

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Consolidated inputs for the next SG report on oceans and the law of the sea

Reporting Period: September 2024 – August 2025

General Assembly resolution [79/144](#)

II. Capacity-building:

OP 21. Calls upon States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen **capacity-building activities in developing countries**, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative, enforcement and monitoring capabilities to promote effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law;

Eastern Africa:

- Following the transition from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to the United Nations Transitional Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) on 1 November 2024, UNTMIS supported capacity-building efforts to strengthen Somalia's maritime institutions. In partnership with the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia), UNTMIS jointly developed the 2025 training plan and conducted two nautical training courses in April and June (tbc) 2025 for participants from the Somali Police Force Coast Guard, the Somali Navy and Coast Guard, and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.
- In May 2025, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNTMIS delivered specialized training on maritime law for participants from the fisheries, immigration, customs, and environmental protection sectors. This training enhanced inter-agency coordination and legal proficiency, reinforcing Somalia's maritime governance capacity.

The Pacific:

- In 2025, the [Climate Security Mechanism](#) at the United Nations deployed a Climate, Peace and Security Advisor to the Pacific Islands Forum. The deployment is aimed at supporting efforts to advance the region's climate, peace and security priorities, in line with the [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#) and [the Boe Declaration](#), including its [Action Plan](#). Adopted by the Forum leaders in 2018, the Boe Declaration identifies climate change as the single greatest risk to the security and well-being of Pacific peoples. Intensifying existing vulnerabilities in coastal and island nations, climate change drives competition over dwindling marine resources, creates challenges related to maritime zones and future governance, heightens the risks of displacement and relocation, and threatens the habitability of islands and atolls—particularly in low-lying areas.

Maritime governance and legal frameworks:

OP 21. Calls upon States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen capacity-building activities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their maritime administration and appropriate **legal frameworks** to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative, enforcement and monitoring capabilities to promote effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law;

Eastern Africa:

- UNTMIS supported the Federal Government of Somalia in strengthening maritime governance structures. Key areas of support included providing strategic guidance for the implementation of the National Maritime Security Strategy, which is now a component of the Federal Government of Somalia's broader National Transformation Plan (2025-2029).
- During the reporting period, UNTMIS delivered technical assistance to support the alignment of Somalia's maritime legislation with international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, among others. These efforts aim to enhance Somalia's capacity to meet its international maritime obligations and to help foster the sustainable development of its blue economy.
- In November 2024, UNTMIS supported the establishment of the National Maritime Coordination Committee, a cross-ministerial platform designed to enhance inter-agency coordination on issues such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, piracy, and arms trafficking. These structures are essential to Somalia's whole-of-government approach to maritime governance.
- UNTMIS provided strategic policy advice and advocacy in support of Somalia's maritime legislative reforms, including efforts to revise and adopt key domestic maritime laws, such as the Somali maritime shipping code covering commercial regulation, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, and anti-piracy legislation.

VIII. Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

OP 130. Recognizes the primary responsibility of the Federal Government of Somalia in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the situation in Somalia, and emphasizes the need to address the underlying causes of piracy and to assist Somalia and States in the region, at their request, in strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy and tackle its underlying causes, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and to bring to justice those involved in such acts;

Eastern Africa:

- UNTMIS and EUCAP Somalia supported the establishment of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Mogadishu. The Centre became operational on 5 December 2024. It now serves as the central hub for real-time coordination of responses to maritime threats, including piracy, shipwrecks, and smuggling, enhancing Somalia's search and rescue capabilities and contributing to regional maritime security.
- In support of Somalia's obligations under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNTMIS facilitated the activities of the Somali Maritime Administration Working Group, including its strategic meeting on 27 November 2024. These efforts were focused on enhancing the Somali Maritime Administration's regulatory oversight in areas such as flag state implementation, port and ship control, and registration systems. In coordination with IOM, UNTMIS assisted Somalia in progressing towards initial operational capability for the Somali Maritime Administration. Efforts were focused on strengthening legal, institutional, and operational frameworks essential for effective maritime oversight and sustainable development.
- As per Security Council resolution 2775 (2025), which reauthorized maritime interdiction measures, UNTMIS supported the Federal Government of Somalia in enhancing its capacity to combat illicit maritime activities. The Mission chaired monthly sessions of the Technical Working Group of the Somali Navy and Coast Guard, facilitating operational planning and international coordination among key partners, including the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia, the EUCAP Somalia, EU's Naval Force, the EU Training Mission Somalia, Italy, Türkiye, the UK and the US.
- The Federal Government of Somalia launched its "**Women in Maritime Sector**" initiative in February 2023, to enhance the role of **women** in maritime security, the blue economy, and policy development. UNTMIS played a pivotal role in supporting efforts to drive gender equality in Somalia's maritime domain and implement the above-mentioned initiative. In February 2025, UNTMIS, in collaboration with UNODC, co-organized a maritime security workshop to empower women's participation in maritime security and the blue economy. 30 female representatives from Somali federal and state authorities, along with six women from the Kenyan Coast Guard Service participated in the workshop. Key outcomes included the development of two project proposals, a call for a gender and maritime crime report, and a roadmap for gender-sensitive training, policy development, and infrastructure investment.

OP 135. Remains concerned about piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, with crew members kidnapped, but welcomes the decline in incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in that region since 2020, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 2018 (2011) of 31 October 2011, 2039 (2012) of 29 February 2012 and 2634 (2022) of 31 May 2022 and the statement by the President of the Council of 25 April 2016, supports the efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, ..., recalls the primary role of States in the region to counter the threat and address the underlying causes of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, welcomes the adoption in Yaoundé on 25 June 2013 of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, and calls upon States in the region to continue to strengthen implementation of the Code of Conduct as soon as possible and consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

Western, Central and Southern Africa:

- A notable fluctuation in maritime security trends took place in the Gulf of Guinea during the reporting period. While the last quarter of 2024 recorded a decline in reported incidents, the first quarter of 2025 experienced a resurgence in maritime insecurity. Reported incidents included piracy, armed robbery at sea, and unauthorized boarding.
 - On 27 March 2025, a Ghanaian-flagged fishing vessel, *MENGXIN 1*, was reportedly attacked by suspected pirates in Ghanaian territorial waters. Three Chinese nationals were abducted during the incident but were later rescued on 25 April by Nigerian defence and security forces. In a separate incident on 21 April, pirates attempted to board a tanker in Nigerian waters. The crew's implementation of security drills successfully prevented the boarding and safeguarded the vessel.
 - On 31 January 2025, a Gabonese fishing trawler belonging to the Amerger fishing company was attacked by armed pirates in the Gulf of Guinea, 20 kilometers off the coast of Libreville. The pirates boarded the ship and held up the crew before abducting three Senegalese crew members. All three hostages were ultimately released on 19 February and returned to Senegal.
- 22 member states of the Yaoundé Architecture which was to promote the maritime safety and security architecture in the Gulf of Guinea, and eight international partner countries conducted a multinational maritime security exercise, *Obangame Express 2025*, in Cape Verde from 5 to 16 May 2025. This exercise was aimed at strengthening strategic alliances and enhancing collective operational capacity in maritime domain awareness and response.

XIV. Coordination and cooperation

OP 348. Encourages States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

West and Central Africa:

- The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) made significant efforts to strengthen and advance regional maritime security governance during the reporting period. Progress was made in the evaluation of the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security (YAMS) and its associated Code of Conduct, to mark 13 years of their inception. UNOWAS and UNOCA jointly organized a technical-level workshop on 17 December 2024 in Abuja, evaluated the operationalization and effectiveness of the YAMS framework and identified areas for scaled up actions. Participants included representatives from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS, the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC), the Regional Maritime Security Centres for West and Central Africa, and international partners.
- Further reinforcing regional engagement, UNOWAS participated in an ECOWAS Chiefs of Naval Staffs conference in Cape Verde on 25 - 27 February 2025. The conference helped enhance stakeholder involvement in the evaluation of the YAMS framework. In addition, UNOWAS presented findings on the evaluation of the YAMS to 30 maritime security practitioners from The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, in a workshop organized by

the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Dakar on 7 - 16 April 2025. Among the key recommendations from the workshop was the call to strengthen the participation of women, youth, and local fishing communities in efforts to address maritime security threats.