

CONTACT GROUP

ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was created on January 14, 2009 pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1851. This voluntary ad hoc international forum brings together those stakeholders affected by Somali piracy: countries from the region, Western Europe, Middle East, Asia and the Americas, industry, seafarer's organisations and NGOs. The Contact Group coordinates political, military, and non-governmental efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia, ensure that pirates are brought to justice, and support regional states to develop sustainable maritime security capabilities.

Message From The Chairman

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the CGPCS,

I am pleased to announce that the 20th Plenary Session will be co-hosted by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and Seychelles in Mauritius. What a fitting way to ensure that we keep our theme for 2017, "Leaving a Lasting Legacy for the Region", alive. Soon, we shall release an invitation which will confirm the dates of the meeting along with the proposed agenda.

The 20th Plenary will as well be a welcome opportunity for me as Chairman of the group to meet each one of you, something I am looking forward to do, as it is through such meetings and onward contacts that we can ensure that we are all speaking from the same agreed page.

The recent hijacking which occurred on 13th March 2017 against the Aris 13, should leave little doubt that, despite gains, events within the region could easily wash away what has been achieved.

As we appreciate the work of the contact group, it is important to remind all members of the importance to date of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Without the support of members and the healthy and much needed contributions made, the initiatives of the Contact Group could not have happened. With this understood, I thank those members who have contributed or will be contributing to the Fund for our work continues. I invite you to visit www.lessonfrompiracy.net to read the Trust Fund's strategic review.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome the proposal from the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission to take over the Chairmanship of the CGPCS after Seychelles.

I look forward to seeing you at the 20th Plenary.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Barry Faure
Secretary of State
Department of Foreign Affairs, Seychelles
Chairman CGPCS 2017



2017 SEYCHELLES CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CGPCS

MAKING AND MAINTAINING CONTINUED PROGRESS

As was recommended at the 19th Plenary Session held from 31st May to 2nd June 2016 at the International Conference Centre in Victoria, Republic of Seychelles, members agreed that Seychelles' Chairmanship be extended for a second mandate to end 2017.

The CGPCS started the New Year with a new Chair following changes at government level in Seychelles. All stake holders have been informed through messages from the outgoing Chair Minister Joël Morgan and the incoming Chair Ambassador Barry Faure, Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

As indicated by the new Chair in his message *"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."* Whilst the outgoing chair stated that *"Together, we have delivered on achieving the stated objectives of the CGPCS and that is: no ships or hostages held by pirate groups."* With the incident against the ARIS 13 on Monday, 13th March 2017, an attack by a pirate gang which was quickly responded to resulting in the release of both crew and vessel, confirms that there is still need to remain vigilant and prepared.

WORKING GROUPS

As was recommended and as per the CGPCS Structure adopted by all participants at the 19th Plenary Session, the Indian Ocean Regional Capacity Building WG (RCBWG) held its first meeting on 16th November 2016 in Dar es Salaam. The fruitful outcome of the meeting has been posted on the CGPCS website.



PEACE CENTRE STUDIES & DIPLOMACY BEING DEVELOPED AT UNIVERSITY OF SEYCHELLES

The Republic of Seychelles is supporting an initiative of the University of Seychelles and that is, having a Centre for Peace Studies and Diplomacy, a project initiated by the first President of Seychelles,

Sir James Mancham who sadly passed away on 8th January 2017. The CGPCS Secretariat has supported the idea of the Sir James Mancham Centre for Peace Studies & Diplomacy and has met several times with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Seychelles, Professor Dennis Hardy. The Department of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles has also been discussing with the University on how it could promote the Institute on some of the work being done pertaining to peace and security in the region, either to do with countering piracy at different level even in the region.



Professor Hardy (far left) meets with CGPCS Secretariat

For more information please visit www.unisey.ac.sc

UK REMAINS ENGAGED AND KEEN TO CONTINUE SUPPORT

British High Commissioner briefed by CGPCS Secretariat

A meeting with the British High Commissioner, Ms. Caron Roshler, and the new Chair of the CGPCS, Ambassador Faure, to follow-up on the "Friends of the Presidency" and other concerns, took place quite recently at the Department of Foreign Affairs on 27th February.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Chair discuss with the High Commissioner ongoing progress within the contact group.



CGPCS Secretariat briefing British High Commissioner at REFLECS3, in Mahe, Seychelles

EUNAVFOR

Seychelles had the visit of a delegation headed by Major General Rob Magowan of EUNAVFOR's operation Atalanta in October 2016. The CGPCS Secretariat formed part of the delegation headed by the Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Barry Faure, when he met with the Major General. Also present at the meeting was the French Ambassador H.E. Mr. Lionnel Majesté-Larrouy and the British High Commissioner H.E. Ms Caron Röhsler.

EUNAVFOR will wind down until end of 2017 with a possible transition in 2018.

NATO

NATO which contributed immensely to the anti-piracy efforts in the Indian Ocean formally ended its counter-piracy operation known as Operation Ocean Shield on 15th December 2016. It has indicated however that "it will remain engaged in the fight against piracy by maintaining maritime situational awareness and continue close links with other international organization's counter-piracy actors".

Danish warships which were helping NATO also pulled out of the fight against Somali pirates, after nine years of missions around the Horn of Africa and headed to the Mediterranean.

PIRACY

CHAIRMAN SENDS MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOLLOWING RELEASE OF CREW FROM FV NAHAM 3

Former CGPCS Chairman, Minister Joël Morgan, welcomed the release of the crew of FV Naham3 by Somali pirates after over four and a half years in captivity in a press communiqué released on 23rd October 2016. Minister Morgan indicated that *"It is indeed pleasing to understand that at long last, the crew of FV Naham 3 have been released from their captivity this after the tireless work of many and in particular the efforts of Hostage Support Partners (HSP) for Oceans Beyond Piracy"*.



REPATRIATION

BACK TO SOMALIA FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL APPEAL IN SEYCHELLES COURT OF APPEAL

Five Somali nationals were repatriated Monday after being acquitted for their conviction on piracy offences.

In co-ordination with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles repatriated the five Somalis on 13th March on board a chartered aircraft of the Island Development Company (IDC).

The transfer of the Somali nationals from Seychelles back to Somalia was done under the supervision of a UNODC official.

The Somalis had successfully appealed their case in December 2016 and were declared free of the charge of piracy offences by the Seychelles Court of Appeal. The court had ruled that there was not enough evidence to maintain the conviction of the five Somalis.

The Somali nationals were convicted in June 2016 to 12 years in prison by the Seychelles Supreme Court after they were found guilty of piracy offences.

They were accused of attacking a dhow and holding the Indian crew as hostages and using the dhow as a pirate ship to attack a cargo vessel. The offences were said to have been committed in the Gulf of Aden between January 1 and January 18, 2014.

Seychelles, an archipelago in the western Indian Ocean, and Somalia have in place agreements to repatriate Somali nationals. These apply to Somalis who have either completed their sentences in Seychelles, or are either transferred to complete sentencing in Somalia at a UNODC recognised prison facility, or those who may have been acquitted of their charges following appeals, as was the case for this repatriation.

Currently there are 15 Somali nationals who remain incarcerated at the Seychelles' main detention facility (Montagne Posée Prison) on sentences for acts of piracy.

RUSSIAN DELEGATION VISITS WITH CGPCS SECRETARIAT.

The CGPCS Secretariat met with H.E. Mr. Vladimir Belous, Russian Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, Captain Stanislav VARIK, and Commanding Officer of Russian Navy ship "Severomorsk" Captain Anatoliy Kozhurov, with the captain complimenting all members of the contact group for the excellent cooperation to date. A sentiment echoed by all present.

PROFESSOR AKIKO SUGIKI, PH.D.

- onward study related to Somali Piracy

Mr. Raymond St Ange, Head of the CGPCS granted an interview to Ms Sugiki, a professor of International Relations for the Faculty of Law at the University of Kobe Gakuin in Japan. She was in Seychelles on a research project to do with piracy.

UNODC

IOFMC EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN STATES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON FISHERIES ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, Secure Fisheries, and the Seychelles Coast Guard convened an Expert Group Meeting for representatives of regional navies, coast guards, maritime law enforcement officers, and fisheries prosecution experts to share Standard Operating Procedures for collection of information on fisheries activity. The aim of the meeting, which was held from the 27-28 February 2017 in Seychelles, was to establish a consistent and effective method of collecting information on fisheries activity in the Western Indian Ocean in order to bring coherence and efficiency to fisheries management and enforcement across the Region. It was funded under the Trust Fund to Support initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia project #79.

maintenance and trouble-shooting; crewmanship training; Visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS). In week-1, training was also delivered on regional fisheries law and architecture; the role of the IOTC in Tuna licensing; SOPs for collection of information on fisheries activity (adopted at EGM); and cell phone universal forensic extraction device (UFED) operation, which can assist officers during investigations. Training related to fisheries management is funded under the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia project #79.

The course as a whole provides the trainees with the comprehensive skill set required for a Maritime Law Enforcement Officer. The course is, furthermore, delivered with a strong focus on enabling participants to pass on skills acquired to their colleagues.

IOFMC PROSECUTOR'S NETWORK MEETING ON HEROIN PROSECUTION
27 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH 2017

UNODC held its third Prosecutor's Network Forum with focus on prosecution of heroin trafficking for Senior Prosecutors from Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar and Comoros. A key outcome from the forum was finalization of the concept for a prosecutor's electronic platform, which will be an online tool that will help states collaborate and share information in a confidential manner on the prosecution of serious transnational crime in the region as well as hold an electronic library of relevant legislation and case law. Special attention was given to 'Southern Route' Heroin trafficking prosecutions during the forum as the individual prosecution teams worked through different real life case scenario exercises. This process will also lead to the development of prosecution reference guides and tools to assist prosecutors with heroin trafficking cases in their own jurisdictions. This event was part funded by the EU-MASE Programme.



UNODC ADVANCED MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COURSE

On 27 February 2017, UNODC commenced delivery of the Advanced Maritime Law Enforcement Training Course to Somali maritime police and coast guard officers from Mogadishu, Bosasso, Berbera and Kismayo. Participants were flown to Seychelles to follow the 2-week intensive training programme composed of three-modules; engineering



REFLECS3

REFLECS3 has been able to establish itself as a centre in the region to fight piracy in the domain of information sharing. During its transition to greater maritime crime to include drug trafficking, illegal fishing and other maritime threats, it has found it necessary to partner with other agencies both locally and internationally.

The recent housing of the Regional Centre for Operation Coordination and the gradual setting up of the National Information Sharing Centre, are the perfect platform for the centre to gradually gaining momentum in attaining its objectives.

Internationally, the centre has very strong ties with INTERPOL and the UNODC where several trainings in Maritime Law Enforcement has been delivered to countries in the region with the recent one for the Somalis in March 2017.

The intention is to ensure continued coordinated and collaborative partnership with all sectors in the Maritime world.

INTERPOL

UPDATE OF INTERPOL MARITIME SECURITY (MASE) ACTIVITIES

Since October 2016 and within the framework of the EU-funded MASE/COMESA Project, INTERPOL's experts organized and delivered the following activities:

• FACT-FINDING MISSIONS

Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania (10-18 October 2016)

The meetings were organized by the MASE/COMESA Project Manager in order to get a thorough knowledge of the current expertise held by the competent Authorities combatting money laundering and terrorism financing within this anti-maritime piracy Project. There were representatives of the Police, the Customs, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) who described their way of acting and at the same time their weaknesses in tackling with this kind of criminality.

In both Kenya and Tanzania, meetings were held with representatives of the Police, Customs, Prosecution Services and their Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) who briefed of their level of expertise as well as of what they would prefer the future training curricula to include in order for their colleagues to benefit as much as possible.

• TRAININGS

MASE/COMESA Training in Djibouti (26-30 November 2016)

The training took place at the Police Academy premises and 21 colleagues representing all competent Law Enforcement Agencies (Police, Customs, Gendarmerie, Prosecution service) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Djiboutian Central Bank attended the course. The trainees were introduced into the maritime piracy phenomenon, the general framework of INTERPOL and its strengths while they became acquainted with the basic mechanisms in AML and CTF matters related to piracy ransom payments.

This training in Djibouti marks the successful beginning and implementation of the capacity building Programme in the COMESA beneficiary countries and received a positive feedback on behalf of all

the trainees and especially their Hierarchy. All the leaders of the above-mentioned Agencies, with no exception, honored the INTERPOL training with their presence and handed out the certificates to our trainees.



The next planned MASE/COMESA Trainings shall be in **Nairobi, Kenya (27-31 March 2017)** and in **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (3-7 April 2017)**.

• ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Following up on a request by the Financial Intelligence Unit of Seychelles, the EU-funded Maritime Security (MASE/COMESA) Project sponsored 2 of their officials to attend the **“Global Conference on Money Laundering and Digital Currencies”** that took place between **16 and 18 January 2017 in Doha, Qatar** to give them the opportunity to be exposed to the latest developments related to general anti-money laundering activities and risks posed by digital currencies.

MASE/COMESA's Project Manager facilitated the visit of **Eritrean officials** to the FIU of Seychelles, which was kindly sponsored by COMESA (**19-23 September 2016**).

EU FUNDED PROJECT CRIMLEA - Critical Maritime Route Law Enforcement Agency

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING LAST QUARTER OF 2016

• TRAINING ON MARITIME CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION IN DJIBOUTI

From 16 to 20 October, in Djibouti, Project CRIMLEA trained 20 Djiboutian law enforcement officers from Coast Guards, Forensic Police and Police on maritime crime scene investigation. The training aimed at equipping the participants with the necessary knowledge so as to preserve and collect in a proper manner evidence on a maritime crime scene. The course included theory and practical exercises (mock crime scenes) on land and on boat.

Two maritime crime scene kits were remitted to the Police forensic unit and two others to the Coast Guards. The latter are tailored for the respective needs and missions of the Coast Guards and the Police.

• TRAINING OF SOMALIS OFFICERS IN KHARTOUM, SUDAN

Between 13 November and 10 December 2016, fifteen (15) Somalis law enforcement were trained at the Regional Forensic Centre of Excellence in Khartoum, Sudan, with the support of CRIMLEA who sponsored their participation in the three (3) different training sessions.

Five (5) officers took part in a Strategic Police leadership training session held from 13 to 18 November 2016. Five (5) officers took part in a two (2) weeks training session on Police Organisation and Management held from 13 to 27 November 2016 and five (5) officers took part in a three weeks (3) session held from 13 November to 4 December 2016 in Forensic examinations.

The officers are originating from Mogadishu, Galmadug, Shabelle state and Kismayo.

• TRAINING OF SOMALI POLICE OFFICERS IN NAIROBI ON BASIC INVESTIGATION TECHNIQS

A second group of Sixteen (16) Somali Federal Police officers was trained on basic investigation technics from 21 to 25 November 2016 at the INTERPOL's Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The five days training included theory and table top exercises. The trained officers are coming from the Mogadishu or Galmadug area. They are investigators or first responders to crime scenes.

A further 16 officers will be trained in March 2017.

• REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP DIGITAL FORENSIC TRAINING

From 21 November to 02 December 2016, Project CRIMLEA organized at the INTERPOL's Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya, two training sessions held back to back respectively on computer forensics from 21 to 25 November 2016 and on phone forensics from 28 November to 02 December.

The computer forensics training was attended by fifteen (15) participants from Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania. The phone forensics attended by eighteen (18) from the same countries.

These training sessions were aimed at those participants who attended previous sessions on the same thematic organized by CRIMLEA in November 2014 or, officials with similar capacities and duties in their police force.

Along with training in the use of specialized software and hardware to exploit digital evidence, the courses allowed participants to share experiences and best practices.

At maritime crime scenes, law enforcement agencies often recover GPS devices, mobile phones, SIM cards and other technology left behind by culprits. It is therefore crucial for officers to preserve and recover evidence from such devices.

• ANALYST NOTEBOOK TRAINING NAIROBI CID FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

From 5 to 9 December 2016, CRIMLEA delivered training on Analyst notebook and basic criminal analysis techniques for the Nairobi Criminal Investigation Department (CID) financial unit.

This five day training aims at equipping the 9 officers from the mentioned unit with knowledge and best practices as regards the use of modern criminal analysis software in the framework of financial investigations and tracking money streams.

Equipment as laptop computers, external hard drives, printer, scanner and software will be as well donated at the end of the training in order to furnish the beneficiary unit with modern tools and significantly increase its operational capacity.

IOC

The 32nd Council of ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission, held last 1st March in Reunion Island, welcomed the reconduction of the Republic of Seychelles – one of its Member States – at the chairmanship of the CGCPS. The ministers of Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles also expressed their wish that IOC takes over the presidency of the CGCPS after Seychelles. This is a testimony of the commitment of the regional organisation as well as a commitment for a larger share of responsibility for the region in regional maritime security and safety issues.

The IOC Council of ministers also commended the decision of the 3rd Ministerial Conference of Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) on maritime security, held in Djibouti in May 2016, that approved the setting up of a Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre in

Madagascar and of a Centre for Regional Coordination of Operations at sea in Seychelles. These regional Centres contribute towards the build-up of a maritime security architecture in Western Indian Ocean in compliance with the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy. They are put in place in the framework of the IOC-led components of the Maritime Security programme (MASE) funded by the European Union. IOC Ministers also emphasised on the Djibouti Declaration's call for the support of regional and international partners to the full operationalisation of these Centres.

The IOC Council provided the orientation for the future programme on maritime security and safety under the 11th European Development Fund. It urged the new programme to be guided by the Djibouti Declaration as well as based on the achievements of MASE programme and addressing all types of transboundary maritime crimes.

CRIMARIO

CRIMARIO IS ACTING FOR IMPROVING MSA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Since the beginning of 2017, the activity of CRIMARIO has not been interrupted and the team has been heavily involved in the continuing work to improve the MSA in the Indian Ocean.

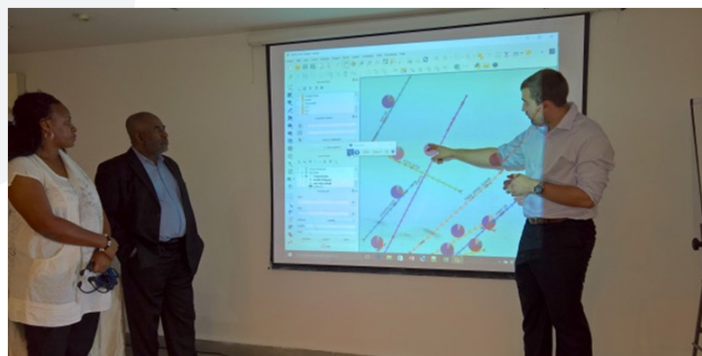
A new knowledge platform: www.crimario.eu

Besides promoting CRIMARIO activities, it is important to explain and promote the maritime situational awareness in the IO countries. This objective can be achieved through training sessions and dedicated seminars, and consolidated by a permanent digital information, available both to decision-makers and practitioners. The objectives of the knowledge platform are:

- to promote CRIMARIO activities, achievements and tools (web);
- to share issues and best practices introduced during training sessions or workshops (wiki tool accessible at wiki.crimario.eu);
- to share news on maritime domain selected from a regular Internet monitoring (watch tool);
- to discuss issues and activities among groups of stakeholders (discussion forum tool).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING AGENDA

Training and capacity building are dedicated to maritime data processing and analysis. After a first set of 4 sessions in Comoros and Madagascar focused on data visualisation, CRIMARIO develops a specific curriculum for training the trainers. The first session starts in March in Madagascar gathering selected candidates from Madagascar and Comoros. In parallel the courses related to data analysis will start in July; in addition dedicated training agenda will be implemented in Seychelles.



IORIS TENDERING PROCESS

The call for applications, first step in the acquisition of IORIS, the Secure Web Portal with Public facing home page for the exchange of maritime information in the Indian Ocean, was published on 20 January and the manufacturers' replies analyzed. The selected companies have now to submit a detailed technical and financial offer by April according to the terms of reference. The official opening of IORIS is expected by September 2017.

REGIONAL AIS SERVER IN KENYA

Following a request from Kenya government to the EU for technical assistance in the area of Maritime Situational Awareness and Information Sharing, Kenya officially agreed to host the regional AIS server and manage it for the benefit of the Region. This commitment paves the way for the continuation of cooperation between the CRIMARIO project and Kenya for an AIS network in the region and for the improvement of Kenya's national AIS network. This also allows for possible synergies in the field of maritime safety communications (VHF) with other Kenya's partners.

TRUST FUND

COUNTER-PIRACY TRUST FUND

The Trust Fund to Support the Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, established in 2010 by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), continues to provide Somalia and other Indian Ocean regional states with financial assistance to strengthen their judicial capacity in combating piracy.

Projects financed by the Trust Fund are supporting a range of activities, including strengthening regional capacity to prosecute persons suspected of acts of piracy, facilitating minimum treatment standards for prisoners, and providing capacity building support to police departments in Somalia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania. Trust Fund projects are also facilitating the safe transfer of convicted pirates back to Somalia to serve their sentences and enabling the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders to make sure they acquire the necessary skills for re-integration into society. It also targets illicit financial flows derived from pirate activities; equip detainees and at-risk youth in Somalia with livelihood skills; and have already facilitated the repatriation of 40 Somali nationals suspected of piracy and apprehended by Maldives.

Since December 2012, the Trust Fund has received a total of US\$ 13.9 million from 18 donors, and as of 13 March 2017 had a total balance of US\$ 517,782. At its last meeting on 2 June 2016, the Trust Fund Board approved projects amounting to US\$ 914,883, of which five were submitted by FAO and UNODC. The FAO project is worth of US\$400,578 and provides an Automated Information System to identify fishing boats and their activities in Bossaso, Puntland. The four UNODC projects are focused on the following: US\$ 176,560 to support prison reform, specifically training and mentoring of pirate detainees in Seychelles; US\$ 42,800 to support maritime law enforcement and security in northern Kenya; US\$ 145,520 to support mentoring and vocational activities for piracy detainees at the Shimo La Tewa and Kamiti prisons in Kenya; and US\$ 149,425 to support the activities of the task force of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. In the interim period leading up to the 2 June meeting, the Trust Fund Board also approved the following three projects: an IMO/INTERPOL hostage debriefing initiative, a Strategic Review of the Trust Fund and support to address fisheries crime in Somalia for 18 months. The Strategic Review has since been completed, and its report can be accessed on the Contact Group's website. With the various assistance/projects being entertained by the Trust Fund, there is need to call upon donors for their cooperation in funding.

Notable Trust Fund project achievements reported in late 2016 included the registration of 4468 fishers and 1470 fishing vessels from eight coastal districts in Puntland; 1,244 fishers and 156 vessels in Mudug and Jubaland; and 1,244 fishermen in "Somaliland". These registrations are enabling the authorities to distinguish legitimate fishers from pirates.

Trust Fund projects also contributed to an increase in the number of patrols in Somalia waters, which enabled the authorities in "Somaliland" to interdict at least 51 illegal fishing expeditions and at least one illegal weapons shipment, and also enabled the Bossaso Port Police in Puntland to interdict illegal shipments of fuel from Yemen. In Mogadishu, a Trust Fund project enabled Maritime Police Units in Mogadishu

Progress was, however, slower in South Central Somalia, where political challenges and insecurity delayed a project intended to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to conduct piracy trials, as well as the reconstruction of the Benadir Court complex which was attacked by Al-Shabaab back in April 2013. Challenges also remain in the area of piracy prosecutions, where the Trust Fund allocates approximately 19% of its funds. While the past few years have seen progress in the arrest, transfer, prosecution, detention, and conviction of piracy suspects after trial, pirate kingpins remain at large and criminal networks continue to operate. These challenges underscore the importance of the international community's continued support of the Trust Fund's work in this vital area.

The Trust Fund continues to be governed by a Board consisting of ten member states of the Contact Group (on a rotating basis), supported by the International Maritime Organisation, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. As of March 2017, the Board comprised representatives from the following countries: Djibouti, Germany, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands (shared with Norway), Seychelles, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The UN Department of Political Affairs chairs the Board and serves as the Trust Fund Secretariat, while the United Nations Development Programme Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UNDP MPTF Office) functions as the Administrative Agent.