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The situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 29 of Security Council resolution [2608 \(2021\)](#), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report within 11 months on the implementation of the resolution and on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, including an assessment of national coast guard capabilities.

2. The report covers the period from 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022 and provides highlights of major developments since the previous report of the Secretary-General ([S/2021/920](#)). Through resolution [2608 \(2021\)](#), the Security Council renewed, for a period of three months, the authorizations as set out in paragraph 14 of resolution [2554 \(2020\)](#) granted to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, for which advance notification had been provided by Somali authorities to the Secretary-General. Following the expiration of the resolution, international cooperation with and support to the Somali authorities continued with regard to the provision of capacity-building measures aimed at strengthening the further development of Somali maritime security capabilities, as well as in support of measures to address the root causes of piracy, as outlined in the present report.

3. The report is based on information provided by the United Nations system, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as Member States and regional organizations, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Indian Ocean Commission, the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Combined Maritime Forces.

II. Main developments, trends and considerations regarding piracy off the coast of Somalia

4. Efforts to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia continued throughout the reporting period through the concerted engagement of the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community. International naval operations within the territorial sea of Somalia ceased following the expiration on 3 March 2022 of the



relevant authorizations set out in resolution 2608 (2021). Support towards further addressing the root causes of piracy and strengthening Somali maritime security capabilities continued to be provided.

5. During the reporting period, once again, no incidents of piracy were reported in the waters around the Somali coastline (see annex II).

6. In their industry releasable threat assessment¹ of 1 September 2022, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta and the Combined Maritime Forces noted that piracy off the coast of Somalia continued to be largely suppressed, including owing to the combined efforts of naval forces and the shipping industries' continued implementation of *Best Management Practices*.² As in previous years, it was found through the assessment that the risk of piracy attacks was low, given that Somali pirate action groups³ had diversified their activities and refocused their efforts on less risky enterprises. Nonetheless, it was assessed that the groups retained the capacity to potentially undertake opportunistic actions in the future.

7. On 22 August, the shipping industry, including the International Chamber of Shipping, submitted a notification to IMO informing it of the removal of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area designation, which includes the coastline of Somalia, effective 1 January 2023.

III. Naval activities and maritime coordination

8. Prior to the expiration of resolution 2608 (2021), the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta continued to work to deter, prevent and suppress piracy attempts off the coast of Somalia by protecting and escorting vessels vulnerable to piracy attacks, including vessels of the World Food Programme.

9. Following the expiry of the authorizations set out in Security Council resolution 2608 (2021), the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta ceased to operate in the territorial sea and associated airspace of Somalia effective 3 March 2022, while it continued to operate independently to counter potential piracy attempts outside the territorial sea and associated airspace of Somalia, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 has continued to conduct focused counter-piracy maritime security operations in high seas areas around the Horn of Africa.

10. Through the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa, based in Brest, France, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta continued to facilitate the scheduling of convoys conducted by independent deployers through the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor. The Centre, together with the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, provided regional maritime domain awareness and received voluntary registration details of transiting vessels, as recommended in *Best Management Practices*.

11. The Combined Maritime Forces continued to work closely with the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta, the Contact Group on Piracy off

¹ Written by the Combined Maritime Forces and the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta to inform risk management decision-making for merchant and large commercial fishing shipping operators that transit through the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean.

² Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and others, *Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea*, 5th edition (Witherby Publishing Group, Ltd., 2018).

³ Groups organized by their members to conduct acts of piracy and robbery at sea, usually within a specific geographical maritime area.

the Coast of Somalia, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations and other regional naval operations centres and regional rescue coordination centres. While focusing on counter-piracy operations, the Combined Maritime Forces and the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta also provided threat assessments and incident-related threat bulletins to the global shipping industry and collaboration on wider maritime incidents in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, such as assistance to stranded and missing vessels and investigations of reported suspicious approaches and responses to maritime safety incidents. In December 2021, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta signed a memorandum of understanding on the exchange of information with the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, in Madagascar, and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre, in Seychelles.

12. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the forty-ninth Shared Awareness and Deconfliction conference was held virtually on 13 January and 2 February 2022. Two working groups convened on 13 January to address piracy and maritime security issues across the wider Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. The working groups addressed a broad range of matters affecting both the shipping industry and military stakeholders. The fiftieth such conference is scheduled for November 2022, to be chaired by the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta.

13. NATO retained maritime situational awareness off the coast of Somalia and continued to monitor the situation with respect to piracy, including through the NATO Shipping Centre, located in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which regularly interacts with the global shipping community. NATO maintained its partnerships with relevant counter-piracy stakeholders and remained active in relevant counter-piracy forums.

IV. Support for addressing the root causes of piracy and development of Somali maritime security capabilities

A. National legal and policy frameworks

14. The Somali Maritime Administration Department, under the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport, continued to receive technical support and training on legal maritime compliance, ship registration, safety and crew certification from the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, IMO, UNODC and UNSOM.

15. The Somali Maritime Administration working group, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport and international partners, including the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IMO, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNODC, UNSOM and the World Food Programme, continued to work towards the attainment of the initial operational capability of the Administration in the four identified areas of legal compliance, ship registration, maritime search and rescue coordination, and crew certification. The working group reported progress on ship registration regulations, with international partners working to address delays in the implementation of the agreed action plan to attain initial operational capability, with legal and regulatory compliance a priority.

16. Since December 2021, at the request of the Maritime Directorate within the Office of the President of Somalia, UNSOM, the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia and international partners have supported the Federal Government in drafting a national maritime strategy for Somalia. The strategy is intended to replace the Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy of 2013 and reflects a

broader approach that includes cross-cutting issues such as maritime security, governance, the environment, and youth and gender considerations.

17. The Maritime Directorate continued its efforts, supported by UNSOM, to reactivate the National Maritime Coordination Committee. On 6 March 2022, the Technical Committee of the National Maritime Coordination Committee, involving representatives of various ministries of the Federal Government of Somalia and of federal member states, convened. In the meeting, progress was made towards reviewing maritime priorities and establishing coordination mechanisms to enhance delivery of maritime governance structures linked to the Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy, the priorities of the National Development Plan and the commitments under the Mutual Accountability Framework.

18. UNSOM and the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia supported the Federal Government of Somalia, the federal member states and Somali maritime stakeholders in advancing the Women in the Maritime Sector initiative. Five consultative workshops were conducted in all federal member states from November to December 2021 to develop their respective action plans regarding the initiative. Key outcomes of the conferences of federal member states were discussed at the National Consultative Conference on Women in the Maritime Sector, held on 29 December 2021, including scholarships for women in the sector, the role of women in coastal communities and economic development, and enhancing the number of women in senior positions in the sector. A draft national action plan for the initiative has been prepared and is supported by UNSOM and pending endorsement.

B. Support for strengthening Somali maritime law enforcement capacities

19. During the reporting period, efforts by the United Nations, the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia and international partners continued in support of building the capacity of the Somali maritime law enforcement authorities. On 19 May, UNSOM, together with other United Nations entities and international partners, held a virtual seminar with national and state officials and academia to raise awareness of issues related to ocean governance and maritime legislation.

20. On 25 May, the inaugural meeting was held of a working group on the Somali Navy and Coast Guard, chaired by the Ministry of Defence of Somalia and the Deputy Commander of the Somali Navy and Coast Guard, facilitated by UNSOM under the framework of a comprehensive approach to security, and with the participation of Italy, Türkiye, the United States of America, the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, and the European Union Training Mission Somalia, to contribute to the training of Somali security forces, UNODC and the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta. Terms of reference were endorsed to formalize the working group within the structure of the comprehensive approach to security and to enable a coordinated approach to developing the maritime security sector in Somalia.

21. UNODC and UNSOM, along with the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, continued to support the training and equipping of the maritime law enforcement agencies at the federal and state levels. UNODC, through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, provided training and equipment to maritime law enforcement officers from the major Somali ports of Mogadishu, Boosaaso and Berbera, including several trainings on visit, board, search and seizure implemented in Seychelles during the reporting period.

22. The European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia facilitated and supported the preparation of the Boosaaso Port Maritime Police Unit and the Somali

Police Force Maritime Police Unit to attend the United States International Maritime Exercise 2022 and Cutlass Express 2022. The Mission also organized trainings on visit, board, search and seizure procedures and operational coordination for the Somali Police Force Maritime Police Unit and the Boosaaso Port Maritime Police Unit. The Mission, the United Nations Office for Project Services and UNODC supported the construction of a maritime facility that serves as an operational base from which the Somali Police Force Maritime Police Unit can operate around the Mogadishu port and along the Somali coastline. On 30 March 2022, the facilities were handed over to the maritime police unit.

23. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the coastal waters and exclusive economic zone of Somalia remained prevalent and hindered efforts towards sustainable fisheries management, with the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance systems of Somalia still in their early development stages. The European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia contributed to the development of a fisheries management system and the rejuvenation of the task force on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, in conjunction with FAO, developed a Somali fisheries enforcement demonstrator programme to train fisheries protection officers boarding teams from the maritime police and prosecutors from the Office of the Attorney General. Under the programme, in February 2022, UNODC, with the support of the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta, offered training on boarding operations to the Somali fisheries protection officers and boarding teams.

24. The European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia continued to support the maritime police unit within the Office of the Attorney General in Mogadishu and provided technical support to maritime judicial officers, including by advising prosecutors on maritime crimes and implementing exercises aimed at strengthening police-prosecutor coordination at the federal level. The Mission provided support to the “Somaliland” Coast Guard to develop standard operating procedures and to maintain vessels and other equipment sustainably, as well as to prevent and suppress trafficking and smuggling, including through a capacity-building training session held from 17 January to 23 February 2022.

C. Capability assessment of the national coast guard

25. The coast guard capability of Somalia remains limited, with some maritime activities undertaken at the various levels of the federal member states around the coast of Somalia. The Somali Navy and Coast Guard, as well as the maritime police at the federal and state levels, are the primary actors engaged in limited coast guard-related activities.

26. The Somali Navy and Coast Guard operates around Mogadishu with still limited outreach beyond the territorial sea. It currently receives ad hoc international support and mentoring, and its capabilities are mostly confined to patrolling and boarding operations around the port of Mogadishu.

27. The maritime police units operate at the federal and state levels. The Somali Police Force Maritime Police Unit, based in Mogadishu, receives training, equipment and infrastructure support from international partners, allowing it to undertake limited-range operational deployments along the coastline of Somalia and offer a basic search and rescue capability. The Puntland maritime policing component also receives support from international partners, which allows it to deliver a limited range of law enforcement capabilities. However, other federal member states’ maritime police units lack basic equipment and infrastructure. The “Somaliland” Coast Guard, which also functions as a maritime police component, provides limited maritime

security capability in terms of port security, security in coastal areas, and monitoring and policing. All federal member states have incorporated a state police maritime unit into their respective development plans.

D. Cooperation on piracy-related prosecutions

28. The Law Enforcement Task Force of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia did not hold a meeting during the reporting period owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, as the secretariat of the Task Force, continued to coordinate with Member States, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta.

29. During the reporting period, 27 convicted pirates served their sentences in Somali prisons supported by the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, 20 of them in Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex and 7 in Garoowe Central Prison, Puntland.

E. Community engagement

30. The persistence of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing along the Somali coastline continued to present a significant threat to the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities dependent on coastal resources. During the reporting period, direct harassment of local fishing vessels by industrial vessels was reported increasingly by coastal communities.

31. FAO continued to coordinate with the Federal Government of Somalia, federal member states, and private sector and non-governmental organizations on training and capacity-building efforts in the fisheries sector. During the reporting period, construction work was undertaken to establish a fisheries cooperative centre in Kismayo port and a livelihood centre in Hobyo port through support from partners. FAO continued to provide technical support for training on fishing and processing skills and granted scholarships to 20 students to complete an undergraduate degree in fisheries and marine science.

V. International cooperation

A. Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

32. The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held its twenty-fourth plenary session on 27 January in a hybrid format. The meeting brought together 145 delegates from 20 States and 37 regional and international organizations.

33. A key outcome of the plenary was agreement on a new strategic vision for the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in the context of reduced risks of piracy off that coast. The Contact Group agreed to a proposal by the Strategic Planning Steering Group to reposition the Contact Group as a forum for strategic dialogue on illicit maritime activities in the broader region. The plenary participants agreed to change the name of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to the Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities in the Western Indian Ocean. Further discussions are planned on the geographical and functional scope of the group, which may affect its name.

B. Trust fund to support initiatives of States countering piracy off the coast of Somalia

34. In accordance with the agreement reached among trust fund board members on 19 June 2019, the trust fund to support initiatives of States countering piracy off the coast of Somalia was operationally closed on 31 December 2021, after 11 years of operation. Over the course of the trust fund's operations, from its establishment on 1 January 2010 until its closure, donors contributed a total of \$15,351,560. At the final board meeting, participants acknowledged the contribution made to the prosecution and detention of pirates and to the enhancement of maritime law enforcement capabilities while underlining the importance of continued support to the Federal Government of Somalia regarding capacity-building efforts to address the root causes of piracy. The board endorsed a decision to transfer residual funds, following the trust fund's financial closure, to UNODC to implement projects aligned with the fund's objectives as stipulated in its terms of reference and in accordance with the agreement of individual donors.

C. Regional coordination and capacity-building measures

35. Following the signing of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, in January 2017, IMO continued to provide secretariat and capacity development support to the Code of Conduct signatory States. The support was focused on building sustainable capacity in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden to prevent a potential resurgence of piracy actions and to collaborate on other threats to the safety and security of navigation. The framework of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Jeddah Amendment comprises a steering committee, a working group on information-sharing, a working group on capacity-building coordination and a forum for donors and implementing partners known as the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

36. During the reporting period, the Djibouti Code of Conduct signatory States focused on developing a robust regional information-sharing network and initiatives to enhance maritime domain awareness through effective implementation of the regional information-sharing strategy. Moreover, efforts were focused on strengthening capacity-building through the Friends of the Djibouti Code of Conduct forum. The Code of Conduct was also focused on implementing a common vision to enhance maritime security in the region, including through the development of national maritime security committee structures, national maritime security risk registers and national maritime security strategies by the signatory States, with support from IMO.

37. From 28 to 30 June 2022, signatory States to the Djibouti Code of Conduct held a high-level regional meeting, during which discussions were held on improving the coordination of capacity-building efforts in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden for more efficient response to a range of maritime security threats. During the high-level meeting, signatory States to the Code of Conduct officially launched a regional capacity-building coordination matrix, developed by the working group on capacity-building coordination and supported by IMO.

38. The maritime security architecture established under the Maritime Security Programme, implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission with the support of the European Union, continued to conduct exercises related to various maritime crimes with regional and international partners, including the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta, the Combined Maritime Forces and UNODC. Seven signatory States of the maritime security architecture – the Comoros, Djibouti, France,

Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles – as well as partner States deployed liaison officers to reinforce the programme. The programme contributed to developing coherence among international donors in their support for efforts towards maritime security, port security, efforts to combat illegal fishing and other maritime crimes.

D. Hostage release and support efforts

39. The Hostage Support Partnership reported that, while no maritime hostages remained in Somalia, there were five international hostages in the country, one of whom was being held by groups with possible links to Somali pirate groups and kingpins.

VI. Observations

40. The continued absence of piracy attacks and armed robbery incidents off the coast of Somalia demonstrates the progress made through holistic measures taken by the Federal Government of Somalia, Member States, naval forces, international and regional organizations, the shipping industry and the private sector. I wish to thank them for their commitment and contributions to these efforts over the past decade.

41. While international naval efforts to combat piracy and armed robbery in the territorial sea of Somalia concluded with the expiration of the authorizations set out in Security Council resolution [2608 \(2021\)](#), I am encouraged by the continuation of capacity-building activities on the part of the international community, working in partnership with the Federal Government of Somalia, to support the further development of Somali maritime security capabilities and on measures to address the root causes of piracy. A continuation of these efforts will remain critical in the period ahead to ensure that the considerable gains achieved over the past decade are not reversed.

42. I reiterate my previous calls to increase the support being provided to the Federal Government of Somalia for addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, which continues to be a significant challenge, severely affecting the livelihoods of local communities. Therefore, it remains paramount to provide continuous support to coastal communities to mitigate the related socioeconomic impact. More broadly, efforts to address the root causes of piracy are still required. Inclusive, sustainable development that leaves no one behind provides the most enduring solution to the causes, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I urge partners to continue to provide their assistance in this regard. The Federal Government of Somalia should also be further supported in the development of its maritime law enforcement capacity, including coast guard capabilities.

43. I am grateful to the Member States, which, for over a decade, contributed to the trust fund to support initiatives of States countering piracy off the coast of Somalia, which concluded its operations on 31 December 2021. During its period of operations, the trust fund provided valuable support towards enhancing Somali and regional maritime law enforcement and judicial capabilities, refurbishing correctional facilities, providing assistance to suspected and convicted pirates, broadening awareness of the law of the sea and opportunities for developing a sustainable ocean-based economy through its full and effective implementation, and contributing to addressing the root causes of piracy.

Annex I

Contributions of Member States to countering piracy off the coast of Somalia

1. The following statements have been provided by Member States in response to the relevant operative paragraphs of Security Council resolution [2608 \(2021\)](#).
2. Denmark contributes to countering piracy in the Horn of Africa region by supporting governance institutions, including efforts to maintain and strengthen local and regional maritime security capacities, and by undertaking efforts to address the socioeconomic root causes of piracy. Denmark continues to work closely with the international community as a major contributor to efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to strengthen the exercise of government authority at sea. Denmark is engaged in building the capacity of maritime police and coast guards across Somalia. Denmark supports research on and analysis of the disruption of maritime smuggling routes and the countering of illicit financing in furtherance of the UNODC mandate under Security Council resolution [2607 \(2021\)](#) and through the establishment and monitoring of prisons that hold convicted pirates in Somalia.
3. France plays an active role at the national level in supporting maritime security off the coast of Somalia. France, a State on the Indian Ocean rim and a member of the Indian Ocean Commission, over which it presided until May 2022, continues to advocate regional ownership of maritime security issues. France supports the implementation of the regional maritime security strategy of the Commission, as well as the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct), which was signed by 21 States in East and Southern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula with a view to creating interconnected maritime information fusion centres. The activities of France off the coast of Somalia are mainly undertaken within the European framework. France is one of the three main contributors to the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta, behind Italy and Spain. Maritime security has been identified as a priority in the new European Union strategy for the Horn of Africa, which was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 10 May 2021 and includes references to Operation Atalanta. Since March 2019, the operational headquarters of Atalanta have been in Rota, Spain. The Operation’s Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa, which is the first point of contact for the various maritime actors, in particular the shipping industry, is co-located with the Maritime Information Cooperation and Awareness Centre in Brest, France, and is operated primarily by French petty officers. By taking deterrent action, Operation Atalanta contributes effectively to reducing the number of acts of piracy in the Somali basin and in particular to shrinking the high-risk area identified by the maritime industry in September 2021. Following the expiration of Security Council resolution [2608 \(2021\)](#), interventions in the territorial waters of Somalia are no longer authorized. In addition to combating piracy, which remains its core mandate, Operation Atalanta has had the mandate extended to include combating drug trafficking, monitoring non-flagged vessels and enforcing the arms embargo imposed on Somalia by the United Nations pursuant to Council resolution [2182 \(2014\)](#). The extension of the mandate has yielded significant results. France regularly provides air and naval assets in direct or associated support to Operation Atalanta. Building on the agreements that have been arranged with coastal States to ensure that individuals arrested under Operation Atalanta will be prosecuted effectively, France has carried out drug seizure operations in the context of the direct support provided during the French Presidency of the European Union. The European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta cooperates with, and transmits information on regional security issues to, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement

Cooperation (Europol). Such cooperation makes it possible to gain a holistic understanding of maritime security issues, taking into consideration the close connection between illicit trafficking and piracy. A strategic review of Operation Atalanta, as part of the holistic and coordinated strategic review of Common Security and Defence Policy engagement in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, was issued in September 2022. France will support strengthened coordination between Operation Atalanta and European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz, the ad hoc European operation in the Gulf that has recently been reconfigured. The launch of a European Union-coordinated maritime presence in the north-west Indian Ocean will also influence the overall architecture of the European approach to maritime safety in the Indo-Pacific region. At the regional level, the European Union is helping to build a maritime security architecture in the Western Indian Ocean. Its contribution consists of the following three programmes: (a) the European Union Programme to Promote Regional Maritime Security in the Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean, with a budget of €37.5 million, covering the period 2013–2020 (completed); (b) the Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean I project, with a budget of €5.5 million, covering the period 2015–2019, a closed programme implemented by Expertise France, the French agency for international technical assistance; and (c) the Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean II project, with a budget of €4 million for 2021 and €6 million for 2022, also implemented by Expertise France. The French Presidency of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, which began a two-year term in June 2021, provides an opportunity to highlight the actions of the European Union as a provider of maritime security in the region, in particular through Operation Atalanta. Onshore, the European Union is contributing to the capacity-building efforts of the States of the Horn of Africa with a view to addressing the root causes of piracy and eradicating piracy networks. The European Union has initiated two Common Security and Defence Policy missions in Somalia, and the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia supports maritime governance, as well as building the capacity of coast guards, maritime police in the main Somali ports and maritime law enforcement. Its most recent mandate began on 1 January 2020 and will run until the end of 2022. France is participating only in the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, to which it has deployed six personnel. In September 2022, the European External Action Service conducted a holistic review of the two missions in Somalia and of the maritime Common Security and Defence Policy.

4. In order to enhance maritime security in the region, India joined the Combined Maritime Forces as an associate partner on 27 July 2022. An Indian ship has been deployed as part of Combined Maritime Forces operations. Since October 2008, India has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden. Since then, 100 Indian ships, including 7 ships since November 2021, have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf. India has successfully escorted 3,440 merchant vessels and more than 25,000 seafarers as part of these operations.

5. Since 2009, Japan has been conducting counter-piracy operations without interruption by deploying its Maritime Self-Defence Force destroyers (with coast guard officers on board) and P-3C patrol aircraft to the Gulf of Aden. With a view to promoting stability in Somalia, Japan has provided approximately \$13 million in financial assistance for the improvement of the humanitarian and security situation in Somalia in fiscal year 2021 (April 2021 to March 2022). To enhance the capacity of the coastal States near Somalia, Japan and Djibouti exchanged notes in December 2021, through which Japan granted up to ¥2.95 billion to Djibouti for building its Coast Guard vessels and maintaining floating piers. The Japan Coast Guard, in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, sent its officials to Djibouti for the capacity-building of its Coast Guard in January and July 2022 and held an online seminar for officials of the maritime law enforcement agencies of coastal States around Somalia and the Gulf of Aden between October and December

2021. With the financial assistance of the Government of Japan, seminars for the officials of coastal States engaged in maritime security, including participants from Somalia, were organized by IMO at the Djibouti Regional Training Centre in November 2021 and March and June 2022.

6. Kenya has maintained its relations within regional and international security mechanisms, which is instrumental in addressing the challenges of maritime security. Under the leadership of Kenya as Chair of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia from January 2020, sustained dialogue and focus on counter-piracy by regional and international stakeholders was maintained. The concerted efforts of the global community will result in the removal by the shipping industry of the classification “Indian Ocean high-risk area” in January 2023, after more than a decade of effective threat-reducing counter-piracy operations. Also under the leadership of Kenya, a shift in focus from piracy to other maritime crimes within the Contact Group led to the Group’s repositioning and refocusing its priorities to deal with existing and emerging illicit maritime activities in the Western Indian Ocean through continuous dialogue. Kenya has continued its active participation in the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct and chairs a working group on information-sharing, which has led the development of a road map on such sharing that will result in the cooperation of 21 countries in the Western Indian Ocean towards combating maritime crimes.

7. The National Maritime Security Committee of Mauritius, taking into account the reduction of piracy in high-risk areas in September 2021, discontinued the practice of embarking national coast guard commandos on ships proceeding to Agalega in March 2022. Notwithstanding the reduction in incidents of piracy, the national coast guard continues to strengthen its intervention capability through the organic induction of the latest boarding equipment and training with friendly countries. The national coast guard, through the Information Fusion Centre, in the Indian Ocean region, and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, in Madagascar, is closely monitoring the situation while engaging with all partners for capacity-building and the training of personnel.

8. Portugal subscribes to a holistic approach to maritime security issues, namely the issues of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Portuguese authorities take part in many efforts, in various areas of expertise, to understand and assess the origins and consequences of these concerns. Portugal has been deeply committed to the ongoing work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, co-chairing the Virtual Legal Forum, together with Mauritius, for more than a decade. On 27 January, Portugal participated online in the twenty-fourth plenary session of the Contact Group, which was held in Nairobi. Portugal has regularly participated in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union anti-piracy missions and operations off the coast of Somalia, monitoring fishing activities and supporting World Food Programme vessels. Its participation includes the command of the naval forces in the region using national military means and military aircraft and employing many military personnel. From 1 November 2021 to 30 June 2022, Operation Atalanta dispatched four military elements from Portugal to Rota, Spain, and two to the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa, based in Brest, France. On 2 December 2021, Portugal took command of the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta. Since 2019, the Portuguese gendarmerie, the Guarda Nacional Republicana, has been actively contributing to the European Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, which aims to support the development of Somali maritime security and wider police capacity in the following areas: reinforcing the maritime police units in and around the four main Somali ports (Mogadishu, Berbera, Boosaaso and Kismayo), contributing to the development of the Somali Coast Guard functions, and continuing to advocate the importance of maritime security for the development of the blue economy. It should be noted that, since the end of 2021, the Guarda

Nacional Republicana has contributed to this effort by deploying military personnel to the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, whose mandate is to contribute to the establishment and strengthening of maritime law enforcement in the country, in particular through the training of elements of its security forces.

9. Since 2009, the Republic of Korea has been committed to countering piracy off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden in order to keep crucial global trade routes open; Republic of Korea naval warships have constantly conducted ship convoys and patrols off the coast of Somalia. The Republic of Korea has provided naval assets to the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 operating in the Indian Ocean. For the prevention of damage to ships on international voyages from piracy, the Republic of Korea has enacted domestic law and managed vessels that navigate in the High Risk Area since 2017; established comprehensive measures, including details regarding the role of the Government in the prevention of damage to ships from piracy, guidelines for response to piracy, collection and analysis of information on piracy, and international cooperation; established approval and management standards for private maritime security companies and qualification standards for privately contracted armed security personnel to provide safe and reliable services; established facility standards for a citadel and made it mandatory for all the vessels that navigate high-risk areas to establish a citadel facility.

10. The Russian Federation has continued its activities to ensure the security of Russian maritime navigation, combat piracy and armed robbery in the Horn of Africa region and strengthen international anti-piracy cooperation. Since 1 November 2021, one deployment of a ship division of the Navy of the Russian Federation to the Gulf of Aden has taken place to protect merchant shipping from pirate attacks. The Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transport (Rosmorrechflot) and the State-financed Maritime Security Service have carried out the following activities: monitoring the situation with respect to maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea, including off the coast of Somalia; disseminating to Russian companies the recommendations of the Russian Navy, the Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transport, and the International Maritime Organization, including in the fifth edition of *Best Management Practices*, in the context of countering piracy in the region; consulting with foreign shipping companies and ship captains regarding the formation of Russian convoys; regularly exchanging information with vessels registered under the Russian flag crossing the Gulf of Aden on current navigational conditions in the high-risk area; and maintaining continuous contact with major anti-piracy information centres on a wide range of issues.

11. Seychelles maintains close collaboration with regional and international partners to support international efforts to suppress the threat of piracy and other forms of illicit maritime activities in the Western Indian Ocean region. Consequently, Seychelles contributes significantly to the maritime security architecture in the region by committing assets and personnel to counter-piracy operations and maritime security measures. The Seychelles Coast Guard maintains active engagement in multinational operational exercises to maintain operational preparedness, enhance capacity and strengthen coordination among various regional and international forces. The signing of the Regional Agreements on Maritime Information Exchange and Coordinated Actions at Sea, formulated under the European Union-funded Maritime Security Programme in April 2018, has contributed to promoting maritime security in the region. Seychelles continues to fulfil its obligations as host to the Regional Centre for Operational Coordination, established under the European Union-funded Regional Maritime Security Programme in July 2019. Working in tandem with its sister centre, the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, the Regional Centre for Operational Coordination promotes greater coordination of operations and enhances maritime security. In addition, through its various initiatives at both the national and

regional levels, the Maritime Security Programme has been invaluable in strengthening the anti-money-laundering regimes in the Western Indian Ocean region. At the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Planning Steering Group, held on 11 February 2021, Steering Group participants designated Seychelles as Chair of the Steering Group. In that role, Seychelles oversees and directs the Steering Group's work in addressing illicit maritime activities within the region by revitalizing the collective; emphasizing key areas, such as resource management, to sustain the activities of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia; strengthening synergies between relevant organizations, programmes and mechanisms; and adopting a coordinated and rounded approach to addressing other illicit maritime activities (e.g. drug trafficking, arms trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, terrorism and other forms of organized crime) on the high seas that could potentially contribute to creating instability in the region and the re-emergence of piracy. Work conducted by the Steering Group has culminated in the decision of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to change its name to signify a wider mandate geared towards a holistic maritime security architecture and approach that take into account the complex nature of current maritime security threats and potential linkages with piracy, as well as one that addresses the financial aspect, such as money-laundering. Illicit financial flows and money-laundering are linked to transnational maritime crimes, and Seychelles remains concerned that these activities still prevail. Therefore, ad hoc anti-piracy or cross-border instruments in domestic legislation are essential tools to address the issue of money-laundering facilitated through maritime crimes. In this regard, since 2018, Seychelles authorities have been actively engaged in undertaking reforms of the legal and regulatory framework to remediate deficiencies identified in the Seychelles anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism financing framework.

12. Since the origins of the European Union Naval Forces Somalia – Operation Atalanta, in 2008, Spain has been the main contributor to counter-piracy efforts and has maintained a strong and permanent presence in the structures of Operation Atalanta. Spain became one of its main pillars on the occasion of the relocation of its operations headquarters from Northwood, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to Rota Naval Base, in the South of Spain, on 29 March 2019. While retaining the Command of the Operation at strategic level, Spain alternates with Italy in the tactical command of the Operation on board one of its Armada flagships, consisting of a vessel with maritime security capacities. This naval component counts also on a Spanish special operations unit and a security operative team on board. Besides the naval component, Spain contributes to the operation with a permanent military structure at the Rota Operation headquarters currently composed of 13 members of the various Spanish armies and 1 political adviser from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. Spain also has an operation tactical air detachment permanently assigned to the Operation performing tasks of surveillance of the zone of operations; the Orion detachment is stationed in Djibouti. This air detachment is complemented by two embarked air units with, respectively, fixed and non-fixed wings, which allow for the comprehensive surveillance of the vast zone of operations. Spain also contributes to the support element of Atalanta, stationed in Djibouti, providing part of its staff. Spain fully supports the European Union integrated approach in Somalia and expresses its commitment through its participation with and strong presence in the sister missions of the European Union in Somalia, European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia and the European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces, providing 7 and 24 members of their respective staffs. The participation in these capacity-building tools highlights the efforts and engagement of Spain to achieve the final goal of creating a permanent regional security structure held by the regional

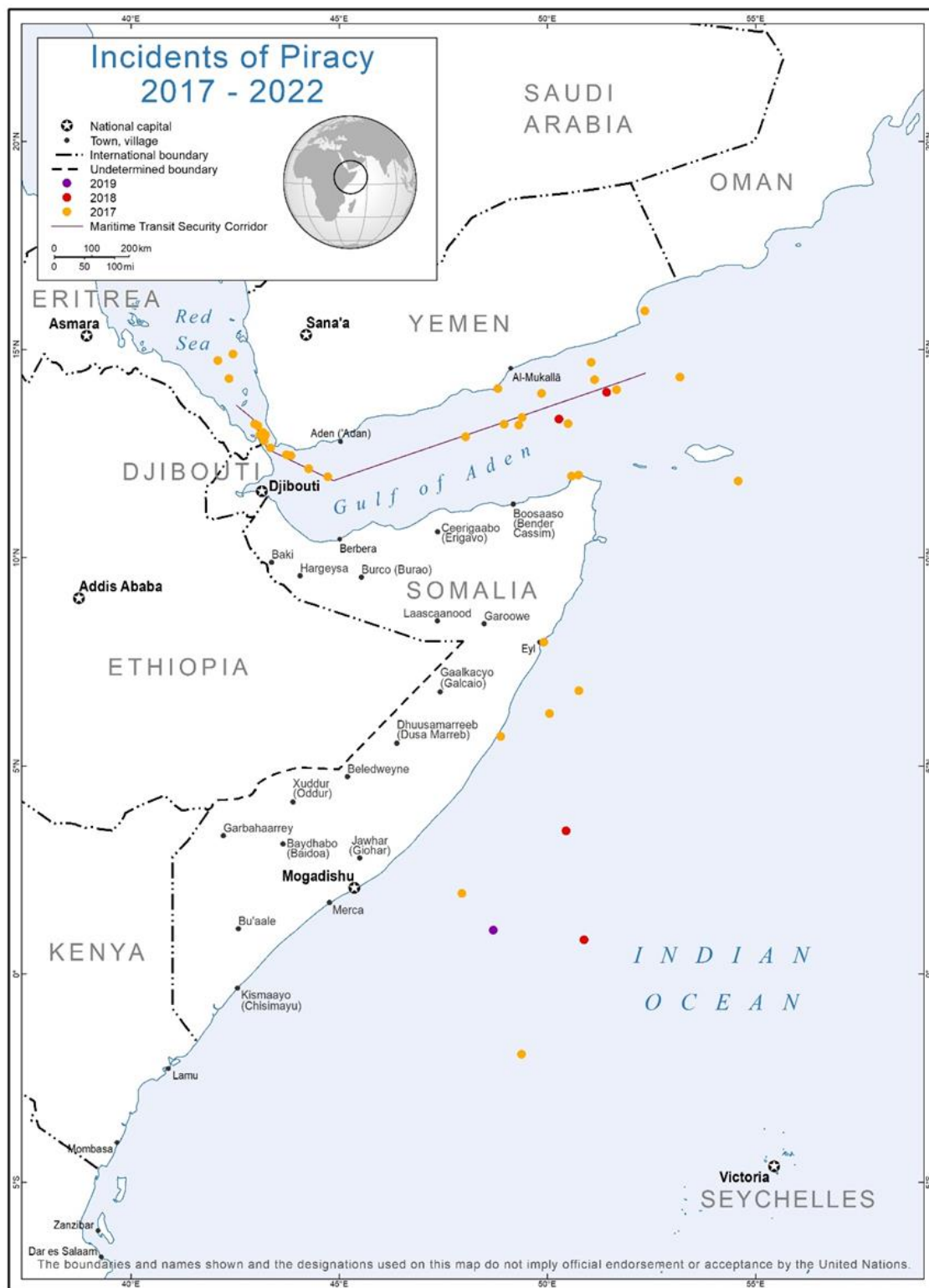
countries' own capacities. In this vein, Spain is also integrated into the Maritime Combined Forces, providing an air coordinator element, stationed in Bahrain.

13. Since 2009, Sweden has contributed five naval vessels to the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation Atalanta in the Gulf of Aden, off the Somali coast. Sweden, within its engagement in the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, has also played an important part in the development of the “Somaliland” Coast Guard thanks to donations of patrol boats and maritime training courses conducted in 2018, 2019 and 2021, as well as secondment of personnel.

14. Türkiye has been a member of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia since its establishment, in 2009, and has played an active part in international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. Türkiye has contributed to the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 since 2009 by deploying its navy ships and appointing personnel at Combined Maritime Forces headquarters in Bahrain to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia. Türkiye assumed the command of Combined Task Force 151 six times. Moreover, Türkiye has been providing training programmes for the personnel of the Somalia Navy and Coast Guard in the framework of bilateral cooperation agreements with a view to enhancing capacity-building at the national level to counter piracy and illicit maritime activities off the coast of Somalia.

Annex II

Map of incidents of piracy, 2017–2022



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