

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 2025 – August 2026

General Assembly resolution 80/110

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:

- As part of maritime capacity development of Somalia, the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS), jointly with the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia, conducted phased maritime training workshops for Somali maritime officials in the Vessel Traffic Information Management System and Maritime Search and Rescue courses for basic and advanced search and rescue coordinators.
- From September to December 2025, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNTMIS held a specialized training on international maritime law with participants from the fisheries, immigration, customs, law enforcement and environmental protection sectors. The training enabled active engagement with key maritime stakeholders of Somalia and enhanced the legal and operational skills of Somali maritime personnel.
- UNTMIS continued to support the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states in advancing women's participation in the maritime sector, with a particular focus on promoting gender-responsive approaches within maritime law enforcement. The mission supported implementing the Women in the Maritime Sector National Action Plan at the federal government and federal member state levels, including a joint training workshop on 7–10 December 2025 co-organized with UNODC. 32 women and 5 men participated in the workshop. The workshop contributed to enhancing institutional capacity and reinforcing coordination among key stakeholders in promoting women's meaningful participation in the maritime domain. UNTMIS and UNODC also supported the development of standardized training curricula and operational guidance, along with a refresher training of trainers workshop for Women in the Maritime Sector focal points in May 2026 in Mombasa, Kenya.

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 and coordination. In March and April 2026, UNTMIS provided strategic advice to maritime ministries on enhancing cooperation, information-sharing mechanisms, and responses to evolving piracy trends. The advice reinforced the need for operationalizing a senior policy coordination body for national stakeholders (the National Maritime Coordination Centre).
- Somalia advanced its accession to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement during the reporting period. On 22 April 2026, Somalia's cabinet approved the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's submission which was to strengthen ocean governance under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This progress built on the outcomes of the UNTMIS-supported national workshop on 1–2 September 2025, which enhanced institutional readiness and consensus on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement priorities, including coordination mechanisms, capacity needs, and engagement in forthcoming Conference of Parties processes.

VIII. Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

OP 124. 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's support to Somalia's maritime coordination and the mission's transitional activities, supporting the Technical Working Groups of Somali Navy Coast Guard, facilitated partner engagement and transition-focused activities leading to a Somali led maritime safety mechanism.
- In February 2026, UNTMIS provided strategic advisory support to Somali authorities in relation to a maritime incident involving the ditching of a commercial aircraft, contributing to Somali authorities coordinated response considerations.

- UNTMIS delivered targeted technical assistance to Somali maritime institutions and maritime line ministries, including the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport on the development of a National Search and Rescue framework, to strengthen national response capacity.
- UNTMIS engaged with Somali maritime stakeholders to enhance coordination, information sharing and reporting mechanism in case of maritime incidents, including efforts aimed at improving the efficiency of Maritime Reporting and Responding agencies.

OP 139. 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 2020,⁶⁷ 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 2016,⁶⁸ supports the efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, including the adoption by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization of a resolution on recommended action to address piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea,⁶⁹ 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;

Central Africa:

- Maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea remained a concern during the reporting period, with a general downward trend in incidents offset by a series of high-profile kidnappings, including the hijacking of a Portuguese flagged gas carrier off the coast of Equatorial Guinea in December 2025 and the abduction of crew members from a Gabonese flagged fishing vessel in Gabonese waters in January 2026. Against this backdrop, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) engaged with the Gulf of Guinea Commission, including at a meeting in Luanda, Angola on 22 January 2026, to discuss maritime security challenges and to reaffirm its support for the implementation of the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security and the Yaoundé Declaration on advancing regional cooperation and transparent governance for a sustainable blue economy in the Gulf of Guinea.

XIV. Coordination and cooperation

OP 336. 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;

Central Africa:

- UNOCA contributed to the integration of climate related coastal and maritime risks into regional prevention, peace and security, and resilience efforts, building on a United Nations led climate peace security assessment mission along the Gabonese coast in August 2025, conducted jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), and on the launch of its regional Climate, Peace and Security Strategy on 6 February 2026.