michael Vibert	FCDO
Bwala William	Nigeria High Commission, London
Henrik Juhl Madsen	IMO
Kijoo Seong	IMO
Agnes Ebo'o	DAI-PASSMAR
Any Freitas Partnerships	European Commission, DG International
Jakob Larsen	BIMCO
Anita Krokan	MFA Norway
Xianyong (Joe) Zhou	INTERCARGO
Kamal-Deen Ali	CEMLAWS Africa
Brian Lisko	US Naval Forces Europe/Africa - US Sixth Fleet
Lawrence Dogli	GoGMI