



CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

مجموعة الاتصال الخاصة بالقرصنة لالة الصومال • Groupe de contact sur la piraterie au large de la Somalie
Grupo de Contacto sobre la Pirateria frente a costas de Somalia • 打击索马里海域海盗联络组
Контактная группа по борьбе с пиратством у берегов Сомали

Victoria, 28th December 2016.

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the CGPCS,

Message from the outgoing Chair

As you may already be aware, following the resignation of President James Michel and the swearing in of President Danny Faure as the 4th President of the Republic of Seychelles on Sunday 16th October 2016, as well as the re-shuffling of the Cabinet on 29th October 2016, I have been attributed a new portfolio in government, that of Minister of Education and Human Resource Development. This new responsibility requires my full attention and will consequently take my focus away from the Contact Group.

*With the above known and cognizant of the responsibilities that the members of the CGPCS have placed on the Seychelles to chair the contact group for another year in 2017, it is my duty to advise the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia that Seychelles will continue to honor its obligations by having **Ambassador Barry Faure**, Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs, to continue on as chair.*

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Together, we have delivered on achieving the stated objectives of the CGPCS, and that is: no ships or hostages being held by pirate groups. The Zero/Zero commitment was realized following an announcement on 22nd October 2016 by the Hostage Support Partnership on the release of the crew from the FV Naham 3. Appreciating that the survivors of the FV Naham 3 are now safe and sound back home with their families, I find it is indeed a fitting way to end the year.

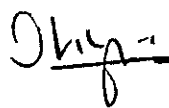
Our work for the CGPCS however, does not end here. Following our successful 19th Plenary which was held in Seychelles earlier this year under the theme "From the Region to the Region: Creating a Lasting Legacy", with what was discussed and with what has been achieved, the hope for the group and all its members is that we are making good progress in the realization of the theme of the 19th Plenary as we prepare for the year ahead.

The effects that piracy brought to us all and in particular the region, is still felt even as partners continue to discuss the next steps. We are only too well aware of the underlying threats that could potentially catapult piracy back to our waters. We must therefore remain vigilant.

I end by extending my thanks and gratitude to all within the community of the CGPCS, wishing you the very best for the coming year and thanking one and all for the support expressed and given during my time as your chairman. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as CGPCS Chairman.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Joël Morgan

OUTGOING CGPCS CHAIRMAN 2016



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Victoria, 28th December 2016

Dear Colleagues of the CGPCS,

Message from New Chairperson

It is indeed an honor to assume the responsibility as Chairperson of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, CGPCS, picking up from the steady vision and hands of the outgoing chair, Minister Joël Morgan.

In September 2015, it was announced after consultations that Seychelles would be assuming the chairmanship of the CGPCS for the year 2016, taking up this very important responsibility from the European Union.

At the 19th Plenary held in Seychelles on the 31st of May through 3rd June 2016, the CGPCS community agreed that Seychelles should continue on as chair for another year, taking our mandate into 2017.

Noting the achievements to date of the CGPCS, this with the positive contributions by all members, which in part have led to a remarkable decrease of acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia, we should note that we have once again demonstrated that by working together and sharing of common values, that we can achieve much.

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As we prepare for the beginning of a new year, let us be so resolved that we ensure that what has been achieved by the CGPCS to date, is well understood by all and that best practices adopted are considered as a way forward, especially when there is a threat of piracy anywhere in this world.

I look forward to meeting with you at our next event, and at this time extend my warm greetings to all members for a festive holiday and a Happy New Year 2017.

Sincerely,



**AMBASSADOR BARRY FAURE
SECRETARY OF STATE,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CHAIRPERSON CGPCS 2017**