

Africa 1 Division's input on maritime security and safety

I. Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

The Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic was created on 27 October 1986 by General Assembly Res 41/11 to promote cooperation among its Member States in the areas of development, peace and security, including environmental and maritime issues. The Zone comprises today 24 members: Angola (the current chair), Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, São Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo and Uruguay.

In its capacity of chair of the Zone, the Government of Angola hosted on 18 and 19 June 2007 its sixth ministerial meeting. The meeting adopted the *Luanda Final Declaration* (A/61/1019 Annex I) and the *Luanda Plan of Action* (A/61/1019 Annex II). With regard to maritime security and safety, the Ministers encouraged the Members of the Zone to “*promote joint projects to explore existing institutional capacities to combat illegal spillages and dumping of toxic waste.*” They also stressed “*the need for all Member states of the Zone to maintain effective Flag State controls, including through Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and to prevent and combat the issuance of flags of convenience.*” Uruguay will host in 2009 the seventh ministerial meeting of the Zone.

In its resolution 61/294 adopted on 13 September 2007, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, (i) “*acknowledges the valuable contribution made by the first Africa-South America Summit, held in Abuja from 26 to 30 November 2006, particularly in reference to paragraph 7 of the Abuja Declaration in which participants mandated the strengthening of regional cooperation on peace and security among organizations and mechanisms of which they were members, mentioning the Zone as an important instrument for consolidating peace and security;*” and (ii) “*invites relevant partners, including international financial institutions, to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic may seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action.*”

II. Somalia

There has been an increase in piracy incidents over the past two and a half years. These piracy incidents have targeted UN Humanitarian vessels chartered by WFP, foreign vessels fishing off the coast of Somalia, foreign commercial and passenger vessels sailing near the Somali coast, and foreign registered vessels operated by or for Somalis.