

UNODC contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to GA resolution 75/239

I. Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments

UNODC published the Third Edition of the Maritime Crime Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners. The Manual was developed to provide technical support to Member States in tackling the full range of transnational maritime crime and serves both as a training tool for the capacity-building work carried out by UNODC and as a guide for criminal justice practitioners working on maritime cases.

II. Capacity building

Through its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), UNODC has expanded its thematic and geographic coverage to Latin America and the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and Red Seas and the Pacific Ocean. UNODC has also continued delivering technical assistance in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Atlantic Ocean

In the Atlantic Ocean, UNODC provided legislative review and assistance to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Member States in their efforts to implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant international conventions. Further support was offered for police, prosecution and the judiciary, as well as training to maritime law enforcement agencies on evidence collection at sea, the law of the sea and maritime crime.

A comprehensive e-learning training platform was provided to practitioners to further strengthen legal and operational c(pr)-7ew.1(l)-5.v-2(t)-2(i)-2(one)24(r)-7(s)eovida pr ategaor p(t)-2 -2(e)4(

Video conferencing (VTC) and hardware equipment was provided to maritime law enforcement agencies and justice stakeholders to ameliorate the quality of current and future trials of piracy and maritime crime.

UNODC further promoted national inter-agency coordination through the development of Harmonized Standard Operating Procedures (HSOPs) on evidence collection and handling to increase successful prosecution of piracy and maritime crime cases. More specifically, legal trainings were delivered virtually in Gabon, Ghana and Nigeria. Similarly, legal assessment reports on maritime crime were conducted in Angola, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone. UNODC also supported maritime law enforcement agencies in conducting operations through the provision of technical advice and analysis on maritime domain awareness.

Gulf of Aden and Red Sea

In the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, with a permanent presence in the three largest Somali ports and an active programme of support to Yemen, UNODC is working to build up the capacity of Somali and Yemeni maritime law enforcement officers to police these strategic and dangerous

Maritime Organisation, Interpol and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in Angola, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles and Tanzania.

In the Eastern Indian Ocean region, UNODC delivered maritime domain awareness foundation training and conducted an event on countering waterborne improvised explosive devices (C-WBIED) for maritime law enforcement agencies in Sri Lanka and Maldives. Assessments were conducted in Bangladesh and Maldives on the challenges, practices and needs in the prosecution of maritime officers with judges, investigators and prosecutors. UNODC also facilitated the provision of communications and information technology equipment to support maritime domain awareness and operational capacity of maritime law enforcement agencies in Maldives.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNODC strengthened prosecutorial and adjudication capacities and shared awareness with frontline actors to ensure effective legal finish to maritime crimes. Training was delivered on smuggling of migrants at sea, vessels without nationality and Article 17 of the Vienna Convention. The Caribbean Forum on Maritime Crime (CFMC) virtual series, focusing on threats and trends in the Caribbean maritime space engaged maritime law enforcement agencies, criminal justice practitioners and scholars from the region.

In Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama, UNODC also worked with maritime law enforcement officers to identify capacity building needs to respond to not only maritime crime at sea but also crimes in riverine operation theatres.

Pacific Ocean

In the Pacific Ocean, UNODC led efforts to counter maritime crime in the Sulu and Celebes Seas by convening a trilateral contact group. The Contact Group on the Sulu and Celebes Seas (CGSCS) developed practical recommendations on radio-frequency identification (RFID) tagging for vessel registration, regional coast guard commanders' engagement (3SuluX) and tabletop exercises in the Sulu Sea.

UNODC further improved coordination to counter drug trafficking in the Andaman Sea and Malacca Straits through the Western Maritime Route Forum (WMRF). The WMRF strengthened national level coordination with Drug-Maritime Exchanges (DMX) and compiled a Compendium of Drug Seizures at Sea. Supported by UNODC, the Forum of National Maritime Fusion Centres (FNMFC) conducted learning exchanges and colloquiums on MDA technology topics for Maritime Operations Centres and produced fortnightly updated to COVID-19 Heatmap of coastal region.

At a national level, UNODC strengthened inter-agency maritime coordination in Indonesia through the develop(es)5(i)-6(n)-4r™}÷•jÿBÄa

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awareness equipment including terrestrial maritime radar to maritime surveillance centres, conducted maritime domain awareness analytical training and contact tracing training in response to COVID-19.

VIII. Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization, UNODC produced national and regional practical frameworks to assist Member States in developing maritime security strategies. UNODC has also developed Member States' capacities on Maritime Domain Awareness, through use of satellite images provided by the European Union Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the EU Copernicus Programme, in the context of maritime operations conducted by the Member States with the technical support of UNODC. This has strengthened the capacity of Member States to patrol areas far from the coastline and hence provide a better understanding of planning, maintenance, operational needs.

In collaboration with the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), UNODC assisted coastal states in the Indian Ocean including Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Seychelles to develop a National Submarine Cables Protection and Resilience Framework to support the development of criminal offences related to the damaging of submarine cables.

IX. Marine environment and marine resources

Satellite images provided by the European Union Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the EU Copernicus Programme have also allowed detection of intentional oil spills in the Gulf of Guinea, increasing awareness of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region on the pervasive existence of maritime oil pollution problems and their opportunity to patrol and intervene.

In the Indian Ocean, UNODC improved the understanding and capability of maritime law enforcers to respond to crimes that affect the environment, which take place at sea. In this regard, UNODC supported maritime law enforcement personnel, customs officers and prosecutors with the skills they need to deal with crimes in the fisheries sector. VBSS training was delivered on board fishing vessels and for maritime law enforcement personnel including fisheries authorities, in close cooperation with the FAO and regional fisheries organizations. Coast guard officers were also trained in the collection and handling of evidence to support prosecutions. UNODC also assisted Seychelles and Sao Tome and Principe in tackling transshipments at sea.

Four virtual workshops were coordinated to assist the governments of Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius to tackle marine pollution by facilitating inter-agency dialogue and providing the relevant law enforcement and environment stakeholders with the necessary legal, operational and technical assistance.

XIII. Regional cooperation

In Southeast Asia, UNODC continued to support regional programmes to promote cooperation and capacity in maritime law enforcement entities to combat maritime crime and secure maritime spaces. Regular Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogues, aimed at improving maritime law enforcement responses and cooperation between Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, are ongoing and participants train in tabletop exercises and develop tools to enhance cooperation. The Dialogues developed consensus on Common Regional

