

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

Securing the maritime environment is a major and continuing challenge in our ever-expanding global economy. Governments must be able to respond effectively to evolving threats and risks. We continue to move to a proactive approach – an approach that creates an adaptable, flexible and versatile security system able to respond to emerging threats of all kinds.

This approach requires the establishment of robust security partnerships with international partners – relationships based on a shared commitment to strengthen the security of the global maritime transportation system. Accordingly, Canada continues to play a leadership role in international fora, where the focus has been on establishing international maritime transportation security standards, implementing capacity building initiatives in developing countries, and sharing maritime transportation security best practices. Canada believes that the pursuit and achievement of maritime security requires a coordinated and cooperative international approach.

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and in particular the Maritime Security Experts Sub Group (MEG-SEC) of the Transportation Working Group (TPT-WG) recognizes the importance of broadening international consensus in maritime security and has been particularly active in progressing the maritime security agenda in the Asia Pacific region. The dynamic engagement of APEC Economies through sharing best practices and exchanging information provides an excellent opportunity to improve security and build confidence in the Asia Pacific region's capacity.

Through capacity building, Canada aims to increase the capacity of states to implement international maritime security standards in a way that builds on existing programs and initiatives. Working to enhance maritime security in developing countries serves to better protect the movement of our citizens, enhances the security of investment abroad, and helps protect goods entering our ports.